

Lighten Up!



Change Your Bulbs, Change the Future

Thank you for participating in *Lighten Up! Change Your Bulbs, Change the Future* — the Acton Area LWV Environment Team compact fluorescent (CF) pledge campaign. By changing incandescent lightbulbs to CFs, you'll reduce your energy use — and thus, your electricity bill — *and* reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. If every U.S. household replaced one incandescent bulb with a CF, it would be the equivalent of removing more than one million cars (and their CO₂) from the road!

During the next six months, you and other Acton residents will make the switch to lightbulbs that save money, energy, greenhouse gases, and pollution. Look for our monthly email reminding you to change your next bulb; be sure to reply to those reminders to let us know that you've done it. That's how we'll measure our community's progress. Encourage fellow Actonians to sign up at www.lwv-aa.org, and be sure to look for the Earth Day celebration of the campaign's achievements. Welcome to Acton's cleaner, greener future!

Lighten Up! and the LWV Environment Team extend **hearty thanks to the generous donors to our campaign kickoff: Acton Ace Hardware, NSTAR, and EFI.** CFs are available from Acton Ace Hardware and at www.efi.org. See also the Environmental Defense guide to CFs: www.environmentaldefense.org/page.cfm?tagid=632.

CF FAST FACTS

- CF bulbs save, on average, 75% of the energy used by incandescent bulbs
- using CFs reduces demand for fossil fuels (oil, gas, and coal), as well as CO₂ (the prime contributor to global warming) and toxic emissions from power plants
- 90% of the energy used by incandescents goes to producing heat rather than light
- CFs last, on average, 10 times longer than incandescents — up to 10,000 hours
- a CF saves \$30–\$40 over the life of the bulb
- use CFs outdoors only if they're protected from the elements; don't use a CF in a dimmable fixture unless it's specifically a dimmable CF
- CFs do contain a small amount of mercury. However, they contribute less mercury to the environment than regular bulbs because coal-fired power plants are the biggest source of mercury emissions.
- DO NOT throw CFs in the trash. Dispose of them properly at Hazardous Waste Day (or a dedicated Town CF recycling event)
- unscrew a CF by its base and never forcefully twist it into a socket. If you accidentally break a CF, follow the directions at www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/promotions/change_light/downloads/Fact_Sheet_Mercury.pdf

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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization committed to influencing public policy through education and advocacy.

