



# Build It Back Green

## Select Energy Efficient Appliances

### Products & Practices Sheets



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### BENEFITS

Appliances and home electronics are responsible for about **20% of your energy bills**. Refrigerators, clothes washers, and clothes dryers use the most amount of energy.

By using energy-efficient appliances, the average household can **save up to \$400 per year** on utility bills. Also, using your existing appliances and electronics more efficiently can save you money and extend the lifespan of these items.

### DESCRIPTION & CHARACTERISTICS

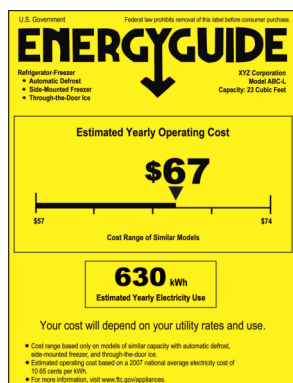
When buying appliances and electronics, look for the ENERGY STAR logo. The ENERGY STAR logo may be found on:

- Refrigerators
- Dishwashers
- Clothes washers
- Room air conditioners
- Computers
- Televisions
- VCRs



ENERGY STAR appliances and electronics use **10% to 50% less energy and water** than standard models.

Most major appliances have an EnergyGuide label to help consumers compare different brands and models when shopping for a new appliance.



The EnergyGuide label gives consumers two important pieces of information:

- The energy efficiency rating of the appliance. The lower the number, the better.
- The estimated yearly operating cost of the appliance.

## PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT & INSTALLATION TIPS

If you are not in the market for new appliances or electronics, there are many steps you can take to conserve energy and save your money.

### Refrigerators

- Don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. The refrigerator should be between 34°F and 40°F and the freezer should be between 0°F and 5°F.
- Vacuum the coils in the back of your refrigerator twice a year to maximize efficiency.
- Make sure your door seals are airtight and not broken by debris or caked on food.
- Position your refrigerator away from the stove, dishwasher, heat vents, or direct sunlight. Check to be sure that air flow around your refrigerator is not blocked.

### Washers/Dryers

- Avoid using too much detergent. Oversudsing makes your machine work harder and use more energy.
- Clean dryer lint screen after each use. Lint build up greatly reduces efficiency.
- Choose a permanent press cycle. No heat is supplied in the last few minutes, but drying continues as cool air is blown through the tumbling clothes.

### Computers & Other Electronic Equipment

- Consider buying a laptop for your next computer upgrade; they use 10% less energy than desktop computers.
- Unplug small appliances like hair dryers, blenders, laptops when not in use to eliminate wasted electricity. Better yet, invest in a "smart" power strip that cuts power off when your small appliances are off.

## PRODUCT TYPES & PRICES

- The estimated cost of ENERGY STAR appliances can range from \$200 to \$900. The estimated cost of installing ENERGY STAR appliances in a typical 1200 square foot shotgun house can range from \$1800 to \$2900.
- ENERGY STAR appliances may be purchased at Home Depot. Other local suppliers are identified on the **Vendors List** available on our website at [globalgreen.org/bibg](http://globalgreen.org/bibg) and in the **New Orleans Green Building Resource Center** at 841 Carondelet Street.