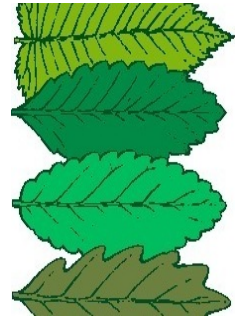


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Green Weekly



The Lighting Issue

"The average home spends 25% of its electric bill for lighting. Schools, stores, and businesses use about 60% of their electricity for lighting."

- NEED.org

Regulating your use of lights at home and at work can have a significant impact on energy consumption.

1st Smart Design: The most efficient light you can use is the sun. When installing new windows make sure to incorporate passive solar design, investigate light shelves, and put mirrors or reflective materials around your windows.

2nd Conserve: Question the amount of lights you use in an area and determine if they have to always stay on. For example, are both lights in the office bathroom necessary? Does the copier room light need to stay on?

3rd Efficiency: If every American home replaced their 5 most frequently used light fixtures or the bulbs in them with ones that have earned the ENERGY STAR, we would save close to \$8 billion each year in energy costs, and together we would prevent the greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions from nearly 10 million cars. **- Energy Star**

One of the SCoE's ongoing projects is working with the town of Fabius to develop an energy plan. Through this engagement I have arranged the whole-sale purchase of Compact Florescent Lights (CFL's) for the town. The Lowe's Home Improvement store in Camillus has agreed to sell Energy Star approved "Bright Effects" CFL's for \$6.25 a four pack instead of the regular \$7.98. If you would like to participate in this GREAT deal please email me back with an estimate of how many packs of four you would like. Stock up now for the holiday season! CFL's make great stocking stuffers, I will write up a nice card "fact sheet" to accompany anyone planning on giving them as gifts.

These Bright Effects bulbs are 13 watts and have a light output of 800 lumens. A typical 60 watt incandescent bulb produces 900 lumens and is equivalent to a 15 watt CFL.

When buying CFL's or other appliances make sure they are Energy Star approved! I've meet more then one person who has been turned off to Green products because they had a bad first experience with a new, untested product.

CFL Fact Sheet

- For each standard incandescent bulb you replace with a CFL bulb, you can save \$10 or more on your electric costs over the life of the bulb.
- You get more hours of illumination from CFL's, they have a life expectancy of 10,000 hours compared to 750 to 900 hours for standard bulbs and their lighting efficiency is three to four times better
- When buying bulbs, look for the highest lumens-per-watt ration. Lumens measure the amount of light a bulb gives off, while watts measure how much energy a bulb uses. A typical lumens-per-watt ratio for an incandescent bulb is 15:1. This compares to 60:1 for a fluorescent bulb. – The Post-Standard 8/6/07, courtesy of Martin Wells
- CFL's contain a very small amount of mercury and should be disposed of properly, ideally recycled. Each year, OCRRA sponsors three Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Days visit to find out more visit: http://www.ocrra.org/programs_hazardous.asp

The upfront costs of CFL's have plummeted to a price we can't afford not to pay. Don't forget to factor in all the "costs."

"We could have saved the Earth but we were too damned cheap."
~Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.