

## Colder Winter Edges Home Heating Costs Higher

This winter is proving to be one of the coldest Georgia winters on record. This unfortunately means higher heating bills for most Georgians, and despite the prediction of Georgia's General Beauregard Lee of an early spring, we had best be prepared for at least six more weeks of winter.

Depending on your region (see table below) this winter has been between 24 to 43 % colder than a year ago and 26 to 32 % colder than a normal winter in the region. Customers may find it hard to recall those cold arctic blasts of a month ago now that their home heating bills are coming due. While natural gas and electricity prices have remained relatively low, especially in comparison to other home heating fuels, it's often hard to remember just how high we might have nudged the thermostat on those blustery days.

With weeks of winter ahead of us, it's important to prepare for possible higher natural gas or electricity consumption and to take steps now to cut costs. Take time now to insulate your home properly and seal drafty windows and doors that sap your home's energy. Consider installing a programmable thermostat to lower your temperatures during periods when your home may be vacant and at night when you are sleeping, and higher when the family is home. Lowering your thermostat just 4 degrees, say from 72 degrees to 68 degrees, can provide savings of roughly \$100 per home over the heating season! And if your home heating system or water heating system is aging, consider replacing them now with new energy saving appliances. You may also want to take advantage of Georgia's ENERGY STAR Appliance Rebate Program, which launches on February 12, 2010 and may provide rebates of up to \$199 for new high efficiency water heaters, gas furnaces and electric heat pumps, and other appliances. For more information on this program, visit [www.GeorgiaRebate.com](http://www.GeorgiaRebate.com) (also see [pages 3-4](#)).

Also, if you are living on a limited or fixed income, you may be eligible for efficiency upgrades that may include insulation, air sealing, and other measures to make your home more energy efficient *at no cost*, through the Georgia Weatherization Assistance Program. For more information on this program, visit [www.gefa.org](http://www.gefa.org) and look for the Weatherization Program under the “Programs and Activities” tab, or contact your local city utility department.

### Winter Temperature Data by Weather Reporting Station:

Percentage Difference: Colder/ (Warmer)

January 2010	Atlanta	Macon	Tallahassee
<b>Compared to Jan. '09</b>	24%	30%	43%
<b>Compared to Normal</b>	26%	29%	32%

*In North Georgia, use Atlanta data.*

*In Central Georgia, use Macon data.*

*In South Georgia, use Tallahassee data.*

# Georgia State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program



## Guide for Georgia Residents

### Introduction

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 appropriated funds to each state for the establishment and administration of appliance rebate programs. The amount available to Georgia residents is \$8,642,490. This is a first-come-first-served rebate program launching February 12, 2010. Georgia residents who replace an existing appliance with a new ENERGY STAR qualified appliance purchased after February 12, 2010, are eligible to apply for the rebate. Approved applicants will receive a Visa® Prepaid Card via mail.

A goal of the program is to stimulate the economy by encouraging consumers to replace old appliances with new ENERGY STAR qualified models. We invite Georgia residents to participate in this program and thank you for doing your share to protect our natural resources and to boost Georgia's economy.

To apply for the rebate, visit the program's Web site at [www.GeorgiaRebate.com](http://www.GeorgiaRebate.com) or call 1-866-296-1633.

Sincerely,  
**Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority**

### Q & A

#### When does the program start and end?

The program begins on February 12, 2010, and ends the instant the funds run out. Many Georgia residents have already begun to replace items in their homes with more energy efficient models and we expect the program to generate much interest. Therefore, we encourage participants to act quickly.

#### Who is eligible?

A Georgia resident with a valid Georgia residential address who replaces an existing appliance with a new eligible ENERGY STAR qualified appliance and follows the program's requirements. All rebates will be mailed to the resident's address, with no exceptions. P.O. Boxes are not accepted.

#### How do I know if a product is ENERGY STAR qualified?

Please check [www.GeorgiaRebate.com](http://www.GeorgiaRebate.com) for specific appliance rebate information.

#### Can I receive a rebate for more than one appliance?

Residents may apply for one rebate per category per address, up to \$1,200 total per address. For example, one refrigerator rebate plus one dishwasher rebate would qualify. Applications for two dishwasher rebates would not qualify. Note: if you are applying for a rebate on more than one appliance, separate applications must be completed for each product purchased.

