

STATE OF GEORGIA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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GOVERNOR

For Immediate Release
Thursday, September 24, 2009

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Georgia to Hold Annual ENERGY STAR and WaterSense Sales Tax Holiday
Eligible Products Help Georgians Conserve Energy and Water

ATLANTA – To help Georgians conserve energy and water and save money, today Governor Perdue announced the 2009 ENERGY STAR and WaterSense Sales Tax Holiday. The sales tax holiday begins at 12:01 a.m. Thursday, October 1, 2009, and runs through midnight Sunday, October 5, 2009. Georgians will not pay state or local sales taxes on the purchase of energy efficient or water efficient products that cost \$1,500 or less per item.

“Purchasing appliances and products with ENERGY STAR and WaterSense labels helps create a culture of conservation in our state,” said Governor Perdue. “The ENERGY STAR and WaterSense Sales Tax Holiday is a perfect opportunity for Georgians to save money at the cash register and on their water and energy bills.”

ENERGY STAR designated products meet strict energy efficiency criteria set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Qualified ENERGY STAR appliances and products eligible for the sales tax exemption include dishwashers, clothes washers, air conditioners, ceiling fans, fluorescent light bulbs, dehumidifiers, programmable thermostats, refrigerators, doors, windows and skylights.

“With ENERGY STAR products, Georgians can save money, conserve energy and show their commitment to the stewardship of our state’s natural resources,” said Phil Foil, executive director of the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA).

Many ENERGY STAR qualified appliances use 30 percent less energy than conventional models without sacrificing features, style or comfort. Some products, such as energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs, save as much as 80 percent. By replacing old, inefficient appliances

with ENERGY STAR qualified models, Georgians can help protect the environment while saving money and energy.

For more information and to better understand the options and benefits of ENERGY STAR qualified products, visit the ENERGY STAR @ Home tool at www.energystar.gov.

The EPA created the WaterSense program to recognize major water consuming products that are 20 percent more water-efficient and perform as well as or better than conventional models. Qualified WaterSense products eligible for the sales tax exemption include bathroom sink faucets or aerators, high-efficiency toilets and high-efficiency flushing urinals.

“WaterSense is an opportunity for Georgians to make an important choice to help the environment,” said Carol A. Couch, director of the Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. “The rewards are many, but the most immediate one is the savings you see on your water bill.”

According to the EPA, installing WaterSense labeled fixtures can have an enormous impact on the amount of water people use in their bathrooms and on their water bills. The EPA estimates that if a family of four replaces its home’s older toilets with WaterSense labeled models, then it will save more than \$90 per year in reduced water utility bills, and \$2,000 over the lifetime of the toilets.

For toilets, WaterSense requires no more than 1.28 gallons per flush and solid waste removal of 350 grams or more, ensuring that people will not have to flush multiple times. WaterSense faucets limit flow to 1.5 gallons per minute while still delivering 60 psi of pressure.

Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information and to better understand the options and benefits of WaterSense qualified products.

Additional information regarding the ENERGY STAR and WaterSense Sales Tax Holiday is also available on the Department of Revenue’s website at www.dor.ga.gov.

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