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## **TEXASISHOT.ORG ENCOURAGES TEXANS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS WEEKEND'S ENERGY STAR SALES TAX HOLIDAY**

*Texans can save about \$3 million in taxes during the event and will reap future savings on their electric bills with more efficient appliances and increased awareness of their energy use.*

AUSTIN, TEXAS – Texans have the opportunity to save more than \$3 million dollars on energy efficient appliances during the second annual Energy Star sales tax holiday which begins at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, May 23, and ends at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, May 25.

“This weekend, Texans have the opportunity to cash in not once, but twice, on energy efficient appliances,” said Texas Comptroller Susan Combs in a recent statement on the Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday.

“In addition to instant tax savings, energy efficient appliances will allow Texans to save significant money on their electric bills each month,” said Curt Seidlits of the *TexasIsHot Coalition*. “Energy efficiency is particularly important as we head into the extremely hot Texas summer, where energy use typically rises dramatically.”

Energy Star is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy. Americans, with the help of ENERGY STAR, saved \$19 billion on their utility bills in 2008. According to a recent report by the Texas Comptroller’s Office, increased energy efficiency, including the use of energy star appliances, will save Texas consumers \$2 billion per year.

“I encourage Texans across the state to take advantage of the sales tax holiday,” said Senator Florence Shapiro, Chair of the Senate Education Committee. “Texas has been a leader in using energy efficiency as a way to meet increased demand and this weekend’s tax holiday is an important step in getting Texans to educate themselves on how to conserve energy, help the environment, and lower their electric bills, all at the same time.”

“Over the past several months *TexasIsHot* has been working to provide Texans with the latest news concerning energy efficiency, quick and easy tips, and interactive tools for consumers to analyze personal energy use and better understand the financial benefits of conservation,” said Seidlits. “We encourage consumers across the state to take advantage of this weekend’s sales tax holiday, as it is an important step in getting Texans to rethink their energy use, conserve energy and lower their electric bills.”

For more information on the sales tax holiday and to sign up for important energy efficiency updates, tips and tools go to [www.texasishot.org](http://www.texasishot.org).

### ***About the Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday***

The Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday applies only to the following appliances and household equipment:

- \* Air conditioners priced under \$6,000 (room and central units)
- \* Clothes washers (but not clothes dryers\*)
- \* Ceiling fans
- \* Dehumidifiers
- \* Dishwashers
- \* Light bulbs (incandescent and fluorescent)
- \* Programmable thermostats
- \* Refrigerators priced under \$2,000.

*The Energy Star designation is not applied to clothes dryers since there is little difference in the energy use between models.*



***About TexasIsHot***

*The TexasIsHot Coalition's goal is to educate consumers about how to be more energy efficient and how to take control of their consumption and their bills. The coalition website – [www.TexasIsHot.org](http://www.TexasIsHot.org) - provides the latest energy efficiency news, quick and easy tips to conserve electricity, and interactive tools to show the financial impact of small changes in daily life. The coalition also provides regular e-mail updates and other educational forums to put Texans in control of their energy use and costs. Current Members of the TexasIsHot Coalition are AECT, CenterPoint Energy, Entergy Texas, Luminant, Oncor, Pedernales Electric Cooperative, TXU Energy and Time Warner Cable.*