



REFRIGERATOR AND FREEZER RECYCLING PROGRAM

Customer Engagement

City Council
March 11, 2025

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

RPU's Public Benefit Customer Charge and Programming is required by State law:

1. **Assembly Bill (AB) 1890** (Brulte, 1996), requires that utilities establish a non-bypassable, 2.85% usage-based charge fund public benefits programming for demand side management (energy efficiency), renewable energy, low-income assistance, or research, development, and demonstration.
2. **SB 1037** (Kehoe, 2005), a comprehensive package that sets ambitious energy conservation policies and goals; requires POU's to first acquire all available energy efficiency and demand reduction resources that are cost effective, reliable, and feasible, and annually report kilowatt hour (kWh) savings to the California Energy Commission



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BACKGROUND

1. In 2000, the Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling Program was approved for residential electric customers and managed by Appliance Recycling Centers of America, Inc. (ARCA)
2. In 2023, ARCA went out of business and RPU engaged a local replacement vendor, A&G Electronics Inc., to pick up and recycle working refrigerators
3. Since the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year, more than 2,228 refrigerators and freezers have been collected under the program and, to date, have provided 1,531,242 kWh savings.



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BACKGROUND CONT.

The Program provides significant and cost effective
 (\$0.11 per kWh saved) energy savings

Fiscal Year	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025 YTD	Total
kWh Savings	317,102	343,806	521,683	348,651	1,531,242
Units Collected	555	487	707	479	2,228



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DISCUSSION

1. RFP 2410 was issued by the City Purchasing Division seeking consultants for the Refrigerator and Freezer Recycling Program
2. Requirements of the Program as issued in the RFP:
 - a. Provide customer support phone number
 - b. Provide information and instruction for completion of the program
 - c. Provide a mechanism for recording and reporting appointment and equipment information for each unit recycled
 - d. Verify customer eligibility
 - e. Schedule appointments for pick-up of refrigeration units; remove equipment from customer service address within 10 to 15 days from the date of initial customer contact
 - f. Provide RPU with monthly accounting of units processed



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RFP AND EVALUATION RESULTS

Action	Number of Vendors
External Vendors Notified	500
City of Riverside Vendors Notified	596
Vendors who downloaded the RFP	15
Proposals received	1

RFP closed on November 12, 2024. As anticipated by staff, there was only one responsive and responsible bidder – A&G Electronics Inc.

Program	Proposer	Location	Committee's Avg Rank	Pricing Rank	Overall Rank
Refrigerator and Freezer Recycling	A&G Electronics Inc.	Riverside, CA	966.66	1	1



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PROGRAM BENEFITS

1. Provides a system load reduction for the utility, contributing to the required energy efficiency savings that RPU commits to annually
2. Provides a \$100 rebate to customers that recycle and replace a unit with an energy star unit; or \$50 rebate to customers that simply recycle an old working unit
3. Additional environmental benefits by recycling old units and disposing of them in an environmentally safe manner at a Certified Appliance Recycler Center



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STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT



Strategic Priority 4 – Environmental Stewardship

Goal 4.6 – Implement the requisite measures to achieve citywide carbon neutrality no later than 2040.

Cross – Cutting Threads



Community Trust



Equity



Fiscal Responsibility



Innovation



Sustainability & Resiliency



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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council:

1. Approve a Professional Consultant Services Agreement from Request for Proposal No. 2410 to administer the Refrigerator and Freezer Recycling program to A&G Electronics Inc., for a three-year term in the amount of \$300,000;
2. Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute the Professional Consultant Services Agreements, including making minor and non-substantive changes to the agreement.

