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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...  
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2007-08

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on ... Environment and Natural  
Resources (SC-ENR)

**COMMITTEE NOTICES ...**

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

**INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL**

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... **HR ... bills and resolutions** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
  - (**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
  - (**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                              (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

\* Contents organized for archiving by: Mike Barman (LRB) (August 2012)

June-2014

## Senate

### Record of Committee Proceedings

#### **Committee on Environment and Natural Resources**

##### **Senate Bill 421**

Relating to: sales and use tax exemption for energy-efficient products purchased in conjunction with Earth Day.

By Senators Miller, Lassa, Sullivan, Kanavas, Risser, Harsdorf, Breske, Kapanke, Lehman, Darling, Carpenter, Olsen, Hansen, Kedzie, Plale, Wirch, Roessler, Coggs, Robson, A. Lasee, Kreitlow and Schultz; cosponsored by Representatives Strachota, Wood, Sheridan, Kerkman, Black, Seidel, Jeskewitz, Fields, Mason, Musser, Hilgenberg, Mursau, Hintz, Grigsby, Shilling, Molepske, Berceau, Soletski, Gunderson, Sinicki, Smith, Hebl, Parisi, Hubler and Pocan.

January 29, 2008      Referred to Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

February 7, 2008      **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present:    (5)      Senators Miller, Jauch, Wirch, Kedzie and Schultz.  
Absent:    (0)      None.

##### Appearances For

- Pat Strachota, West Bend — Representative, 58th Assembly District
- Barbara Lawton, Madison — Lieutenant Governor, Lt. Governor's Office
- Sara Van de Grift, Madison — Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation
- Chris Tackett, Madison — Wisconsin Merchants Federation
- Cleat Killgallon, Cottage Grove — Brothers Main
- Jennifer Giegerich, Madison — Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters

##### Appearances Against

- None.

##### Appearances for Information Only

- None.

##### Registrations For

- Roger Breske, Eland — Senator, 12th Senate District
- Keith Roepelle, Madison — Clean Wisconsin
- Bruce Speight, Madison — WISPIRG
- Jeff Schoepke, Madison — Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce
- Bill Smith, Madison — National Federation of Independent Business
- Dan Kohler, Madison — Wisconsin Environment

##### Registrations Against

- None.

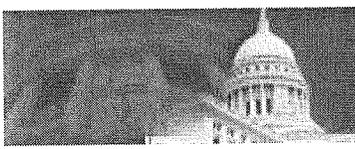
Registrations for Information Only

- Shahla Werner, Madison — Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter

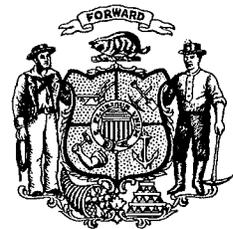
March 13, 2008

Failed to pass pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 1.

Elizabeth Bier  
Committee Clerk



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



**Subject:** Co-Sponsorship: Energy Star Tax Holiday **DEADLINE:** Tuesday, January 22, 2008.

**DATE:** Thursday, January 10, 2008

**TO:** All Legislators

**FROM:** Representative Pat Strachota  
Senator Mark Miller

**RE:** Co-Sponsorship of LRB-3699/1 – Sales and use tax exemption for energy efficient products purchased in conjunction with Earth Day.

SB 421  
folder

**DEADLINE:**

Dear Colleagues,

We are introducing LRB – 3699/1, drafted by Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton, which will create a 7-day period each year anchored by Earth Day during which all purchases of “Energy Star” household appliances would be exempt from sales tax. We see this as a way to promote energy conservation in our homes, give incentives for decisions that will result in savings on utility bills, stimulate economic activity and contribute to Wisconsin’s response reducing carbon emissions. During the holiday, retail sales of single items of energy star products for residential use costing less than \$1500 would be exempt from all sales tax.

Energy Star-qualified appliances use 10 to 50 percent less energy than standard models. According to the Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation, if only 1,000 homes switch to an Energy Star qualified refrigerator, dishwasher, clothes washer, and change 25 light bulbs to compact fluorescent bulbs they would:

- Save \$85,831 in annual electrical costs
- Save 393 tons of coal from being burned (enough to fill 4 coal cars)
- Keep 1,329,912 lbs of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere
- The equivalent of removing 127 cars from the road

This bill is supported by a growing coalition of business and environmental groups including the Wisconsin Merchant Federation, the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, National Federation of Independent Businesses, the Sierra Club, Wisconsin Independent Businesses, Wisconsin Environment, and 1,000 Friends of Wisconsin.

The bill will go into effect one year after passage. Similar legislation has been passed in Florida, Georgia, Virginia and Connecticut.

Please join us in co-sponsoring this bill by contacting Sara Buschmann Rep. Strachota’s office by phone at 4-8486 or [sara.buschmann@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:sara.buschmann@legis.wisconsin.gov) or Beth Bier in Senator Miller’s office at 6-9170 or [beth.bier@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:beth.bier@legis.wisconsin.gov).

**The deadline for co-sponsors is Tuesday, January 22, 2008.**

Analysis of the bill provided by LRB is below:

*Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill provides a sales and use tax exemption for products that satisfy the energy efficiency guidelines under the federal Energy Star program. The exemption applies to any item intended for residential use that is purchased during the seven-day period beginning on the Saturday immediately preceding April 21 and for which the sales price is less than \$1,500. The exemption does not apply to items purchased by a contractor or subcontractor. Under the bill, it is an unfair method of competition or an unfair trade practice for a contractor or subcontractor to claim an exemption for an item purchased for other than personal use by the contractor or subcontractor.

Because this bill relates to an exemption from state or local taxes, it may be referred to the Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions for a report to be printed as an appendix to the bill. For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

## Wisconsin Sales Tax Rate Chart

The following chart lists the total sales and use tax rate for each county. The effective date of the county or stadium tax is shown below the tax rate for those counties in which the county or stadium tax applies.

COUNTY NAME AND CODE	STATE TAX RATE	COUNTY TAX RATE & EFFECTIVE DATE	STADIUM TAX RATE & EFFECTIVE DATE	TOTAL
Adams (1)	5%	0.50% -- 1/1/94		5.50%
Ashland (2)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/88		5.50%
Barron (3)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/86		5.50%
Bayfield (4)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/91		5.50%
Brown (5)	5%		0.50% -- 11/1/00	5.50%
Buffalo (6)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/87		5.50%
Burnett (7)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/89		5.50%
Calumet (8)	5%			5%
Chippewa (9)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/91		5.50%
Clark (10)	5%			5%
Columbia (11)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/89		5.50%
Crawford (12)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/91		5.50%
Dane (13)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/91		5.50%
Dodge (14)	5%	0.50% --		5.50%

		4/1/94		
Door (15)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/88		5.50%
Douglas (16)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/91		5.50%
Dunn (17)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/86		5.50%
Eau Claire (18)	5%	0.50% -- 1/1/99		5.50%
Florence (19)	5%	0.50% -- 7/1/06		5.50%
Fond du Lac (20)	5%			5%
Forest (21)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/95		5.50%
Grant (22)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/02		5.50%
Green (23)	5%	0.50% -- 1/1/03		5.50%
Green Lake (24)	5%	0.50% -- 7/1/99		5.50%
Iowa (25)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/87		5.50%
Iron (26)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/91		5.50%
Jackson (27)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/87		5.50%
Jefferson (28)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/91		5.50%
Juneau (29)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/92		5.50%
Kenosha (30)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/91		5.50%
Kewaunee	5%			5%

