

Update your Lights



Shedding Some Light on CFLs

It's time to update your lights to **compact fluorescent lights (CFLs)**.

It's easy and energy-efficient.

First, swap the easy ones. Begin with replacing your standard (non-dimming) incandescent (round) bulbs and reflectors/flood lights with CFLs. Common locations: kids' room, play rooms, garage, outside, doorway, closets.

Next, tackle the designer bulbs. There are CFLs available to meet most requirements, but they vary greatly in quality of light to their dimming capabilities. Here are some things to consider:

- **Shape/size:** Pay careful attention to bulb shape/size, including size of ballast.
- **Warm Light:** CFLs can offer the same "warm" light as an incandescent. Look for lights listed as "soft white" and/or 2700 Kelvin for an incandescent-like color.
- **Warm Up:** Some CFLs take several minutes before they reach full brightness - a potential safety risk for hallways/stairs and a nuisance in closets.
- **Dimmers:** Most CFLs cannot be used on a dimmer or with any kind quality standard. We'll inform you as that changes and better options become available.
- **Low Mercury:** Try to purchase CFLs bulbs with the lowest mercury content. The Energy Star logo is not a good indicator of low mercury bulbs. Consider mercury free bulbs in those areas such as LED (light emitting diodes) or halogen energy savers in areas where any mercury exposure is unacceptable.

Questions / Comments?

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How updating your lights to CFLs impacts global warming:

Energy: About 20-25% of the electricity we generate in our homes is used for lighting. Most of us have old, incandescent lights in our homes which are very inefficient. **CFLs use about 75% less energy than incandescent. Since energy = carbon,** using CFLs will result in significant reductions in carbon emissions. **Each CFL will save about 180 lbs. of carbon.**

Opportunity for hands on testing.

We'll give you a test drive of CFLs in different shapes, sizes, options, prices, brands, etc. This will be a great way to kick the tires before you buy.

see our

Light Bar Display

on campus on:

Day: Friday

Date: October 23th

Time: After School

Place: In front of the office.