PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT
CUSTER CURRENTS
Empowering Progress
With Area Service Centers in Sargent, Callaway, Stapleton and Thedford
March 2011

Second Refrigerator Costs More Than You Think

By Rick Nelson, General Manager

What price can you put on a cold refreshing beverage after a workout or a hot day in the sun? How about having the extra refrigerator space for Aunt B's monster-sized batch of potato salad for the family cookout? What's the true value of knowing you can accommodate the "Buy Three, Get One Free" sale on gallon buckets of ice cream? If these are the occasional reasons why you have a second refrigerator, they may not be worth it. That second refrigerator may be costing you more than you think.

Manager Nelson looks for the Energy Star logo.

Even though the average life of a refrigerator is 12 years, many operate for years beyond that. "The number of U.S. households with two or more refrigerators has increased, and the secondary refrigerators are typically older and less efficient than the primary models," says the Energy Vision Update 2010 report by the World Economic Forum, according to The New York Times.

In fact, 26% of U.S. households have a second refrigerator, and that percentage is steadily increasing, according to a study released in December 2010 by the U.S. Department of Energy. This investigation also found that about 10 percent of households that buy new refrigerators keep their old ones. Another 32 percent sell or donate their old units. If all 30 million of the energy-wasting units were unplugged, the U. S. would save 25 million megawatt hours of electricity, or about $2.8 billion dollars.

According to ENERGYSTAR®, 27 million inefficient units manufactured before 1993 are still in use. If you are one of the Nebraskans who has a top freezer model around 22 cubic feet in size, plan on an additional 2,347 kilowatt-hours of electricity on your bill a year. At eight cents per kilowatt-hour, that is over $180!

Looking at Custer's service territory, if 26% of our customers have a second refrigerator made prior to 1993, that would equate to 2420 customers. If all of those customers have a refrigerator manufactured prior to 1993 around 22 cubic feet, there is an additional 5,674,000 kwh's being used costing those customers a total $454,000!

Check out the following pages to see what you can do to reduce the cost of that second refrigerator and a new contest sponsored by Custer Public Power District.

CHANGE FOR THE BETTER WITH ENERGY STAR

But I really need a second fridge....

What can you do to reduce this cost? Here are some ideas:

1. Move all your refrigerated items into one unit, preferably, your newest. Refrigerators are the most efficient when they are kept full; however, be sure air inside the refrigerator can flow around all items to ensure proper cooling.

2. Only plug in and operate the second refrigerator when you know it is needed. If you are hosting a large celebration, turn the unit on a few hours before the event and unplug it after it is no longer needed.

3. Consider loading a cooler with ice if the extra room is needed for a brief period. The cost for a bag of ice is equal to running your old refrigerator over a 48-hour period.

4. Clean the coils! If you must keep your old unit, clean the coils, at a minimum, annually. Clean them more frequently if the unit is in a dusty or dirty environment. Do it for your new unit, too!

5. If you really need a second refrigerator, consider purchasing a compact unit that is ENERGYSTAR-qualified. These units consume less than a third of the energy when compared to larger units manufactured before 1980.

Another idea is to participate in the EnergyWiseSM Refrigerator Recycling Program.

Chances are the older refrigerator or freezer in your basement or garage is running up your utility bill by an average of $100 a year. Recycle it, reduce your energy use and keep harmful materials out of landfills. We'll pick it up for free and you'll pick up $35.

For a FREE pickup, call 1.866.444.9160 or visit www.jacoinc.net

GET $35 FOR YOUR OLD FRIDGE

SAVE UP TO $100 A YEAR ON ENERGY

ENERGYWISE℠
Use less. Spend less. Do more.

JACO Environmental, an appliance recycler, will pick up and recycle refrigerators and freezers that are in working condition. This program is seasonal and available to residential electric customers of Nebraska Public Power District and its wholesale utility customers on a first-come, first-served basis. The program is partially funded through the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grant Program, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. Customers must own the unit(s) being recycled. Limit two units per residential address.