(31)				
La Crosse (32)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/90		5.50%
Lafayette (33)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/01		5.50%
Langlade (34)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/88		5.50%
Lincoln (35)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/87		5.50%
Manitowoc (36)	5%			5%
Marathon (37)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/87		5.50%
Marinette (38)	5%	0.50% -- 10/1/01		5.50%
Marquette (39)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/89		5.50%
Menominee (72)	5%			5%
Milwaukee (40)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/91	0.10% -- 1/1/96	5.60%
Monroe (41)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/90		5.50%
Oconto (42)	5%	0.50% -- 7/1/94		5.50%
Oneida (43)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/87		5.50%
Outagamie (44)	5%			5%
Ozaukee (45)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/91	0.10% -- 1/1/96	5.60%
Pepin (46)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/91		5.50%
Pierce (47)	5%	0.50% --		5.50%

		4/1/88		
Polk (48)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/88		5.50%
Portage (49)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/89		5.50%
Price (50)	5%	0.50% -- 1/1/93		5.50%
Racine (51)	5%		0.10% -- 1/1/96	5.10%
Richland (52)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/89		5.50%
Rock (53)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/07		5.50%
Rusk (54)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/87		5.50%
St. Croix (55)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/87		5.50%
Sauk (56)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/92		5.50%
Sawyer (57)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/87		5.50%
Shawano (58)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/90		5.50%
Sheboygan (59)	5%			5%
Taylor (60)	5%	0.50% -- 7/1/99		5.50%
Trempealeau (61)	5%	0.50% -- 10/1/95		5.50%
Vernon (62)	5%	0.50% -- 1/1/97		5.50%
Vilas (63)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/88		5.50%
Walworth	5%	0.50% --		5.50%

(64)		4/1/87		
Washburn (65)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/91		5.50%
Washington (66)	5%	0.50% -- 1/1/99	0.10% -- 1/1/96	5.60%
Waukesha (67)	5%		0.10% -- 1/1/96	5.10%
Waupaca (68)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/89		5.50%
Waushara (69)	5%	0.50% -- 4/1/90		5.50%
Winnebago (70)	5%			5%
Wood (71)	5%	0.50% -- 1/1/04		5.50%





National Lieutenant Governors Association

**Energy Independence and Climate Protection Resolution**

**WHEREAS**, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a collection of more than 600 scientists from 40 countries, reported in 2007 that the level of greenhouse gases in the world's atmosphere, including carbon dioxide are at the highest levels in more than 650,000 years; and

**WHEREAS**, greenhouse gas emissions grew by 20% in the United States over the last decade; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 90% of greenhouse gas emission in the United States result from the combustion of fossil fuels; and

**WHEREAS**, many leading U.S. companies that have adopted greenhouse gas reduction programs to demonstrate corporate social responsibility have also publicly expressed preference for the U.S. to adopt precise and mandatory emissions targets and timetables as a means by which to remain competitive in the international marketplace, to mitigate financial risk and to promote sound investment decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, state and local governments throughout the United States, with bipartisan leadership, are adopting emission reduction targets and programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable fuels; and

**WHEREAS**, the reduction of greenhouse gases along with increases in energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy will increase our energy independence from the Middle East, create new jobs *and* save American citizens and businesses millions of dollars while significantly improving our quality of life;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the lieutenant governors of the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) shall:

- A. Encourage federal, state, and local governments to enact or promote policies and programs to meet or surpass the target of reducing greenhouse gas emission levels to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012 and 60-80% below 1990 levels by 2050, including efforts to: reduce the United State's dependence on fossil fuels and accelerate the development of clean, economical energy resources and fuel-efficient technologies such as conservation, methane recovery for energy generation, wind and solar energy, fuel cells, more fuel-efficient motor vehicles, and biofuels; and
- B. Assess and review greenhouse gas emissions within their state operations, and in their community, and help outline and establish reductions targets; and
- C. Assist NLGA members who wish to educate the public on energy independence and methods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
- D. Engage schools, professional associations, businesses and industry in devising strategies to conserve energy, reduce greenhouse gases and create new jobs through innovative energy technologies; and
- E. Encourage development of more regional collaborations between states to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote the shared investment and information exchange about the next generation of renewable energy, conservation, and biofuels technologies; and

- F. Encourage the U.S. Congress to pass bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation that includes 1) clear timetables and emissions limits, and 2) a flexible, market-based system of tradable allowances among emitting industries; and
- G. Encourage mayors to participate in the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement; and
- H. Promote the increased use of clean, alternative energy by advocating development of renewable energy resources, and recovering landfill methane for energy production; and
- I. Encourage the federal government to adopt higher fuel economy standards for automobiles and trucks; and
- J. Practice and promote sustainable building practices and encourage the use of voluntary energy efficiency standards developed through an accredited standards organization.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That copies of this resolution be sent by the NLGA to the President of the United States, members of the United States House of Representatives Energy Committee and Caucus, members of the United States Senate Energy Committee and Caucus, and that NLGA make all state elected officials aware of passage of the resolution through a notice in StateNews magazine, and that NLGA further post the full text of the resolution to its web page making the resolution available at all times for all NLGA members, state elected official, and other interested parties.

As passed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2007.

**Sponsored by:** Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton (D-WI)

**Co – Sponsors:**

Lt. Governor James Aiona	(R-HI)
Lt. Governor Catherine Baker Knoll	(D-PA)
Lt. Governor John Bohlinger	(R-MT)
Lt. Governor Anthony Brown	(D-MD)
Lt. Governor John Carney	(D-DE)
Lt. Governor Diane Denish	(D-NM)
Lt. Governor Brian Dubie	(R-VT)
Senate President Beth Edmonds	(D – ME)
Lt. Governor Michael Fedele	(R-CT)
Lt. Governor John Garamendi	(D-CA)
Lt. Governor Patty Judge	(D-IA)
Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp	(R-FL)
Sec. of State Max Maxfield	(R-WY)
Lt. Governor Tim Murray	(D-MA)
Lt. Governor Brad Owen	(D-WA)
Lt. Governor Mark Parkinson	(D-KS)
Lt. Governor David Paterson	(D-NY)
Lt. Governor Patrick Quinn	(D-IL)
Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts	(D-RI)
Lt. Governor Aito Sunia	(D-A.S.)

**TO:** All Legislators  
**FROM:** Representative Pat Strachota  
Senator Mark Miller  
**RE:** Co-Sponsorship of LRB-3699/1 – Sales and use tax exemption for energy efficient products purchased in conjunction with Earth Day.

## **DEADLINE: Tuesday, January 22, 2008.**

We are introducing LRB – 3699/1, drafted with Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton, which will create a 7-day period each year anchored by Earth Day during which all purchases of “Energy Star” household appliances would be exempt from sales tax.

We see this as a way to promote energy conservation in our homes, give incentives for decisions that will result in savings on utility bills, stimulate economic activity and contribute to Wisconsin’s response reducing carbon emissions. During the holiday, retail sales of single items of energy star products for residential use costing less than \$1500 would be exempt from all sales tax.

