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For Immediate Release

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Central Lincoln Offers “Credit for Clunkers” with New Recycling Program

The Central Lincoln People’s Utility District wants to help customers save money with a new program aimed at getting “energy hog” refrigerators and freezers out of garages and into recycling centers.

Refrigerators or freezers that are very old and still in use in homes today can require nearly two and a half times as much electricity as refrigerators or freezers made in the past 18 years. Newer technologies and better insulation mean freezers or refrigerators purchased now are significantly more energy-efficient. At Central Lincoln’s current rates, refrigerators and freezers made before 1978 cost at least \$105.84 a year to operate. Those made since 1992 or newer cost an estimated \$43.08 annually to run.

Central Lincoln customers wanting to get rid of working refrigerators or freezers in their homes need to check to see if their current freezer or refrigerator has an “Energy Star” rating. If it does not, it qualifies for the “Credit for Clunkers” program. Customers may then call 1-866-265-7231 to arrange for a free refrigerator or freezer pick-up by area haulers within two weeks of a customer’s call. Once it is verified that the energy hog meets program requirements, customers will see a \$30 credit on their next electricity bill. “Clunker” appliances must be 10 cubic feet or larger to qualify, which means larger than a traditional “dorm” refrigerator.

Once the energy-hogging refrigerators or freezers are picked up, they are taken apart and components are recycled.

“We’re really pleased to launch ‘Credit for Clunkers’ supporting local haulers throughout the District,” said Dennis Hinton, Central Lincoln’s Customer and Energy Services Manager. “We have a variety of programs helping our customers save energy, saving them money, and we hope the “Clunkers” haul-away and recycle program will have a significant impact in reducing the amount of electricity used in our District. The electricity generated by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is finite, and if our customers use more than we are allowed to purchase, we will be forced to buy more expensive power, which could mean higher rates. We are hoping to avoid that with our conservation programs.”

Central Lincoln customers buying new “Energy Star” refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, or clothes washers to replace energy hogs in their homes may qualify for more credits on their electricity bills. Information is available at www.clpud.org by clicking on “Rebate Information” under “Energy Efficiency” for more details.

Those buying a new Energy Star appliance such as a refrigerator, clothes washer or dishwasher, may also qualify for State of Oregon tax credits.

www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/CONS/RES/tax/appliances.shtml#App has more information.

The Central Lincoln People's Utility District is Oregon's fourth-largest electric utility, serving some 700 square miles and more than 80,000 people in portions of Douglas, Coos, Lane, and Lincoln counties. Central Lincoln is not-for-profit, and is publicly-owned; it was created in 1940 by voters to serve the public.

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