

EnergyAustralia Retires Sydney's Old Fridges

EnergyAustralia has commenced a program to retire environmentally unfriendly fridges across four Sydney municipalities. The company is offering to collect residents' fridges for free and will give them a \$50 rebate. A fridge can account for about 13 per cent of a typical household energy bill, and a second, often old fridge can cost a household as much as \$200 a year to run, says EnergyAustralia managing director George Maltabarow. "Many households have an old fridge rattling away in the garage and often they are inefficient models that are in poor condition, which use two or three times more energy

than a newer fridge," he says. To qualify, fridges must be more than 10 years old and in working order, 250 litres or larger (bar fridges are not eligible) and be able to be put on the kerbside for collection. EnergyAustralia says the trial is in response to research showing that 70 per cent of customers know little about saving electricity but 90 per cent want more information on how to be more energy efficient. Maltabarow says refrigeration accounts for about 10 per cent of household greenhouse gas emissions and switching off a second fridge could prevent more than one tonne of greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere each year.

[SOURCE ESAA NEWS]