Energy Star-qualified appliances use 10 to 50 percent less energy than standard models. According to the Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation, if only 1,000 homes switch to an Energy Star qualified refrigerator, dishwasher, clothes washer, and change 25 light bulbs to compact fluorescent bulbs they would:

- Save \$161,334 in annual electrical costs
- Save 662 tons of coal from being burned (enough to fill 7 coal cars)
- Keep 2,408,282 lbs of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere
- The equivalent of removing 214 cars from the road

This bill is supported by a growing coalition of business and environmental groups including Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, Sierra Club, Wisconsin Merchants Federation, Wisconsin Environment, National Federation of Independent Business, Wisconsin Independent Businesses, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters.

The bill will go into effect one year after passage. Similar legislation has been passed in Florida, Georgia, Virginia and Connecticut.

Please join us in co-sponsoring this bill by contacting Sara Buschman in Rep. Strachota’s office by phone at 4-8486 or [sara.buschman@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:sara.buschman@legis.wisconsin.gov) or Beth Bier in Senator Miller’s office at 6-9170 or [beth.bier@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:beth.bier@legis.wisconsin.gov).

**The deadline for co-sponsors is Tuesday, January 22, 2008.**

Analysis of the bill provided by LRB is below:

*Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill provides a sales and use tax exemption for products that satisfy the energy efficiency guidelines under the federal Energy Star program. The exemption applies to any item intended for residential use that is purchased during the seven-day period beginning on the Saturday immediately preceding April 21 and for which the sales price is less than \$1,500. The exemption does not apply to items purchased by a contractor or subcontractor. Under the bill, it is an unfair method of competition or an unfair trade practice for a contractor or subcontractor to claim an exemption for an item purchased for other than personal use by the contractor or subcontractor.

Because this bill relates to an exemption from state or local taxes, it may be referred to the Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions for a report to be printed as an appendix to the bill. For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

# **Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday FAQ**

## **If passed, when will Wisconsin's Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday take place?**

Following passage, the Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday would begin at 12:01 a.m. on the first Saturday prior to April 21<sup>st</sup> (the date of the first Earth Day)

## **If passed, will the Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday take place every year?**

Yes. The Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday will be a recurring event, beginning at 12:01 a.m. on the Saturday before April 21.

## **Why April 21<sup>st</sup>?**

April 21<sup>st</sup> was the first Earth Day.

## **What items will be exempt from the retail sales and use tax during the Energy Star Tax Holiday if this bill passes?**

Exempt items include all Energy Star products that are:

- Purchased for personal, noncommercial use;
- Has a selling price of \$1500 or less per item;
- Has been designated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Department of Energy as meeting or exceeding each such agency's requirements under the Energy Star program;

## **What are some examples of products that would qualify if this bill passes?**

A list of Energy Star items can be found at the following on their website (<http://www.energystar.gov/>). Note that not all items that are listed on the website will qualify for the Wisconsin Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday – only products with the selling price of \$1500 or less per item and intended for residential use will qualify. Some of those qualifying items might include dishwashers, clothes washers, air conditioners, ceiling fans, compact fluorescent light bulbs, dehumidifiers, programmable thermostats, or refrigerators.

## **Can I purchase used appliances affixed with the Energy Star label exempt of the retail sales and use tax during the Energy Star Holiday?**

Yes. There is no requirement that qualifying items be new, when purchased, to qualify for the Energy Star Holiday exemption.

## **If passed, what will the tax holiday cost in terms of lost tax revenue for Wisconsin?**

It is difficult to determine the cost prior to receiving the formal fiscal note from the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. However, Virginia (general sales tax is 5%) has a 4-day exemption and, according to their Department of Taxation analysis, it cost state and local governments an estimated \$166,000 but generated \$3.32 million in economic activity during the holiday.

## **How are businesses reacting to this tax holiday proposal?**

Businesses realize this proposal will help them generate new sales and get more people into their shops. As of January 14, 2008, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, National Federation of Independent Businesses, the Wisconsin Merchant Federation and Wisconsin Independent Businesses are all supporting this bill.

## **How are environmental groups reacting to this tax holiday proposal?**

Environmental groups realize this proposal will help reduce the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere as well as reduce the amount of coal that would need to be burned in order to produce the energy needed for non-Energy Star products. According to the Wisconsin

Energy Conservation Corporation, if only 1,000 homes switch to an Energy Star qualified refrigerator, dishwasher, clothes washer, and change 25 light bulbs to compact fluorescent bulbs they would:

- Save \$161,334 in annual electrical costs
- Save 662 tons of coal from being burned (enough to fill 7 coal cars)
- Keep 2,408,282 lbs of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere
- The equivalent of removing 214 cars from the road

As of January 14, 2008, Sierra Club, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, Wisconsin Environment, and 1,000 Friends of Wisconsin have signed on in support of the bill.

***Why are Energy Star qualified appliances better than standard appliances?***

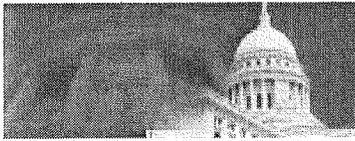
Appliances featuring the Energy Star have met strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy. Because they use less energy, they are better for the environment and cost less to operate, saving money on utility bills.

***How much energy can Energy Star qualified appliances really save compared to non-qualified models?***

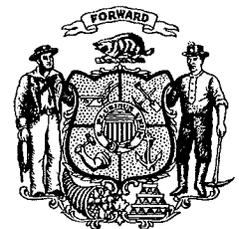
Energy Star qualified appliances use 10 percent to 50 percent less energy than standard models. For example, compared to a standard model, an Energy Star qualified clothes washer can save enough water in one year to fill a 10,000-gallon swimming pool.

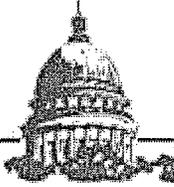
***Do Energy Star qualified appliances cost more than standard appliances?***

In some cases Energy Star qualified appliances cost more to purchase, but the secondary price tag, which is the cost to operate the appliance, is less because these models use less energy. In the long run, Energy Star qualified appliances are a better investment.



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





**MARK MILLER**  
WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

P.O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

SB 421  
folder

January 15, 2008  
For Immediate Release

Contact: Mark Miller  
608-266-9170

## **Senator Miller Circulates Tax Holiday Bill for Co-Sponsorship**

State Senator Mark Miller today announced that he will co-sponsor the Energy Star Tax Holiday Bill with State Representative Pat Strachota. The bipartisan measure, drafted by Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton, would designate one week each year for people to buy Energy Star certified appliances without paying sales tax.

“Energy Star appliances save people money on utility bills and reduce their impact on the climate,” Sen. Miller said. “We should do what we can to make it easier for people to buy them. I urge my colleagues to sign on as cosponsors.”

The bill specifies that the tax holiday will take place during the seven-day period beginning on the Saturday before April 21, the first Earth Day, each year. It will apply to all energy star qualified products intended for residential use by the purchaser that cost \$1,500 or less, including items such as refrigerators, dishwashers, programmable thermostats, clothes washers and dryers, light bulbs, etc.

“I’m proud to work alongside Senator Miller on this important bill to provide financial incentives for energy efficiency while helping people lower their energy costs,” said Lawton. “Senator Miller is a true champion for the environment and for the people of his district.”

According to Focus on Energy, Energy Star qualified appliances use 10 percent to 50 percent less energy than standard models. The Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation estimates that if only 1,000 homes switch to Energy Star refrigerator, dishwasher, 25 CFL light bulbs, and a clothes washer they would:

- Keep 2,408,282 pounds of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere
- Save \$161,334 in annual electric costs
- Save 662 tons of coal from being burned
- Be the equivalent of removing 214 cars from the road

The measure has the support of the Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, Wisconsin National Federation of Independent Business, Sierra Club, Wisconsin Independent Businesses, Wisconsin Environment, Wisconsin Merchants Federation, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters.