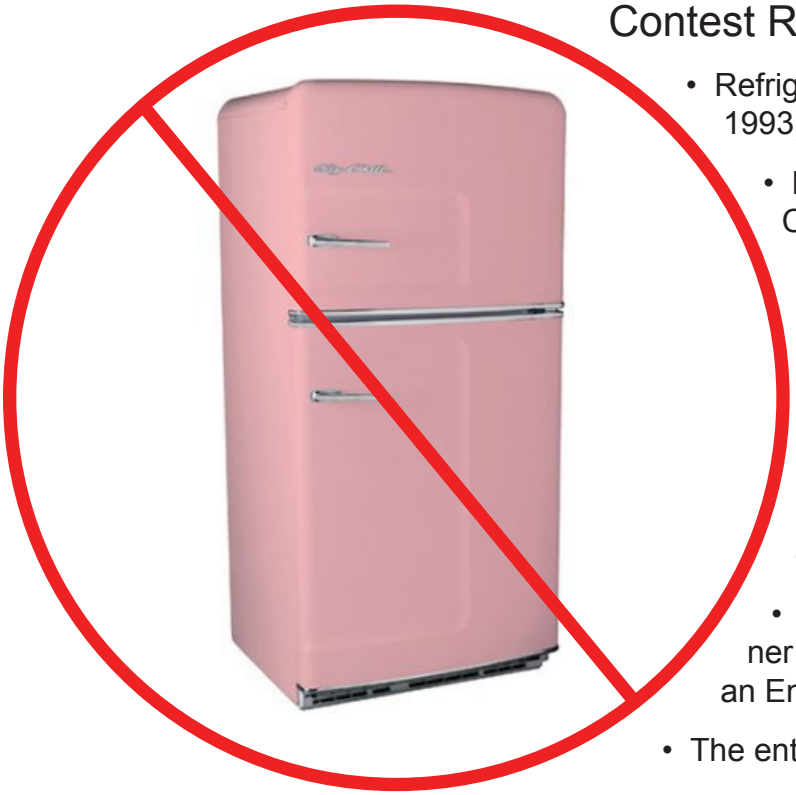
Custer Public Power District Presents

the

UGLY FRIDGE CONTEST

Now Through March 31, 2011

How old and inefficient is your refrigerator? Custer Public Power District in partnership with Nebraska Public Power District is sponsoring an Ugly Fridge Contest. Enter and you will be eligible to win a new Energy Star refrigerator valued at $1,300.00



Contest Rules:

- Refrigerator must be 17 years old or older (pre-1993).
- Refrigerator must be in use in the kitchen in Custer PPD service territory.
- Owner of refrigerator must be a Custer PPD customer.
- Ugly Fridge pictures will be judged by a panel of 5 people. The winner will be featured in a magazine article with their photo.
- Custer Power will dispose of your old refrigerator.
- The new refrigerator will be chosen by the winner - value not to exceed $1,300.00 and must be an Energy Star refrigerator.
- The entry must be received by March 31, 2011.

ENERGYWISE℠
Use less. Spend less. Do more.

To enter, send a picture of your "Ugly Fridge" along with the completed entry form to cfritzler@custerpower.com or CPPD, PO Box 10, Broken Bow, NE 68822.

UGLY FRIDGE ENTRY FORM

Name _____ CPPD Account # _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____ Phone # _____

Ugly Fridge Age & Color _____ Make/Model _____ Serial # (if available) _____

Kielbasa Chili Recipe

Prep/Total Time: 20 min
Cook Time: 8 minutes
Makes: 7 servings

What You Need

1 pound smoked kielbasa or Polish sausage, halved and sliced
2 cans (14-1/2 ounces each) Hunt's® Original Diced Tomatoes, undrained
1 can (15 ounces) chili with beans
1 can (8-3/4 ounces) whole kernel corn, drained
1 can (2-1/4 ounces) sliced ripe olives, drained

Make It

In a Dutch oven coated with cooking spray, saute kielbasa until browned. Stir in the remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 4-5 minutes or until heated through.

Custer Power This

This recipe got a "thumbs-up" when taste tested by the office employees at Custer Power. This recipe combines the flavors of a chili dog in one bowl, but many variations are possible by adding your favorite ingredients. For a gumbo soup, Manager Nelson suggests adding shrimp with the kielbasa.

It is great for a hot, hearty meal in a hurry. It's also great for March Madness basketball games!

1 Cup Equals	Total fat 20 g	Saturated fat 7 g
Calories 2319	Sodium 1,308 mg	Carbohydrate 20 g
Cholesterol 49 mg	Dietary fiber 5 g	Protein 14 g

CUSTER CURRENTS

Newsletter of the
CUSTER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT
Broken Bow, NE - Phone 872-2451
www.custerpower.com

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Board Meetings

The regular monthly meeting of the Custer Public Power District Board of Directors is on the last Thursday of each month, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the main office in Broken Bow on Hwy. 2.

An agenda for each regular meeting of the board is available for public inspection during business hours.

In the event of matters of an emergency nature or conflicts with other meeting dates, the Board of Directors will set changes. Any change in the monthly meeting date will be posted in the legal notice at the main headquarters building at Broken Bow and at each of the District's area service centers located in Callaway, Sargent, Stapleton and Thedford, Nebraska.