

News



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NSTAR/National Grid Pop-Up Retro Refrigerator Museum Descends on Dewey Square Delivering Cool Energy-Saving Message

Eclectic display charmed visitors while educating them of the importance of recycling old, inefficient refrigerators and freezers

BOSTON, July 25, 2012 — NSTAR and National Grid teamed up today to encourage Massachusetts residents to recycle old, energy-guzzling refrigerators and freezers with the launch of Boston's first vintage refrigerator "Pop-Up Museum," a mobile display featuring retro refrigerators.

The vintage appliances, which were on display in Dewey Square Park in downtown Boston, provided a valuable reminder for savings-minded customers looking for ways to conserve energy. There's nothing quaint about the fact that older units typically stored in customer's basements can use as much as three times more electricity than newer, more efficient models. Now, Massachusetts residents have the opportunity to take part in an appliance recycling program to save as much as \$150 a year through lower energy bills. As part of the program, residents will also receive a \$50 rebate for having their old, second units unplugged and hauled away.

"Operating an outdated fridge or freezer comes with a steep price tag, and these devices can also leak toxins when dumped in landfills," said Penni Conner, chief customer officer at Northeast Utilities, parent company of NSTAR. "Our recycling program is a great opportunity for customers to save space, save money and help save the environment."

The appliance recycling program is offered to residential electric customers of NSTAR, National Grid, Western Massachusetts Electric Co., Unitil and Cape Light Compact. Customers can schedule a free pickup of refrigerators or freezers by calling 1-877-545-4113, or online at MassSave.com/recycle.

Units must be secondary units in working condition and have an inside measurement of 10 or more cubic feet to qualify for pick-up and recycling.

"This program is a slam-dunk for anyone looking to reduce their household energy costs. Just unplugging an outdated refrigerator saves money. Combine that with a \$50 reward and free pickup, and the benefits outweigh the convenience of having extra cold storage," said Edward White, vice president, customer and business strategy for National Grid. "We hope that by bringing this tangible display to consumers and showing them how to reduce costs while saving energy, they will be inspired to participate in the program."

National appliance recycler JACO Environmental picks up old refrigerators and freezers free of charge at participants' homes. The outdated appliances are sent to a de-manufacturing facility, where toxins such as mercury and oils that can poison the environment are safely extracted. During the process, JACO converts 95 percent of each appliance into recyclable metals, glass and plastics.

About NSTAR:

NSTAR is the largest Massachusetts-based, investor-owned electric utility transmitting and delivering electricity to 1.1 million customers in 81 communities and employing more than 3,000 employees. NSTAR is a Northeast Utilities company (NYSE: NU). For more information, visit www.nstar.com.

About National Grid:

National Grid (LSE: NG; NYSE:NGG) is an electricity and gas company that connects consumers to energy sources through its networks. The company is at the heart of one of the greatest challenges facing our society – to create new, sustainable energy solutions for the future and developing an energy system that underpins economic prosperity in the 21st century. National Grid holds a vital position at the center of the energy system and it ‘joins everything up’.

In the northeast US, we connect more than seven million gas and electric customers to vital energy sources, essential for our modern lifestyles. In Great Britain, we run the gas and electricity systems that our society is built on, delivering gas and electricity across the country.

National Grid delivers electricity to approximately 3.3 million customers in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Rhode Island. It manages the electricity network on Long Island under an agreement with the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA), and owns over 4,000 megawatts of contracted electricity generation, providing power to over one million LIPA customers. It is the largest distributor of natural gas in northeastern U.S., serving approximately 3.4 million customers in New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

For more information please visit our website: www.nationalgridus.com.

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About JACO Environmental:

JACO Environmental contracts with utilities in 28 states across the country to provide effective, turn-key appliance recycling programs that save their customers energy and money, while creating green jobs in their communities. JACO was awarded the Stratospheric Ozone Protection Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2004 and a Best of the Best Award in 2007 by the EPA on the 20th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol. For more information about JACO, visit jacoinc.net.

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