-end-



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





**PAT STRACHOTA**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

SB 421  
folder

For Immediate Release  
For More Information Contact:  
Rep. Pat Strachota (608) 264-8486

January 15, 2008

### **Representative Strachota Circulates Tax Holiday Bill for Co-Sponsorship**

State Representative Pat Strachota today announced that she will co-sponsor the Energy Star Tax Holiday Bill with State Senator Mark Miller. The bipartisan measure, drafted by Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton, would designate one week each year for people to buy Energy Star certified appliances without paying sales tax.

"This bill is a win-win for both consumers and business," said Rep. Strachota. "I am confident it will enjoy broad bipartisan support and hope to see it signed into law so consumers can take advantage of this opportunity."

The bill specifies that the tax holiday will take place during the seven-day period beginning on the Saturday before April 21, the first Earth Day, each year. It will apply to all energy star qualified products intended for residential use by the purchaser that cost \$1,500 or less, including items such as refrigerators, dishwashers, programmable thermostats, clothes washers and dryers, light bulbs, etc.

"I'm proud to work alongside Representative Strachota on this important bill to provide financial incentives for energy efficiency while helping people lower their energy costs," said Lawton. "I am grateful to Representative Strachota for her leadership on this issue."

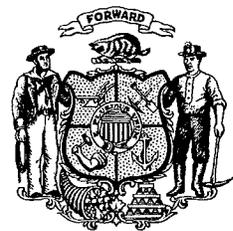
According to Focus on Energy, Energy Star qualified appliances use 10 percent to 50 percent less energy than standard models. The Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation estimates that if only 1,000 homes switch to Energy Star refrigerator, dishwasher, 25 CFL light bulbs, and a clothes washer they would:

- Keep 2,408,282 pounds of carbon dioxide from being release into the atmosphere
- Save \$161,334 in annual electric costs
- Save 662 tons of coal from being burned
- Be the equivalent of removing 214 cars from the road

The measure has the support of Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, Sierra Club, Wisconsin Merchants Federation, Wisconsin Environment, National Federation of Independent Business, Wisconsin Independent Businesses, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation and the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





STATE OF WISCONSIN

BARBARA LAWTON  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

SB 421  
folder

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Contact: Robert Chappell, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, 608-266-3516 or 608-334-7829

## Lt. Governor Lawton Announces Energy Star Tax Holiday Bill to Lead Off Her Green Economy Agenda

*Miller, Strachota to Sponsor; Will Circulate for Co-sponsors Today*

Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton today announced that she has drafted the Energy Star Tax Holiday bill, a bipartisan measure that would designate one week each year for people to buy Energy Star certified appliances without paying sales tax. Lawton introduced this bill as the lead legislation in her Green Economy Agenda.

"The Energy Star Tax Holiday will expand opportunities for local retail businesses while helping families keep ever-rising energy costs in check," said Lawton. "This is a way to promote energy conservation in our homes, give incentives for decisions that will result in savings on utility bills, stimulate economic activity and contribute to Wisconsin's reduction of carbon emissions."

The bill specifies:

- A Tax Holiday during the seven-day period beginning on the Saturday before April 21, the first Earth Day
- No sales tax will be assessed on eligible Energy Star certified products during the Tax Holiday
- Appliances must be for residential use by the purchaser
- Appliances must cost \$1,500 or less

Examples of qualifying appliances include, but is not limited to:

- Refrigerators
- Dishwashers
- Programmable Thermostats
- Clothes washers and dryers
- Light bulbs

19 EAST, STATE CAPITOL, MADISON, WI 53702 T (608) 266-3516  
F (608) 267-3571 E [ltgov@ltgov.state.wi.us](mailto:ltgov@ltgov.state.wi.us) W [www.ltgov.wisconsin.gov](http://www.ltgov.wisconsin.gov)



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"Since its inception, the Energy Star program has saved consumers more than \$14 billion in energy costs," Lawton said. "That's money that our hardworking families can keep in their own pockets."

According to Focus on Energy, Energy Star qualified appliances use 10 percent to 50 percent less energy than standard models. The Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation estimates that if only 1,000 homes switch to Energy Star refrigerator, dishwasher, 25 CFL light bulbs, and a clothes washer they would:

- Keep 2,408,282 pounds of carbon dioxide from being release into the atmosphere
- Save \$161,334 in annual electric costs
- Save 662 tons of coal from being burned
- Be the equivalent of removing 214 cars from the road

The bill is the first of a number of proposals that will make up Lt. Governor Lawton's Green Economy Agenda.

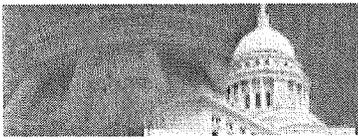
"Reshaping the way we think about energy, consumption and stewardship of resources will create new and exciting economic opportunities for Wisconsin, both in eco-focused businesses like renewable energy generation and in mainstay industries like manufacturing, agriculture and, for that matter, appliance retailing," Lawton said. "Wisconsin's Department of Tourism leads the way with their Travel Green Wisconsin program. I believe the green economy sector is fertile ground for us to grow jobs. We're just beginning to plant the seeds."

Senator Mark Miller (D-Monona) and Representative Pat Strachota (R-West Bend), the legislative sponsors of the bill, circulated the memo for co-sponsorship today.

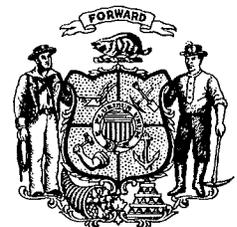
The measure has the support of Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, Sierra Club, Wisconsin Merchants Federation, Wisconsin Environment, National Federation of Independent Business, Wisconsin Independent Businesses, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters.

"Energy Star appliances save people money and reduce their impact on the climate," Sen. Miller said. "We should do anything we can to make it easier for people to buy them. I urge my colleagues to sign on as cosponsors."

"This bill is a win-win for both consumers and business," said Rep. Strachota. "I am confident it will enjoy broad bipartisan support and hope to see it signed into law so consumers can take advantage of this opportunity."



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





# State of Wisconsin • DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

2135 RIMROCK RD. • P.O. BOX 8933 • MADISON, WISCONSIN 53708-8933  
PHONE (608) 266-6466 • FAX (608) 266-5718 • <http://www.revenue.wi.gov>

**Jim Doyle**  
Governor

**Roger M. Ervin**  
Secretary of Revenue

Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee, February 7, 2008

## **SB 421– Sales Tax Holiday for Energy Star Products (Sen. Miller)**

### *Description of Current Law and Proposed Change*

The bill exempts from sales and use taxes certain sales of items of tangible personal property that meet the energy efficiency guidelines of the federal Energy Star program. The exemption would apply to sales of items for residential use purchased during the seven-day period beginning on the Saturday immediately preceding April 21 (Earth Day) and for which the price is less than \$1,500. The exemption does not apply to items purchased by a contractor or subcontractor or to items purchased primarily for entertainment purposes. The exemption would take effect on the first day of the twelfth month beginning after publication.

The sales tax holiday under the bill would cover a wide range of residential products certified under the Energy Star program. Certified product groups include appliances, computers and other office equipment, light bulbs, furnaces, central air conditioning units, and certain building and insulating materials (such as qualifying doors, windows, and roofing).

