

# MiSustainable Holland

## About this series

The MiSustainable Holland column is a collection of community voices sharing updates about local sustainability initiatives.

## This Week's Sustainability Framework Theme:

**Smart Energy:** We need to use both conservation and efficiency measures to manage our resources to provide access to reliable and cost-effective energy.

## Holland BPW offers double rebates on appliance recycling

By Jennifer Soukhome  
Holland BPW

Do you have Freon-containing appliances sitting around your home that you don't need? They could be worth money.

Having that extra fridge at Thanksgiving sure is nice, but it could be costing you up to \$11 a month! And that freezer chest that only has a few items in it can cost up to \$8 a month. The mini-fridge left over from college days – over \$3 a month. Add them all together and that is over \$250 a year that you could be saving just by recycling items you don't need.

Holland Board of Public Works is here to help you be more efficient – and also give you a bonus for being efficient.

For years, we have paid our electric customers for recycling working refrigerators, mini-fridges, freezers, dehumidifiers, and window air conditioners, which we also will pick up. We are excited to announce that for the months of November and December, we are doubling the rebate amount.

To be eligible for our appliance recycling program, you must be a Holland BPW electric customer (residential or business) and the appliance must be in working condition. You can recycle up to two large items (refrigerator and freezer) and two small items (mini-fridge, dehumidifier, and window air conditioner) per year. Your rebate will be processed as a credit on your Holland BPW electric bill.

Here are the Appliance Recycling Program Rebates amounts through Dec. 31, 2023:

- Refrigerator - \$100
- Freezer - \$100
- Mini-fridge - \$50
- Dehumidifier - \$30
- Window air conditioner - \$30

The convenience of Freon-containing appliances is indispensable. However, this convenience comes with a responsibility – one that extends beyond daily use and into the realm of environmental stewardship.

Freon or hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) are compounds used as a refrigerant in cooling appliances. The improper disposal of Freon-containing appliances poses a significant threat to the environment.

When these appliances reach the end of their lifecycle and are discarded without proper care, the Freon they contain is released into the atmosphere. Once released, Freon depletes the ozone layer and negatively impacts the environment.

By recycling Freon-containing appliances, we actively participate in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and preservation of the ozone layer.

If you have older Freon-containing appliances in your home that are not Energy Star rated, they are inefficient and use more energy to run, which in turn costs you more money.

Holland BPW also has many ENERGY STAR appliance rebates available for our customers who are buying new. When buying appliances, always buy ENERGY STAR rated to save energy and money. Visit [hollandbpw.com](http://hollandbpw.com) to learn more information about our rebates.

To recycle and receive a rebate, contact Mike's Junk Hauling at (616)405-9889 or email us at [recycling@hollandbpw.com](mailto:recycling@hollandbpw.com). Please have your HBPW electric account number ready. For more information visit <https://hollandbpw.com/en/appliance-recycling>.

■ *Jennifer Soukhome is the community energy services specialist for Holland Board of Public Works.*