



Everyday Environmental Stewardship

Compact Florescent Light bulbs *Andrew Siliski*

Key Issue: Conserving electricity

Stewardship Opportunities: Buying and Recycling CFLs

Buying and installing compact florescent light (“CFL”) bulbs is an extremely easy way to conserve electricity and cut down on electrical bills and reduce your carbon footprint! Lighting is used every day in buildings; it constitutes 25% of electricity consumed in the average home. CFLs use about 1/4 the amount of electricity (watts) as an incandescent bulb and at the same time produce the same amount of light (lumens). The lifespan of a standard CFL, 10,000 hours, is 10 times the lifespan of a standard incandescent light bulb. CFLs can be used in all buildings for all purposes. There is a CFL for every need (e.g. homes, offices, places of worship, schools) and fixture (e.g. standard and candelabra base).

Stewardship Opportunity #1 - Buying CFLs



A CFL floodlight Home Depot sells CFLs in multi packs where each bulb costs as low as \$2.00. Also, \$2.00 Energy Star mail-in rebates are available for up to 6 CFL packages per household per year.

Replacing conventional incandescent light bulbs with CFLs will not only reduce the user’s electrical bill but also reduce the heat pollution emitted from lighting. An incandescent light bulb is 5% efficient where 95% of the energy consumed is radiated out as heat. CFLs are four times more efficient. CFLs are a little more expensive than other light bulbs, but since CFLs last 10 times longer than an incandescent bulb, the cost of buying and reinstalling bulbs is significantly reduced by reduced monthly electricity bills and less frequent new bulb purchases. *EnergyStar* qualified light bulbs use 50 to 70 percent less electricity than regular incandescent or halogen lamps while giving the same amount of light. These fixtures are available in many styles and can be used for outdoor and indoor ceiling-mounted lighting, lamps, wall mounted, recessed, and architectural lighting. Unlike previous models, new bulbs are quick start, no hum.

CFLs can replace all standard base incandescent and halogen light bulbs. Regular 15 watt CFLs can replace 60 watt incandescent reading lamps while the 29 watt CFLs can replace the 100 watt outside flood lights. These bulbs can be bought from stores ranging from Home Depot to Walgreens. Since stores carry the most frequently used bulbs, try the Internet for the more specialized bulbs. For finding suppliers of CFLs (and other Energy Star products, including fixtures) try http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=store.store_locator.



The CFL selection at Home Depot

CFLs are also available in colored, reflector, candle, dimmable, and 3 way options. They can replace the incandescent in reading lamps, chandeliers, dimmable flood lights, three way lights, and even colored lights. Every incandescent can be changed with an energy saving compact florescent equivalent. While stores like Home Depot have standard selection of most frequently used bulbs, online stores have a greater variety of more specialized bulbs. A good location for buying all kinds of CFLs is the IPL-sponsored

<http://www.energyfederation.org/ipl/default.php>.

MIP&L members and congregants get 10% discount!!! Enter the *discount* code **shopipl**



Globe light



Torpedo/Candle



Three Way



Dimmable Flood

Visit the Energy Star website to see an up to date list of qualified light fixtures.

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=fixtures.pr_light_fixtures

Light fixtures that have earned the *EnergyStar* label combine quality and attractive design with the highest levels of energy efficiency available today. These fixtures use CFLs. They come in hundreds of decorative styles including portable — such as table, desk and floor lamps — and hard-wired options for locations throughout the homes and buildings.

Stewardship Opportunity #2 - Recycling CFLs

CFLs cannot be thrown away or recycled like incandescent or halogen light bulbs. CFLs need to be handled with care. If one implodes, it releases the mercury gas into the air potentially harming people nearby. CFLs on average contain 4mg of mercury so they need to be recycled at the local hazardous waste facility in accordance with local laws and regulations. This is very easy. The only required action is taking the CFLs to the local recycling depot. They do the rest of the work. A good website for finding the nearest recycling center is <http://earth911.org/>. Entering a zip code will give the closest recycling center, website, address, phone number, and hours open. Since CFLs last 10 times longer than incandescent, buying and recycling these bulbs is reduced significantly.

AND go to www.MIPandL.org then click on Shop IPL.

You can obtain a *Veolia* ES CFL RecyclePak there.

Definitions

Watt - A measurement of energy used equal to one joule per second. Light bulbs are often sold by their amount of watts. A 60 watt light bulb from one company may produce a much different amount of light than the same watt light bulb from another.

Lumen - A measurement of light equal to the amount of light emitted per second. A standard 60 watt incandescent light bulb produces 890 lumens. A 15 watt CFL produces 900 lumens.