



## Media Release

### **Minister of the Environment and Climate Change in Oakville to celebrate facility's recycling of 500,000 Ontario appliances**

*Proper disposal of 21,200 old fridges and freezers by Horizon Utilities has climate change and energy saving benefits*

**(Oakville, ON, July 31, 2015)** Today, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Glen Murray, toured ARCA Canada to see firsthand how 500,000 fridges, freezers and other refrigerant-containing appliances have been safely decommissioned since 2006 by ARCA Canada.

The environmental implications of this milestone are significant. Without responsible recycling, mercury switches, Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) capacitors and over 30,000 kg of ozone-depleting Chlorofluorocarbon-based (CFCs), 8,800 kg of Hydrochlorofluorocarbon-based (HCFC) and 1,800 kg Hydrofluorocarbon-based (HFC) refrigerants (R12, R22 and R134a) would have been released into the atmosphere. In addition to the refrigerants, 26,000,000 kg of metals and 900,000 kg of plastics have been recycled.

Of special interest to the Minister, was how the facility captures older refrigerants (R12, R22, and R134a), which have significant climate change implications if released into the atmosphere.

"The **saveONenergy** FRIDGE & FREEZER PICKUP program is a 'two-for-one' success story," observed Minister Murray. "Taking old fridges and freezers out of basements, garages and kitchens saves energy, while the ARCA Canada processing and recycling program makes a very real contribution to fighting climate change."

"Horizon Utilities immediately recognized the value of the FRIDGE & FREEZER PICKUP program when we launched it as a pilot in 2006," says Eileen Campbell Vice President of Customer Services. "Customers continue to appreciate the convenience aspect of having their old, inefficient appliances removed from their homes. We are proud to report that over 21,200 fridges and freezers have been picked up to date."

"In addition to recycling metals and plastics, special care is paid to the proper management of ozone-depleting refrigerant chemicals and gases containing CFCs, PCBs capacitors and mercury switches," explained Joseph Berta, Managing Director, ARCA Canada. "Much of our collection success is attributable to the efforts of the Local Distribution Companies who have promoted this program across Ontario."

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) calculates that 1,000 properly decommissioned fridges, results in the same greenhouse gas emission reductions as removing 1,500 cars from the roads for a year.



Tour of ARCA Canada's refrigerator and freezer recycling plant.

From left to right: Bruce Campbell, President and CEO, Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO); Glen Murray, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change; Joseph Berta, Managing Director, ARCA Canada; and Rob Burton, the Mayor of the Town of Oakville

“The **saveONenergy** FRIDGE & FREEZER PICKUP program, initially started by the Ontario Power Authority in 2006, resulted in about 420,000 fridges and freezers being collected,” said Bruce Campbell, President and CEO, Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO). “This represents enough electricity to power almost 22,000 homes for an entire year.”

The IESO is continuing the program until December 31, 2015. The program is free-of-charge and makes it easy for all Ontarians to dispose of old, energy-inefficient appliances.

Any Ontarian wanting to ensure that their older fridge or freezer is decommissioned in a safe and responsible way should call their Local Distribution Company (LDC) or go to the **saveONenergy** FRIDGE & FREEZER PICKUP webpage for program details.

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High quality images of the event are available.

See backgrounder and infographic for more technical details.

**For more information, or to schedule interviews, please contact:**

Michael Zupanic, ECO Strategy  
[mzupanic@ecostrategy.ca](mailto:mzupanic@ecostrategy.ca) or 416-972-7401

*ARCA Canada Inc. has in-depth experience and professional expertise in providing services to turnkey appliance recycling programs for utilities and other entities concerned with the disposal of appliances containing refrigerants in a manner that meets or exceeds existing provincial regulations and industry expectations.*

*Since 2006, ARCA Canada has set the standard for providing large-scale appliance management services, including managing a call centre, appliance pickup, appliance decommissioning, incentive fulfillment and data management, along with reporting functions.*