



Backgrounder The Great Refrigerator Roundup

- Horizon Utilities, in conjunction with the Ontario Power Authority (OPA), is offering consumers *The Great Refrigerator Roundup* Program. *The Great Refrigerator Roundup* is designed to remove older, inefficient fridges from the electricity system. Often located in basements or garages, these older fridges, commonly referred to as 'beer fridges' use two to three times more electricity than new refrigerators.
- Household appliances account for about 20 per cent of the average homeowner's electricity bill. Over the last two decades, in part due to Canada's improved energy-efficiency standards, appliance manufacturers have greatly improved the efficiency of these appliances. For example, today's refrigerators use less than half the electricity of those built in 1984 or earlier.
- The Ontario Power Authority's "Secondary Refrigerator Retirement Pilot Program", which ran in 2006, led to the collection and decommissioning of nearly 5,000 fridges and more than 200 freezers. The main focus of the pilot program was to collect information for use in designing the province-wide *Great Refrigerator Roundup* program now being promoted by Horizon Utilities.
- Horizon Utilities participated in the Pilot Program. It was a great success with 830 old refrigerators collected and recycled in St. Catharines. That translated into energy savings of almost 900,000 kilowatts from the local electricity distribution, enough energy to power approximately 100 homes and a reduction of 253 tonnes of CO₂.
- On April 23, 2007, Peter Love, Ontario's Chief Energy Conservation Officer, presented Horizon Utilities with a Certificate of Recognition for Horizon's successful refrigerator retirement pilot project in St. Catharines.
- Under The Great Refrigerator Roundup, old refrigerators will be picked up for free, including being hauled out of the basement, and then disposed in an environmentally friendly manner. Participants can schedule an appointment or learn more about the program by calling **1-877-797-9473** or <http://www.everykilowattcounts.ca>.
- If you are a customer of Horizon Utilities you can now call **1-877-797-9473** and book an appointment for a fridge pickup. The pickups begin July 9th.

- Consumers will receive a confirmation call one day prior to their scheduled pick-up to ensure that the fridge is plugged in overnight (to confirm it is in working condition). Upon request, freezers, window air conditioners and smaller bar fridges will also be collected in conjunction with fridge pick-ups.
- Recycling is a key element of the *The Great Refrigerator Roundup*. Refrigerators collected through the program will be disposed of in an environmentally safe manner, resulting in a significantly reduced contribution to local landfill. Full recycling includes removal and proper handling of CFC-based refrigerants and foam insulation; draining, decontamination and recycling of compressor oils; and recycling of plastic, glass and metals.
- To qualify, refrigerators must be at least fifteen years old, 10-27 cubic feet or larger, and plugged in and working at the time of pick-up. They must also be located at a single-family residence (including, townhouses, duplexes, triplexes or four-plex within the service area of an electricity distributor. Other conditions apply, so for a complete list please visit the website at www.everykilowattcounts.ca or contact the Ontario Power Authority Customer Care Centre at 1-877-797-9473.