### *Fairness/Tax Equity*

- To the degree a sales tax holiday coincides with purchases that would have been made without the temporary sales tax exemption, the bill may simply provide a tax reduction to those consumers who happen to be purchasing the products at that time.
- The bill can create inequity based on timing or price. Sales tax holidays may be unfair to those who made purchases only a few days earlier or later than the designated period - especially those making large purchases due to a need to replace a failing major appliance. The \$1,500 cap on the price of an exempt product under the bill may disallow exemption for products most suitable for certain families.
- Inequity can exist under the bill between homeowners looking for different products. Since the share of products qualifying for the Energy Star designation varies by type of product and varies over time, the availability of the tax incentive created by the bill can vary by consumer. If a much larger share of dishwashers is Energy Star qualified than are room air conditioners, a homeowner looking for a new dishwasher may be more likely to benefit from the exemption. This variability can be sharp. For example, the share of dishwashers in 2005 meeting Energy Star standards was estimated at nearly 90% while the share of clothes washers meeting the standard was only about 33%. Prior to modifications to the standards in 2007, nearly all new computers available for purchase were achieving Energy Star standards.

- It may be unclear if the consumer or retailer benefits from the exemption since other discounts that may occur in absence of the bill may be modified due to the sales tax holiday.

*Impact on Economic Development*

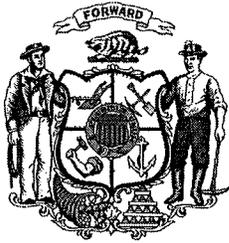
- By increasing the overall visibility of energy-efficient products, the bill may lead to an overall increase in the purchase of these products and thereby create energy savings.

*Administrative Impact/Fiscal Effect*

- Assuming 60% of the estimated Wisconsin sales of room air conditioners, dehumidifiers, refrigerators, freezers, clothes washers, computers and peripheral equipment, compact fluorescent lighting, and heating and air conditioning units are Energy Star qualified (95% for lighting), and assuming that the one-week exemption created by the bill draws three weeks of average weekly sales, the bill is estimated to decrease state sales tax collections by \$2.1 million annually. County and stadium sales and use taxes would decrease by \$160,000 annually.
- The temporary exemption provided in the bill is complex. The new exemption may be confusing to consumers. A retailer would have no way of knowing if certain sales meet the criteria for exemption (for residential use and not primarily for entertainment).
- The sales tax holiday created by the bill would need to be amended to allow Wisconsin to comply with the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement if the state were to join this effort to increase equity between businesses in the state and Internet and mail-order retailers located outside of Wisconsin.

Contact: Sherrie Gates-Hendrix, (608) 267-1262





STATE OF WISCONSIN

BARBARA LAWTON  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

SB 421  
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TO	Rep. Pat Strachota
FROM	Ben Nuckels, Chief of Staff to Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton
SUBJECT	Energy Star Tax Holiday Amendment
DATE	Monday, February 11, 2008
CC	Sara Buschman

### Overview

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue recently provided us with a preliminary fiscal note that was much higher than we anticipated (\$2.1 million vs. 100k – 150k). Given Revenue's estimates, we are proposing an amendment that will bring this bill back on target with our original intent and in line with similar laws in other states, such as Virginia, without compromising the environmental and economic benefits of the Energy Star Tax Holiday. The amendment specifies those products that will most dramatically reduce energy costs and clarifies the exemption to include only purchased items, not leased items.

### Bringing the Fiscal Estimate Down

In 2005, there was a bill introduced (AB 744) that would have provided a tax credit for the *year-round* purchase of certain Energy Star products – air conditioners, dehumidifiers, furnaces, boilers, refrigerators, freezers, and clothes washers. DOR gave this bill a \$5.4 million fiscal note. If this bill were just for one week out of the year, it would be reasonable to divide \$5.4 million by 52 weeks and come up with \$103,846 for a 7-day tax holiday.

Our amendment will list these specific Energy Star Products as the 2005 bill did, but also include Energy Star products listed in the Florida and Virginia bills (dishwasher, ceiling fan, incandescent or fluorescent light bulbs and programmable thermostats).

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The complete exemption list with our amendment would be: dishwasher, clothes washer, air conditioner, ceiling fan, incandescent or fluorescent light bulbs, dehumidifier, programmable thermostat, freezer or refrigerators. The amendment proposed also removed the language, “not used primarily for entertainment purposes,” as it is no longer needed.

In comparison, Virginia’s Energy Star Tax Holiday is a 4-day holiday that exempts the products listed above if they cost \$2500 or less. Virginia has 7.5 million people and a 5% sales tax rate. Their lost revenue was \$166,000. Given the changes, we would anticipate somewhere in that 100k- 150k range.

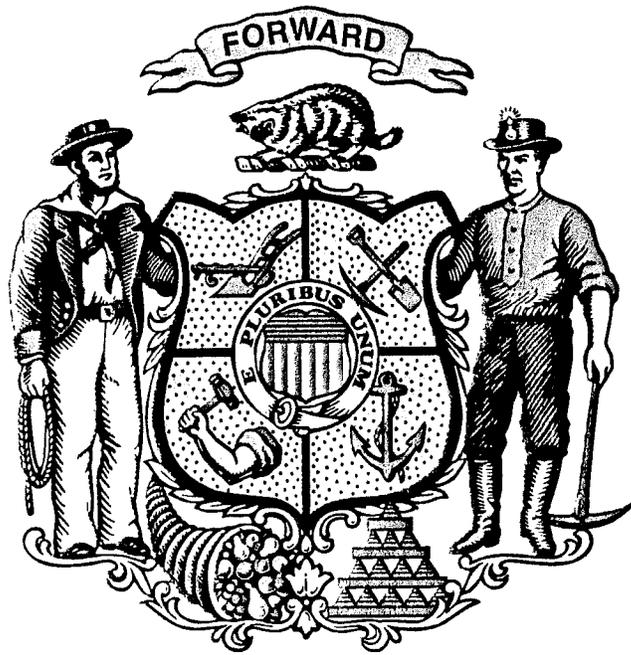
Of note, DOR’s preliminary fiscal estimate (Sara will release on Thursday) of \$2.1 million did *not* exclude products that cost more than \$1500 nor did they exclude purchases made from contractors. Both of these points were *specifically* excluded in our original language of the bill to keep the fiscal note low. They also attributed the high fiscal note to the inclusion of computers as most computers are Energy Star rated.

By listing these products out we will also be in compliance with the Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement if it should ever pass in the future – this was a concern to DOR.

#### **Other Revenue Concerns Addressed**

The Department of Revenue other concerns with the following:

1. **CHANGE:** If a qualifying purchase is leased, a retailer would need to keep track of the tax on each of the lease payments. The amendment would change the bill to only include purchases, not leases.
2. **NO CHANGE:** If there is a change in the energy efficiency guidelines under the Energy Star program, DOR thought it may be unclear whether the previous guidelines or the revised guidelines apply for purposes of the exemption. LRB believes the bill is clear, as written and does not need to be amended on this point.
3. **NO CHANGE:** DOR said “Contractor” and “subcontractor” are undefined. Again, LRB believes the bill is clear, as written and does not need to be amended on this point.





STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BARBARA LAWTON  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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Date ?

### Written Testimony of Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton on AB 725

Committee members;

Good morning and thank you for your consideration of Assembly Bill 725, the Energy Star Tax Holiday Bill.

