

Supporting the Switch to CFLs

Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) are small fluorescent light bulbs that use up to 75 percent less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs, and last up to 10 times longer. A CFL may cost more than traditional bulbs, but it saves customers energy and reduces energy costs by about \$30 – or more – over the bulb’s lifetime.



One way Southern California Edison (SCE) helped its customers to swap out the bulbs is through subsidies to manufacturers. Customers throughout SCE’s service territory can buy discounted bulbs at more than 2,000 retail outlets. In addition, those customers who take the free home-energy survey online, via phone or in person also receive a complimentary CFL.

Replacing traditional light bulbs with CFLs is one of the easiest ways each of us can reduce household energy use, electric bills and greenhouse gas emissions. If every California household replaced five incandescent light bulbs with CFLs, it would reduce carbon emissions the equivalent of taking more than 300,000 cars off the road.

Selecting the Right Bulb



CFLs now are available in bright and soft lights, as well as a variety of shapes and sizes, so they can replace any bulb – even dimmable ones. The labels on CFLs include information to make it easy to choose the best bulb for you. A common term is “60 Watt Replacement.” You should check the lumen rating as well; the higher the lumens, the greater the light output.



Look for the ENERGY STAR label when purchasing CFLs.

Taking the Pledge

SCE customers have seen the light: In 2007 and 2008, more than 100,000 customers installed at least 1 million energy-efficient ENERGY STAR CFL bulbs as part of the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) ENERGY STAR “Change a Light, Change the World” campaign. The result is a total energy cost savings of nearly \$68 million to customers, the equivalent of avoiding the creation of 400 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions.

CFL Disposal

CFLs contain trace amounts of mercury – equivalent to the amount that would cover the tip of a ball-point pen – that help make them energy efficient. For this reason, California does not permit the disposal of CFLs in the garbage. The EPA recommends that you take old bulbs in a sealed plastic bag to a local recycling center. Contact your municipal solid waste agency or visit epa.gov/bulbrecycling to identify recycling options in your area.

More Opportunities to Save Energy and Money

- SCE offers a home energy survey online, over the phone and in person that helps customers understand how to save energy and money. www.sce.com/survey
- SCE’s rebate programs help customers invest in more efficient ENERGY STAR appliances. www.sce.com/rebatesandsavings
- SCE will pay customers \$50 to allow the utility to pick up old, energy-guzzling refrigerators and freezers and recycle them in an environmentally responsible manner. www.sce.com/rebatesandsavings
- SCE subsidizes the retail cost of energy-efficient lighting products through retailer partnerships to encourage consumer adoption of more efficient technologies. www.sce.com/cfl
- SCE offers free tips for saving energy and money, such as setting thermostats at 78 degrees and increasing fan use, turning off electrical devices when not in use, and washing full loads of clothes and dishes. www.sce.com/tips

Tips by SCE

HAVE YOUR TIPS ANY WAY YOU LIKE THEM!

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