



Gabrielle Upton
Minister for the Environment

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVT SCHEME SLASHES PENSIONER POWER BILLS

A NSW Government “new for old” appliance replacement scheme is saving thousands of low income households millions of dollars a year in power bills and lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

So far the Home Energy Action (HEA) appliance replacement scheme, which commenced in August 2016, has replaced more than 32,600 old, inefficient appliances in 28,100 homes across NSW, said Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton.

“Households that need savings the most are helping the environment by getting funding to exchange old, inefficient appliances for cheaper, more modern, efficient ones.

“The \$8 million in subsidies so far is on track to deliver some \$40 million worth power bill savings to those 28,100 households over the next 10 years.

“On average, households that take up the offer to replace an old TV and an old fridge are saving around \$325 a year in power bills.

“Across the state, this is reducing the generating grid load by 17,540 megawatt hours a year and cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 16,600 tonnes a year, which is the same as taking 4,160 cars off the road.

“Eligible households get up to 50% discount when replacing their fridge or TV at The Good Guys store.

“This appliance replacement program is part of the \$26.8m Home Energy Action program, which assists low income households to access energy efficiency upgrades to reduce their bills,” Ms Upton said.

The program’s current retail partner, The Good Guys, has won the tender to continue working with the Government on this very successful State-wide program, contributing discounts to further reduce the upfront costs of new appliances under the offer.

Good Guys retail operations director Kyle Evans said it’s wonderful to see the positive impact the scheme is having on low income families and on the environment

“The Good Guys take corporate social responsibility and environmental sustainability very seriously so being involved with this program is very fitting

“To be able to provide NSW families with affordable access to new, energy efficient household appliances means a great deal to us – we’re proud to be involved with this incredible initiative,” he said.

How it works

Low-income, concession card holders are eligible to apply, with additional support available for energy hardship customers. Regional and remote communities are also encouraged to apply. A subsidised sliding scale fee covers delivery and is available across the entire state.

The NSW Government is working with community service organisations including the Western Sydney Migrant Resource Centre, Anglicare, Baptist Care, St Vincent de Paul and Metro Assist to reach low income households.

Eligible households can apply online at: www.powertosave.nsw.gov.au/appliance

Backgrounder

- Since commencing in August 2016 until 30 June 2018, OEH has contributed \$8,663,680 in Appliances Replacement Offer subsidies.
- The electricity savings over a ten-year period for households that have already received fridges and TVs will be 175,000 MWh (or 175 GWh).
- Power bill savings of \$40 million over a ten-year period is a simple estimate based on the current electricity price.
- Eligible householders receive a 40-50% discount when replacing their fridge or TV at a Good Guys' store.
- The estimated power bill saving savings over 10 years is up to \$2000 for each fridge and up to \$1250 for each TV, subject to electricity price fluctuations.

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