

Tip Sheet: Change Your Light Bulbs

Lighting accounts for about 25% of the average home's electric bill if still using incandescent light bulbs.

Action of the Month: Change 6 interior and 1 exterior incandescent or CFL* light bulbs to Energy Star certified LEDs (Light-Emitting Diode light bulbs).

Tips why LEDs save energy and save money

- Start by changing your most frequently used light bulbs.
- Energy Star LEDs provide the same brightness in lumens but use 70-90% less energy in watts.
- Because the LEDs last 15 times longer, they save you money *and* help protect the environment.

(https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/asset/document/purchasing_checklist_revised.pdf)

- Here are some comparisons between incandescent, CFL*, and LED bulbs.

	60W Traditional Incandescent	14W CFL*	10W LED
Energy \$ Saved (%)	-	-75%	-75%-80%
Bulb Life	1200 hours	8,000 hours	25,000 hours
Bulbs needed for 25,000 hours	21	3	1
Average cost/bulb	\$1	\$2	\$8 or less
Total purchase price of bulbs over 23 years	\$21	\$6	\$8 or less
Total cost of electricity used (25,000 hours at \$0.12 per kWh)	\$180	\$41	\$38
Total operational cost over 23 years	\$201	\$48	\$38

(Source of table: <https://greenisbetterinc.com/light-bulb-showdown-led-vs-cfl-vs-incandescent/>)

- LED bulbs that earn the Energy Star certification come in a variety of shapes and sizes so you can use them in table lamps, track lighting, recessed cans, and more
- You can dim LED lights as long as your lighting fixture has dimmer switches that are compatible with LED lights.
- You can choose from different shades of white light for your preference in type of glow.

Advanced Action: Change even more bulbs to LEDs. Bulbs located in inconvenient places to change could be good ones to switch to longer lasting LEDs.

Note: If you've changed all your bulbs, find the biggest energy hog appliance in your home and reduce its impact by changing how you use it or replace it with a more efficient model.

* CFLs contain mercury. Do not break them or place them in the trash. To dispose of them, take them to the Gallatin Solid Waste Management District Household Hazardous Waste collection the second Saturday of each month 9AM-Noon or to Logan Landfill.



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