As the world comes to grips with the reality of global climate change, in Wisconsin we look for multiple strategies to lead us toward energy independence and to reduce our green house gas emissions. As you know, Governor Jim Doyle just set in motion a package of incentives for businesses to develop and expand production of renewable energy. And I drafted this bill as a strategy to:

- Promote energy conservation in our homes.
- Give an incentive for decisions that will result in savings on utility bills – that will be self-reinforcing for home consumers.
- Stimulate economic activity everywhere across the state.
- Contribute on multiple levels to Wisconsin response to reducing carbon emissions.

AB 725 creates a seven-day period each year, anchored by Earth Day in April, during which all purchases of Energy Star-certified household products costing \$1,500 or less would be exempt from sales tax. Qualified appliances – dish and clothes washers, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, CFL light bulbs etc.– use 10-50% less energy than standard models.

So when your constituents decide to install a programmable thermostat or replace that energy-greedy old refrigerator in the basement, they will save money on the purchase and see savings on their utility bills. As you will hear today from the Wisconsin Merchants Federation and the owner of a small locally-owned business, local retailers will welcome the increase in sales. And the state's total carbon footprint will shrink.

The Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation reports that if just one thousand Wisconsin homes switched to an Energy Star refrigerator, dish and clothes washers and changed 25 light bulbs over to compact fluorescent light, they would:

- Prevent 2.4 million pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> from being released into the atmosphere
- Save \$161,334 in electricity costs that year
- Prevent 662 tons of coal from being burned
- Reduce emissions equivalent to taking 214 cars off the road

The Energy Star Tax Holiday boasts strong bipartisan sponsorship, including nearly seventy percent of the members of the State Senate and one in four of your colleagues in the State Assembly. It also draws together a unique and perhaps unprecedented coalition of support – Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce and the Sierra Club, the National Federation of Independent Businesses and 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Merchants Federation and the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters.

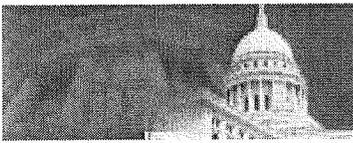
A few other states already have an operative Energy Star Tax Holiday, and they report great success. Florida is looking to expand their holiday to a permanent two-week holiday. Virginia reports that exempting about \$166,000 in state sales tax revenue generated more than \$3.3 million in direct economic activity. We too want to reap that return on investment that will then be shared by hardworking Wisconsin families and the businesses that keep our communities strong.

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue recently provided us with a preliminary fiscal note higher than we anticipated. Given Revenue's estimates, we are proposing an amendment that will bring this bill back on target with our original intent and in line with similar laws in other states, such as Virginia, without compromising the environmental and economic benefits of the Energy Star Tax Holiday. The amendment specifies those products that will most dramatically reduce energy costs and clarifies the exemption to include only purchased items, not leased items. I urge you to support its adoption.

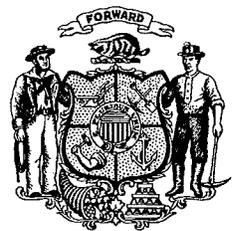
Last year, we sent \$12 billion out of our state and overseas to meet our energy needs, money that left the economy and didn't find its way back to Wisconsin workers and consumers. We are intent on changing that statistic. We know that with energy independence and global climate change, there is no silver bullet; only silver buckshot will do. That is precisely why Governor Doyle established the Office on Energy Independence and a Task Force on Global Warming. That is why our Department of Tourism announced Travel Green Wisconsin to national acclaim. And that is why I introduce a Green Economy Agenda that zeroes in on empowering every one of us where we live, work and study to make a difference.

Wisconsin's Energy Star Tax Holiday will become a very effective and empowering consumer education campaign that will be boosted by businesses across the state, a message reinforced every time a consumer sees again the savings on her utility bill.

Once again, thank you sincerely for your time and thoughtful consideration.



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



# 2007 State Legislation Exempting Energy Star Products from Sales Tax

(As of 11/20/07)

Compiled by the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators

(Most information is from the actual bill posted on the legislative websites. This list may not contain every related bill that has been introduced.)

[www.ncel.net](http://www.ncel.net)

State	Bill #	Tax Holiday Period	Energy Star Products Covered	Restrictions	Status
Alabama	<u>HB773/</u> <u>SB494</u>	First Friday in August ending at 12 midnight the following Sunday.	dishwasher, clothes washer, ceiling fan, air conditioner, light bulb, fluorescent bulb, dehumidifier, programmable thermostat, refrigerator	Appears to be no restrictions	Did not pass
Alabama	<u>HB743</u>	Would coincide with existing sales tax holiday scheduled for August 3-5, 2007.	Clothes washer, air conditioner, ceiling fan, incandescent or fluorescent light bulb, dehumidifier, programmable thermostat, refrigerator, or computer monitor	Item must be less than \$1,500 and for household use.	Did not pass.
Alabama	<u>SB511</u>	First Friday in August of each year and ending at 12 midnight the following Sunday	dishwasher, clothes washer, ceiling fan, air conditioner, light bulb, fluorescent bulb, dehumidifier, programmable thermostat, refrigerator, or appliance	Appears to be no restrictions	Did not pass
California	<u>AB882</u>	April 22 of each year (Earth Day)	Any product that meets or exceeds the applicable ENERGY STAR efficiency requirements.	Includes layaway agreements entered into during the qualified period for which the purchaser has made a deposit of at least 10% of the sale price of the product.	Did not pass
Connecticut	<u>11B7432</u>	Makes permanent sales tax exemption home weatherization products,	Programmable thermostats; Window film; Caulking; Window and door weather	In order to qualify as a residential weatherization product, the item must be	Enacted June 4, 2007

SB 421 folder

		<p>provides sales tax exemption for appliances until June 30, 2008</p>	<p>strips; Insulation; Water heater blankets; Water heaters; Boilers that meet the federal Energy Star standard. (Energy Star qualified boilers have annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE) rating of 84% or greater.); Natural gas furnaces that meet the federal Energy Star standard; Propane furnaces that meet the federal Energy Star standard; Windows that meet the federal Energy Star standard; Doors that meet the federal Energy Star standard; Oil furnaces that are not less than 84% efficient based on the AFUE rating; and Ground-based heat pumps that meet the minimum federal energy efficiency rating. The act also permanently exempts compact fluorescent light bulbs from the sales tax. Finally, it exempts household appliances that meet federal Energy Star standards until June 30, 2008 (see restrictions).</p>	<p>designed and marketed for residential use and not for commercial use.</p> <p>PA 07-1, June Special Session terminates the appliance exemption on September 30, 2007</p>	
<p><b>Florida</b></p>	<p><u>HB313/</u> <u>SB1640</u></p>	<p>The first Friday of October through midnight on the second Sunday of October for each year thereafter through 2010</p>	<p>dishwasher, clothes washer, clothes dryer, air conditioner, ceiling fan, incandescent or fluorescent light bulb, dehumidifier, programmable thermostat, or refrigerator</p>	<p>Limited to products with a sales price of \$1,500 or less for non-commercial home or personal use.</p>	<p>Did Not Pass</p>

