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Green technology vs. 'museum piece'

The owner of a staggeringly old 56 year old appliance has won the *Time to Change*¹ www.t2c.org.uk/ **UK's oldest fridge competition**. On Tuesday 10 August winner Edmund Garrod, from High Wycombe, will be presented with his prize, a brand new, ultra efficient model, which should save him well over £60* a year on his electricity bill and significantly reduce his household carbon emissions. His old fridge will be removed from his kitchen - where it has been chugging away ever since his mother bought it in 1954 - to be recycled.

Mr Garrod, who entered the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Appliances's (AMDEA)² competition after reading about it in an *Energy Saving Trust* newsletter, amazingly still had the original receipt, guarantee and instruction booklet for the General Electric model. This was the family's first fridge, costing them £69 in 1954 and Mr Garrod remembers as a young child the new appliance being delivered to his home:

"My mother gave us a choice between getting a television set and a fridge with money that our grandmother had left her. We plumped for the fridge as we were fed up with the milk going sour."

He even remembers the repairman coming to replace the fridge's thermostat a few weeks after the family purchased their new appliance.

The *Time to Change* campaign is trying to encourage the replacement of 15.4 million outdated appliances in the UK that, if replaced by energy efficient models, could save enough electricity to power 1 million homes for an entire year.

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Chief Executive of AMDEA, Douglas Herbison says, “Although we are impressed with Mr Garrod’s preservation of this museum piece we want everyone to be aware that old fridges guzzle away tremendous amounts of energy and money. The new A+ and A++ rated models are considerably kinder on the purse and environment.”

* The oldest fridge featured on *Time to Change’s* energy savings calculator www.t2c.org.uk/calculator.php is a mere 29 years old and traded in for a new ultra-efficient model predicts an average annual savings of just over £57.

EDITORS’ NOTES

1. Time to Change www.t2c.org.uk/ is the UK segment of a pan-European programme, organised by the European Committee of Domestic Equipment Manufacturers (CECED), to encourage the replacement of 188 million old (10 years and older), energy-hungry, large domestic appliances still in use across Europe.
2. AMDEA is the UK trade association for the manufacturers of large and small domestic appliances; representing over 80% of the domestic appliance industry. Members are all manufacturers, importers or distributors of household appliances.

Press contacts for further details of the prize giving, photography and interviews:

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