

Choose Energy-Efficient Light Bulbs

Compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) cost more initially, but users save money in the long run.

According to Energy Star, just one of these bulbs can save \$30 or more in electricity costs during its lifetime and prevent more than 450 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions. They also last up to 10 times longer than standard incandescent bulbs.

Purchasing CFLs is a simple step all consumers can take to use energy more efficiently. The bulbs can be purchased in area retail or home-improvement stores.

Here are five facts about energy-efficient lighting:

1. Lighting accounts for 20 percent of the average home's electric bill and is one of the easiest places to save energy.
2. Energy-efficient light bulbs, such as compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), use two-thirds less energy than standard incandescent bulbs.
3. To get the most energy savings, replace bulbs where lights are on the most, such as your family and living room, kitchen, dining room, and porch.
4. Place CFLs in open fixtures that allow air flow. If replacing a bulb operating on a dimmer switch, look for CFLs specifically designed for this use.
4. To choose the Energy Star-qualified light bulb or fixture with the right amount of light, choose one that offers the same lumen rating as the light you're replacing. Manufacturers will often label their packaging in terms of watt replacement, which can also guide your decision-making.

Electric Cooperative wants to work in tandem with our member-consumers to make energy management one of our highest priorities. That's what cooperation is all about.