<b>Florida</b>	<u>HB7123</u>	14-day period starting the first Saturday in October	dishwasher, clothes washer, air conditioner, ceiling fan, compact fluorescent light bulb, dehumidifier, programmable thermostat, or refrigerator	Limited to products with a sales price of \$1,500 or less for non-commercial home or personal use.	Passed as part of larger energy bill, but was vetoed by Gov. 6/20/07
<b>Florida</b>	<u>SB996</u>	14-day period starting the first Saturday in October	dishwasher, clothes washer, air conditioner, ceiling fan, compact fluorescent light bulb, dehumidifier, programmable thermostat, or refrigerator	Limited to products with a sales price of \$1,500 or less for non-commercial home or personal use.	Did not pass
<b>Florida</b>	<u>SB1640</u>	October 5-14, 2007, and the first Friday of October through the second Sunday of October for each year thereafter through 2010	dishwasher, clothes washer, air conditioner, ceiling fan, compact fluorescent light bulb, dehumidifier, programmable thermostat, or refrigerator	Limited to products with a sales price of \$1,500 or less for non-commercial home or personal use.	Did Not Pass
<b>Florida</b>	<u>SB2054</u>	October 5-11, 2007	dishwasher, clothes washer, air conditioner, ceiling fan, florescent light bulb, dehumidifier, programmable thermostat, or refrigerator	Limited to products with a sales price of \$1,500 or less for non-commercial home or personal use.	Did Not Pass
<b>Florida</b>	<u>SB2666</u>	October 1-7, 2007, March 3-9, 2008	dishwasher, clothes washer, air conditioner, ceiling fan, incandescent or fluorescent light bulb, dehumidifier, programmable thermostat, or refrigerator	Limited to products with a sales price of \$1,500 or less for non-commercial home or personal use.	Combined with SB996
<b>Georgia</b>	<u>HB128</u>	October 4-7, 2007	dishwashers, clothes washers, air conditioners, ceiling fans, fluorescent light bulbs, dehumidifiers, programmable thermostats, refrigerators, doors, windows (including skylights)	Limited to products with a sales price of \$1,500 or less for non-commercial home or personal use	Enacted 5/18/2007
<b>Illinois</b>	<u>HB1237</u>	Each year: Nov. 1 -7; April 22-28	dishwasher, clothes washer, air conditioner, ceiling fan, incandescent or fluorescent light	Limited to products with a sales price of \$1,500.	Did Not Pass

<b>Illinois</b>	<u>HB1936</u>	April 22-28 in 2008 and 2009	bulb, dehumidifier, programmable thermostat, or refrigerator clothes washer, dehumidifier, dishwasher, refrigerator, freezer, room air conditioner, ceiling fan, programmable thermostat, ventilating fan, compact fluorescent bulb, or certain residential light fixtures	For non-business use only	Did Not Pass
<b>Illinois</b>	<u>SB1604</u>	Feb. 1 – April 30, 2008	Any Energy Star labeled product (bill lists examples)	Appears to be no restrictions	Did Not Pass
<b>Illinois</b>	<u>SB1680</u>	April 22-28 for 2008 and 2009 (amended from 2007 and 2008)	clothes washer, dehumidifier, dishwasher, refrigerator, freezer, room air conditioner, ceiling fan, programmable thermostat, ventilating fan, compact fluorescent bulb, or residential light fixture	Purchase must be for non-business purposes.	Did Not Pass
<b>Iowa</b>	<u>SF122</u>	Appears to be permanent beginning 2008	clothes washers, refrigerators, and dishwashers	Appears to be no restrictions.	Did Not Pass
<b>Maryland</b>	<u>HB451</u>	October 6 - 8, 2007	Air conditioner, clothes washer, furnace, heat pump or standard sized refrigerator	Appears to be no restrictions.	Passed the House, Failed in the Senate
<b>Maryland (Special Session)</b>	<u>HB5</u>	Beginning in 2011, each President's Day weekend.	Air conditioner, clothes washer, furnace, heat pump or standard sized refrigerator, compact fluorescent light bulb, dehumidifier, or programmable thermostat. Also applies to solar water heaters.	Appears to be no restrictions.	Enacted 11/19/07
<b>Massachusetts</b>	<u>HB3317</u>	Appears to be permanent	Appears to apply to any Energy Star Product	Appears to be no restrictions	In House Committee on Ways & Means 3/15/07 (Mass still in session)

<b>Michigan</b>	<u>HB4125/</u> <u>HB4126</u>	Appears to be permanent, everyday	clothes washer, dehumidifier, refrigerator, dishwasher, freezer, room air conditioner, air cleaner, or water cooler	Residential, non-commercial use purchases only	Introduced 1/25/07 (MI still in session)
<b>New Mexico</b>	<u>SB542</u>	Month of November, each year until 2014	clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers and water heaters	Appears to be no restrictions	Did Not Pass
<b>New Mexico</b>	<u>HM64</u>		Memorial urging the Legislature to enact a sales tax holiday for energy star equipment, among other things		Adopted 3/2/07
<b>New Jersey</b>	<u>S936</u>	Appears to be permanent, everyday	home furnaces and boilers and for programmable thermostats	Appears to be no restrictions	Introduced 1/17/06 (NJ still in session)
<b>New York</b>	<u>A4435</u>	During the first week of each sales tax quarter (March, June, September, November); year round for weather stripping and insulation	refrigerator, combination refrigerator/freezer, residential freezer, clothes washer and dryer, light fixture, ceiling fan with or without a light, ceiling fan light kit, dishwasher, room or central air conditioner, furnace, boiler and hot water heater, dehumidifier, air-source and geothermal heat pump, sealing, programmable thermostat and room air cleaner	Appears to be no restrictions	Introduced 2/2/07 (NY still in session)
<b>New York</b>	<u>A5353</u>	During the first week of each sales tax quarter (March, June, September, November)	refrigerator, combination refrigerator/freezer, residential freezer, clothes washer and dryer, light fixture, ceiling fan with or without a light, ceiling fan light kit, dishwasher, room or central air conditioner, furnace, boiler and hot water heater, dehumidifier, air-source and geothermal heat pump, home sealing, programmable thermostat and	Residential and non- commercial products.	Introduced 2/15/07 (NY still in session)

<b>New York</b>	<u>S1583</u>	During the first week of each sales tax quarter (March, June, September, November); tax exemption is permanent for alternative energy systems and insulation products and materials including windows, doors, skylights and roofing materials	room air cleaner refrigerator, freezer, residential freezer, clothes washer and dryer, light fixture, ceiling fan with or without a light, ceiling fan light kit, dishwasher, room or central air conditioner, furnace, boiler and hot water heater, dehumidifier, air-source and geothermal heat pump, sealing, programmable thermostat and room air cleaner	Appears to be no restrictions	Introduced 1/23/07 (NY still in session)
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	SS <u>HB11</u>	Third full calendar week of October 2008 and February 2009	clothes washer, dishwasher, refrigerator, room air conditioner, ceiling fan, dehumidifier, freezer, programmable thermostat, ventilating fan, compact fluorescent bulb and residential light fixture	For non-business use and does not include the leasing, rental, repair or servicing of Energy Star property.	Passed House 10/22/07; In Senate as of 10/25/07  (PA still in Special Session)
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	SS <u>HR28</u>	First week of May 2008, October 2008, May 2009 and October 2009.	clothes washer; refrigerator, soft-mount, front-loading or soft-mount, top-loading clothes washer that is designed for use by the occupants of more than one household, including multifamily housing common areas and coin laundries; ceiling fan; ceiling fan light kit that contains equipment to either hardwire a light to a ceiling fan or attach a light to a ceiling fan provided that the equipment is included at the time of sale or is sold separately for subsequent attachment to the fan; room air conditioner; air source heat pump;	Refrigerator and dishwasher must be for household use. Bill does not include the leasing, rental, repair or servicing of property.	Introduced 10/3/07 (PA still in Special Session)

