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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHOP MARYLAND ENERGY WEEKEND PROVIDES MARYLANDERS WITH A SALES TAX HOLIDAY ON ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES

Annapolis, Maryland (February 16, 2012) — This weekend, Marylanders will enjoy a holiday from sales tax on select ENERGY STAR appliances from February 18-20, 2012. During *Shop Maryland Energy* weekend, ENERGY STAR models of the following products can be purchased tax-free at any Maryland retailer:

- Air conditioners
- Clothes washers
- Furnaces
- Heat pumps
- Boilers
- Refrigerators
- Dehumidifiers
- Programmable thermostats
- Compact fluorescent light bulbs
- Solar water heaters (tax-exempt at all times now)

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Energy, designed to help consumers protect the environment and save energy and money. Products with the ENERGY STAR label undergo rigorous testing to ensure that they save significant amounts of energy compared with their conventional, less-efficient counterparts.

"This tax holiday makes energy efficient appliances more affordable than ever," said Maryland Energy Administration Director Malcolm D. Woolf. "ENERGY STAR appliances generally use about 20% less energy than conventional models, which means that Marylanders keep more money in their pockets and Maryland moves closer to achieving our EmPOWER goal of reducing our energy consumption 15% by 2015."

Rebates of up to \$500 are also available from Maryland electric utilities for various ENERGY STAR appliances. Customers should contact their local electric utility for more information.

Shop Maryland Energy weekend will occur every third weekend in February. For further information, please visit the [Comptroller of Maryland's Shop Maryland Energy website](#).

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The Maryland Energy Administration's (MEA) mission is to assist Maryland citizens and businesses to save money through smart investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy and conservation. A Maryland state agency, MEA fuels the creation of green jobs by providing funds and resources to expand the use and availability of clean, safe energy in Maryland.