



# PRESS RELEASE

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Nearly 2,500 new American-made energy efficient refrigerators come to Bridgeport

They look like an army of rectangular cubed soldiers standing at attention ready to infiltrate Bridgeport public housing units. They're lined up outside of buildings waiting for the command. Fact is they are brand new energy efficient General Electric and Frigidaire refrigerators prepared to attack energy waste while saving taxpayer dollars. In all 2,459 new refrigerators are being installed throughout March and until May.

They're being installed in six Bridgeport Housing Authority complexes and in scattered site units. Refrigerators have already gone in at P. T. Barnum Apartments and Marina Village. Currently, they're being installed at Fireside Apartments.

After having received her new refrigerator Myra Santiago of Marina Village said through a translator, "I'm very happy; the refrigerator looks bigger inside. As you could see my kids love it. There wasn't enough space before, this one's more ample." BHA Executive Director, Nicholas Calace said, "The new refrigerators will be a quality of life improvement for the residents while reducing energy consumption and saving money on electric bills".

The trucks are currently at the Fireside Apartments. From there they are scheduled to be at Charles F. Greene Homes on Wednesday March 31, then Harborview Towers, Trumbull Gardens and scattered sites, not necessarily in that order. All refrigerators not owned by a tenant or more than 2 years old will be replaced by the more energy efficient units.

The refrigerators manufactured in the United States employing Americans are coming from a Connecticut warehouse and are installed by Southern Connecticut area installers including "Section 3" (low-income) employees.



[Click here to see video](#)

### Background

The BHA's Energy Initiative is the largest single investment ever in Connecticut public housing energy efficiency and has brought jobs to Bridgeport while improving resident quality of life by making 2,500 apartments more energy efficient. The 22-Million Dollar Energy Initiative is decreasing the city's carbon footprint while injecting funds into the local economy.

A 22-million dollar loan allows the Bridgeport Housing Authority to use 18-million dollars to update 2,500 units with energy efficient measures such as the installation of new refrigerators and windows. The utility savings from the Energy Initiative will go into servicing the debt which will be paid back over 20 years. The win-win situation saves the authority money, provides residents a better quality of life, improves the local economy, and reduces the carbon footprint.

Energy Initiatives in the plan include: new refrigerators, windows, cooling systems, fluorescent bulbs, weatherization (window caulking, door seals, and insulation), water saving devices (showerheads, aerators, low flow toilets), boilers, security lights with motion sensors, and an internet based energy management system. It is expected that all improvements involving new equipment will be accomplished by June where in the past it may have taken decades to complete these kinds of improvements.

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