



# Come On Labels Common appliance policy – All for one, One for all – Energy Labels

#### **Appliance Labelling Good Practice Case Study**

Project Title: Trennungsprämie

(Replacement Bonus)

Name of organizer: Umweltforum Haushalt (UFH) and Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

Country: Austria Date of elaboration: 2009 – 2010

This document has been prepared within the Come On Labels project, co-financed by the Intelligent Energy Europe programme. It describes a marketing activity, undertaken to promote the EU energy labelling as a tool enabling the consumers to make more informed purchasing decisions towards more efficient appliances. The main goal of the Come On Label project is to support the proper implementation of the household appliance energy labelling.

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## Summary including context and objectives

The Umweltforum Haushalt (UFH) and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management started the campaign "Trennungsprämie" (Replacement Bonus) in Austria in 2009. The UFH is a service company for the collection, disposal and recovery of waste electrical and electronic equipment.

The "Trennungsprämie" was a subsidy programme for replacing old refrigerators and freezers (2009 and 2010) as well as washing machines and driers (2010). The aim of the campaign was to replace old appliances with high energy consumption through highly efficient appliances of the best energy efficiency class. As there are a lot of appliances older than 15 years in Austrian households, the bonus was intended to motivate consumers to replace their old appliances. The replacement of old appliances reduces the energy consumption and helps the households save energy costs.

# **Activity description**

The campaign "Trennungsprämie" supported consumers with a bonus for replacing old refrigerating appliances and washing machines and driers.

The campaign "Trennungsprämie" was carried out three times: from 1 September till 31 December 2009 for fridges and freezers, from 1 April till 30 June 2010 for washing machines and driers, and from 1 September till 15 November 2010 again for refrigerating appliances.

#### Refrigerators and freezers

In order to receive the replacement bonus, consumers had to buy a new A++ fridge or freezer (at the time of the campaign the highest energy efficiency class) and at the same time return their old refrigerating appliance within the periods defined. Consumers received a bonus of 50 Euros for appliances up to a height of 90 cm and 100 Euros for appliances above a height of 90 cm and for chest freezers, respectively. The budget for the first period was 2.5 Million Euro and the budget for the second period was 2 Million Euro.





#### Washing machines

At the time of the campaign, in spring 2010, most washing machines available on the market came within the energy efficiency class A. The regulation for the new label (No 1061/2010) not yet being in force, the energy consumption within the class A could vary a lot by that time.

Therefore the consumers were obliged to purchase products listed on the website <a href="http://www.trennungspraemie.at/">http://www.trennungspraemie.at/</a> in order to receive the replacement bonus for washing machines and driers. Washing machines on the list needed a max. energy consumption per kilogramme laundry of 0.15 kWh or less. Driers with heat pump technology and energy efficiency class A were also listed. 3.0 Million Euro were available for the replacement bonus for washing machines and driers. The campaign was planned till 30 June 2010 but had to be stopped already on 31 May 2010 due to unexpectedly high consumers interest.



Example of the product list for washing machines and driers

The campaign was targeted on households and end-users. Several energy providers supported the campaign as partners. The promotional activities included an online commercial with an Austrian musician and TV star. The campaign website <a href="www.trennungspraemie.at">www.trennungspraemie.at</a> was launched to inform consumers and retailers about the initiative and the advantages of efficient appliances. Advertisements were placed in regional media and retailers received promotional material for the point-of-sale. The retailers were very interested in supporting the campaign.













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Examples of promotional materials of the "Trennungsprämie" (advertisements)

# **Results and impacts**

With these three "Trennungsprämie" campaigns, the UFH supported the purchase of energy efficient washing machines, driers, refrigerators and freezers. All in all, around 9.0 Million Euro were paid out to the consumers. More than 99.000 consumers received a replacement bonus of 50 or 100 Euro.

During the first period (1 September 2009 till 31 December 2009) 32,816 refrigerating appliances were replaced, thus saving 8.26 Million kWh or 1,339 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, respectively. Calculated with the average appliance life-time of 15 years, this result represents a decrease of 20.000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-emission. The budget of 2.5 Million Euro was increased to 2.94 Million Euro.

During the second period (1 April till 31 May 2010), 30.000 washing machines and driers were replaced and during the third period (1 September till 15 November 2010), about 25.000 refrigerating appliances were replaced.

Promotional activities were very important for the campaign. An online commercial and printed advertisements with an Austrian TV star and musician were developed in order to attract the interest of the consumers.





# Sustainability of the action and financing

The campaign "Trennungsprämie" was funded through the UFH Privatstiftung. The UFH Privatstiftung managed the "refrigerator disposal sticker funds" till 2010. The Umweltforum Haushalt is a subsidiary of the UFH Privatstiftung.

From 1993 till 2005, consumers buying a refrigerator, a freezer or a room air conditioner with a refrigeration unit were obliged to purchase a disposal sticker or a voucher, respectively, together with the appliance in order to cover the disposal costs. The WEEE Ordinance of 29 April 2005 abolished the duty to purchase a UFH voucher when buying a refrigeration appliance with effect from 13 August 2005.

From 2005 till 2010 the disposal stickers and vouchers were refunded to the Austrian consumers.

The campaign "Trennungsprämie" was funded from the unredeemed disposal stickers and vouchers. At the moment, however, another campaign is not planned due to a lack of financial means.

## **Activity project team**

The UFH was the main initiator of the campaign "Trennungsprämie" in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management. The UFH was responsible for the organization and administration of the campaign. The retailers actively promoted the campaign.

The campaign was supported by several energy providers as partners and by the <u>topprodukte.at</u> project via promotion on the website.

## Lessons learned and replicability

Promotional activities were very important to inform the consumers about the campaign "Trennungsprämie". Thanks to an Austrian musician and TV actor starring for the promotional activities, the campaign attracted a lot of attention.

Moreover the support of retailers was necessary. Sales assistants informed about the initiative and advised consumers to buy highly efficient appliances. The involvement of the retailers led to a high multiplication effect.

The campaign was really successful. In the first period the budget had to be increased and the second period was stopped a month earlier (31 May instead of 30 June). Unfortunately the campaign cannot be continued for financial reasons.

#### Contact for more information

Project / Activity Web Site (if applicable): <a href="www.ufh.a">www.ufh.a</a> (in German)

www.trennungspraemie.at (currently offline)
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Other contacts:

Please only give full contact details (name, address, email, telephone) if you have confirmed that they are willing to respond to enquiries. These could for example be the host organisation, equipment manufacturers, financial organisations, etc.

Printed reports or other literature available:

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