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Cooperative Extension
ULSTER COUNTY

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Soak up Some Savings with a \$100 ENERGY STAR® Clothes Washer Rebate

Soak Up Some Savings! Purchase a qualifying ENERGY STAR® clothes washer and you can receive a \$100 payment from the New York Energy SmartSM program. You not only receive \$100, but you will also save again every time you use it! ENERGY STAR® clothes washers use less electricity and water than standard models, and you can also save by heating less water. Drying time is reduced as well because the spin cycle is more effective

Many leading clothes washer manufacturers are participating in a national program with the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to encourage consumers to look for appliances that carry an ENERGY STARSM label.

The new super-efficient clothes washers come as either top or front loaders. Both styles have more efficient motors and use only 18-25 gallons of water per load, compared with 40 gallons of water that other models use. Instead of agitators, the top loaders use sensors to regulate water temperature and high-pressure sprays to rinse the clothes. The front loaders use rotating drums that repeatedly tumble the clothes into the wash water.

"Since heating the water consumes about 90 percent of the energy used by clothes washers, ENERGY STARSM models save money by not having to heat as much water," says Laquatra. On average, American households wash seven loads of laundry a week; at 40 gallons a load, that's 280 gallons a week. If only three of those loads need warm or hot water, you would save on the cost of having to buy and heat more than 6,200 gallons of water a year.

Added bonuses of the new machines are that without the agitator taking up room in the middle of the tub, the energy-efficient models can wash more laundry at a time, use less detergent because there's less water and are gentler on clothes without any pushing, pulling and tangling that can occur with agitators. Also, by using less energy, consumers who use ENERGY STARSM products are helping to prevent global warming and air pollution.

"Although an ENERGY STARSM clothes washer may cost up to several hundred dollars more, depending on the features you choose, you can save up to 55% per year on your electric bill and receive the added bonus of the \$100 payment from the New York Energy SmartSM program," says Laquatra. "Since the average life span of a clothes washer is about 14 years, you will continue to save far beyond the initial higher cost of the energy-efficient model."

"An ENERGY STARSM clothes washer is approximately 50% more efficient than a non-ENERGY STARSM model," says Dr. Joe Laquatra, a housing and energy expert at Cornell University. "Other appliances with ENERGY STARSM labels which exceed the minimum federal efficiency standard include refrigerators (by 20 percent) and dishwashers (by 20 percent)."

Laquatra is the director of a one-year educational project, Consumer Education Program for Residential Energy Efficiency, funded by NYSERDA to better inform the public through Cornell Cooperative Extension on the multitude of ways to save energy and money in the home and to take advantage of incentives to reduce energy use.

The New York Energy SmartSM program is designed to continue energy efficiency, low-income services, research and development and environmental programs during the State's transition to electric competition, and is a key element in the restructuring of New York's electric utility industry. The New York Energy SmartSM program is administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), which is a public benefit corporation working to find innovative solutions to the energy and environmental issues facing New York State.

The \$100 payment offer ends July 15 so take advantage now. For a list of qualifying models or more information, call 1-877-NY-SMART or visit www.GetEnergySmart.org. If you want more information about ENERGY STAR products and where to buy them or about the **New York Energy SmartSM** programs please, call June M. M. Strand, 845-340-3990 at Cornell Cooperative Extension in Ulster County, or call 1-877-NYSMART or visit www.GetEnergySmart.Org.

-30-

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