			dehumidifier; geothermal heat pump; central air conditioner; ventilation fan; dishwasher; programmable thermostat; compact fluorescent light bulb; lighting control that includes an occupancy sensor; photocell or timer; oil or gas furnace; oil or gas boiler.			
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<u>HB97</u>	Permanent, everyday until June 30, 2009	window or skylight, doors, programmable clock thermostat, insulation, reflective white roof coating; air source heat pump, geothermal heat pump, boiler	Appears to be no restrictions	Referred to Finance 1/30/07	
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<u>SB37</u>	First full week in December and first full week in May; ends 2012	clothes washer, dehumidifier, dishwasher, refrigerator, freezer, room air conditioner, ceiling fan, programmable thermostat, ventilating fan, compact fluorescent bulb or residential light fixture	For individual purchaser for non-business; no dollar limit	Referred to Finance Committee 2/5/07	
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<u>HB833</u>	First full week in December 2007 and May 2008	clothes washer, dishwasher, refrigerator, room air conditioner and ceiling fan	Individual purchaser for non-business use	Introduced 3/19/07	
<b>Tennessee</b>	<u>SB190</u> <u>HB1145</u>	Appears to permanent, everyday	clothes washer, air conditioners, programmable thermostats, incandescent or fluorescent light bulbs, light fixtures, and refrigerators	Limited to products with a sales price of \$1,500 or less for non-commercial home or personal use.	Did Not Pass	
<b>Texas</b>	<u>HB625</u>	April 16	Any Energy Star labeled product	Appears to be no restrictions	Did Not Pass	
<b>Texas</b>	<u>HB1000</u>	Memorial Day and July 4 <sup>th</sup> Weekends	An air conditioner, a clothes washer, a ceiling fan, a dehumidifier, a dishwasher, an incandescent or fluorescent light	Air conditioner sale price cannot exceed \$6,000 and refrigerator cannot exceed \$2,000. Must be for	Did Not Pass	

Texas	HB3693	12:01 a.m. on the Saturday preceding the last Monday in May (Memorial Day) and ending at 11:59 p.m. on the last Monday in May.	bulb, a programmable thermostat, and a refrigerator Energy Star rated: air conditioner the sales price of which does not exceed \$6,000; clothes washer; ceiling fan; dehumidifier; dishwasher; an incandescent or fluorescent lightbulb; a programmable thermostat; and a refrigerator the sales price of which does exceed \$2,000	residential or non-commercial use. See product list for \$ restrictions.	Enacted 6/15/07
Texas	SB490	Appears to be permanent, everyday	An air conditioner, a clothes washer, ceiling fan, dehumidifier, dishwasher, incandescent or fluorescent light bulb, programmable thermostat, refrigerator.	Applies only to items costing \$1,500 or less for residential or non-commercial use.	Did Not Pass
Virginia	SB867 HB1678	Until 2012, a four-day period that begins each year on the Friday before the second Monday in October and ends at midnight on the second Monday in October.	dishwasher, clothes washer, air conditioner, ceiling fan, compact fluorescent light bulb, dehumidifier, programmable thermostat, or refrigerator	Products with a sales price of \$2,500 or less for non-commercial home or personal use.	Adopted – Signed by Governor 3/9/07 Chapter 176

**Previously Enacted Energy Star Tax Holiday Laws and Related Indiana Law**

**Connecticut:** 2006 House Bill No. 5846 reinstates an exclusion from sales and use taxes for residential weatherization products for the period of June 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007. Programmable thermostats; Window film; Caulking of a type marketed for preventing drafts, such as window and door caulking; Window and door weather strips, including door sweeps; Insulation, for example attic and wall insulation, spray foam insulation, water pipe insulation, heating duct insulation, and switch and outlet insulators; Water heater blankets; Water heaters; Boilers. Only sales of boilers that meet the federal Energy Star standard qualify for the exclusion (Energy Star qualified boilers have an annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE) rating of 85% or greater.); Natural gas furnaces that meet the federal Energy Star standard; Propane furnaces that meet the federal Energy Star

standard; Windows that meet the federal Energy Star standard (Note that storm windows do not have an Energy Star standard and are not included in this tax exclusion.); Doors that meet the federal Energy Star standard (Note that storm doors do not have an Energy Star standard and are not included in this tax exclusion.); Oil furnaces that are not less than 85% efficient based on the AFUE rating; and Ground-based heat pumps that meet the minimum federal energy efficiency rating.

**Florida:** Passed in 2006 as part of the Florida Energy Act, Florida's sales tax holiday for select Energy Star products occurred October 5-11, 2006. Product covered included dishwasher, clothes washer, air conditioner, ceiling fan, fluorescent light bulb, dehumidifier, programmable thermostat, or refrigerator. Products must have been purchased for non-commercial or personal use. Florida has legislation introduced in 2007 to continue the holiday.

**Indiana:** Although not a sales tax exemption, Indiana enacted a law (HB1722) in 2007 providing a credit against state income tax for the purchase of Energy Star rated heating and cooling equipment, which includes: a furnace; water heater; central air conditioning; room air conditioner; and programmable thermostats. A credit against the taxpayer's state tax liability equal to the lesser of the following: (1) 20% of the amount of expenditures for energy star heating and cooling equipment incurred by the taxpayer during the taxable year. (2) \$100. The law takes effect for taxable years beginning in 2009.

**Georgia:** In 2006, Georgia HB1219 provided for a state sales tax holiday August 3-6, 2006 for Energy Star products with a sales price of \$1,500 or less purchased for home or personal use. Covered products included dishwashers, clothes washers, air conditioners, ceiling fans, fluorescent light bulbs, dehumidifiers, programmable thermostats, refrigerators, doors, windows (including skylights). (NOTE: In 2005, the sales tax holiday was in October. The 2006 tax holiday date was tied into the Back-to-School sales tax holiday in August. Citing a decline in Energy Star product sales for the 2006 period, the Georgia Retail Association is going to push for the Energy Star tax holiday to revert back to an October date in 2007.)

**\*Disclaimer:** This chart attempts to show which states are working on legislation to exempt Energy Star products from sales and/or use tax either through permanent exemptions or via tax holidays. NCEL encourages you to review each piece of legislation. The chart does not attempt to highlight all aspects of each bill. Other bills, not listed here, have been introduced that would provide income and business tax credits, as opposed to sales tax holidays, for Energy Star product purchases. **IF YOU ARE AWARE OF TAX EXEMPTION LEGISLATION OR LAWS FOR ENERGY STAR PRODUCTS NOT LISTED HERE, OR IF YOU HAVE A CORRECTION TO THE TABLE, PLEASE CONTACT NCEL AT [ADAM@NCEL.NET](mailto:ADAM@NCEL.NET).**





## **ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY CENTER**

Illinois Indiana Michigan Minnesota Ohio Wisconsin

**Andy Olsen**  
Policy Advocate

### **Environmental Law & Policy Center**

222 South Hamilton Street, Suite 14  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703-3201  
P: (608) 442-6998 F: (312) 795-3730  
Cell: (608) 239-5393  
aolsen@elpc.org www.elpc.org



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