#### How do I apply for the rebate?

Follow these steps in order:

1. Check the availability of funds at [www.GeorgiaRebate.com](http://www.GeorgiaRebate.com) or by calling 1-866-296-1633. The rebate funds that remain are updated automatically as applications are received.
2. Buy a new ENERGY STAR qualified appliance to replace an existing appliance. Georgia residents are required to buy from Georgia retailers. **Online and out-of-state purchases do not qualify.** Purchases made before February 12, 2010, are not eligible for the rebate.
3. Arrange to remove and recycle the replaced appliance. Retailers can provide assistance with recycling options.
4. Apply for a rebate online at [www.GeorgiaRebate.com](http://www.GeorgiaRebate.com) or by calling 1-866-296-1633. You will need the receipt from your appliance purchase to complete the application. Print the application confirmation page and mail it with the sales receipt within 30 days of your online application. Phone applicants will receive the application confirmation page by mail and then mail it with the sales receipt within 30 days of the phoned application.

# Georgia State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program



## Q & A

### Can I apply for the Georgia ENERGY STAR rebate and a manufacturer's or retailer's rebate on the same appliance?

Yes, but keep in mind that each rebate sponsor has unique rules and application instructions. All mailed ENERGY STAR rebate application materials become Georgia's property and will not be returned. Because original receipts may be required for other promotions, copies are accepted for this program.

### What products qualify? (See chart below.)

Select a category at [www.GeorgiaRebate.com](http://www.GeorgiaRebate.com) to view all the ENERGY STAR qualified product models.

### Is appliance recycling required to qualify?

Because this is an appliance replacement program, participants must agree to replace and recycle existing appliances with a new ENERGY STAR qualified model. Arrangements can be made through retailers at the time of purchase.

### How will applications be verified?

Every rebate application will be audited to verify the qualifying purchase and other requirements.

Eligible ENERGY STAR Categories	ENERGY STAR Criteria	Visa® Prepaid Card Rebate Value
Freezers		\$25
Room Air Conditioners		\$30
Refrigerators		\$50
Clothes Washers	Modified Energy Factor (MEF) > or = 1.8 • Water Factor (WF) < or = 7.5	\$50
Clothes Washers	Modified Energy Factor (MEF) > or = 2.0 • Water Factor (WF) < or = 6.0	\$99
Dishwashers	< or = 324 kWh/year and • < or = 5.8 gallons per cycle	\$50
Dishwashers	< or = 307 kWh/year and • < or = 5.0 gallons per cycle	\$99
Water Heater Gas Storage	Energy Factor > or = 0.62	\$50
Water Heater Gas Storage	Energy Factor > or = 0.67	\$99
Water Heater Gas Condensing		\$99
Central Air Conditioners		\$99
Oil Furnaces		\$99
Water Heater Electric Heat Pump		\$199
Water Heater Gas Tankless		\$199
Water Heater Solar (electric back-up)		\$199
Water Heater Solar (gas back-up)		\$199
Air Source Heat Pumps		\$199
Gas Furnaces		\$199
Oil Burners		\$199
Gas Boilers		\$199

## Terms & Conditions

Please allow up to 30 days for delivery of the rebate. Only ENERGY STAR product models in the specific categories listed above are eligible for Georgia's rebates. To determine a product model's ENERGY STAR certification, Georgia's agents will use product information available to the public at [www.ENERGYSTAR.gov](http://www.ENERGYSTAR.gov). Substitutions of products or product categories are not allowed. Applications exceeding verifiable eligible purchases are not allowed. Applications in excess of the limits are not allowed. Purchase of products that are used, rebuilt, rented, leased, exchanged, won as a prize or purchased at auction or online auction are not eligible. By applying for a rebate and receiving an approval confirmation, rebate funds are set aside for the applicant. If each of the program requirements is not satisfied, the applicant gives up rights to the rebate and those rebate funds will no longer be available to him/her. The rights to a rebate or a rebate application may not be transferred or sold. Fraud of any type could result in federal prosecution under the US mail fraud statutes. Georgia is not responsible for lost, late, damaged, illegible, misdirected or postage-due applications. Resolution of any disputes will be governed by Georgia law. Cards are issued by Citibank, N.A. pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. and managed by Citi Prepaid Services. Cards will not have cash access and can be used everywhere Visa debit cards are accepted.