

WHY SHOULD WE USE COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHTBULBS?

In partnership with the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, the Residential Lighting Program of the Northern Illinois Energy Project (NIEP) was developed to increase the use of compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) as well as to raise awareness that these light bulbs use less energy and help cut utility costs for Illinois residents.

Municipalities that signed onto the Greenest Region Compact have been awarded grants in the form of CFL light bulbs to distributed to their residents to educate and increase access to these energy and cost-saving products.

In signing the Greenest Region Compact of Metropolitan Chicago, the City of Oak Forest pledged to make environmental considerations a priority.

The City of Oak Forest uses CFL's in the lighting systems of select city operated facilities. In distributing these free compact florescent lightbulbs, we are asking you to join the City in demonstrating that using CFLs is environmentally and fiscally responsible.

We call on our residents and businesses to join us as environmental stewards to preserve our resources, climate, and economic viability of our region for future generations.



BENEFITS OF COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHTBULBS



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends the use of CFLs when compared to incandescent bulbs for the following reasons:

- They produce the same amount of light, but use 2/3 less energy and last 10 times longer.
- Each CFL bulb can save you at least \$25 in energy costs over the life of the bulb.
- CFLs produce about 70% less heat than standard incandescent bulbs and are cool to the touch.
- CFLs reduce air pollution for a cleaner environment. If every Illinois household replaced one incandescent bulb with an 18-watt CFL, the results would be equivalent to:

... removing 294,000 tons of carbon emissions from the air;

... planting 39.4 million trees;

... removing over 74,000 vehicles from Illinois roads each year!

Source: Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

DANGERS OF CFLs

Each CFL contains a small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing – an average of 5 milligrams (roughly equivalent to the tip of a ball-point pen). Mercury poses potential health risks, therefore the CFLs should not be disposed of in the garbage if there is a recycling option.

HOW CAN CFLs BE RECYCLED?

ComEd, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), and Ace Hardware have partnered together on a CFL recycling program allowing Illinois residents in ComEd service territories to take old CFLs back to an Ace Hardware store for proper disposal in IEPA-approved recycling facilities.

Visit one of these Ace Hardware or Home Depot stores to drop off and recycle your burnt-out cfl bulbs:

Ebels Ace Hardware (708-687-2730)
15541 Cicero Ave Oak Forest, IL 60452

Park Hardware (708-429-2770)
16725 Oak Park Ave Tinley Park, IL 60477

Palos Ace Hardware (708-389-0433)
6465 127th St. Palos Heights, IL 60463

Orland Park Home Depot (708-614-9200)
7300 159th St Orland Park, IL 60462

Aisip Home Depot (708-239-1873)
12000 Cicero Ave Aisip, IL 60803

Matteson Home Depot (708-481-1551)
20808 Cicero Ave Matteson, IL 60443

Bring spent bulbs in a zip-lock-type baggie for extra protection to a drop-off location during designated hours.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is it true that CFLs contain mercury? Why and how much?

CFLs contain a very small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing - an average of 5 milligrams (roughly equivalent to the tip of a ball-point pen). Mercury is an essential irreplaceable element in CFLs and is what allows the bulb to be an efficient light source. By comparison, older home thermometers contain 500 milligrams of mercury and many manual thermostats contain up to 3000 milligrams. It would take between 100 and 600 CFLs to equal those amounts.

There is currently no substitute for mercury in CFLs; however, manufactures have taken significant steps to reduce mercury used in their fluorescent lighting products over the past decade.

Should I be concerned about using CFLs in my home?

CFLs are safe to use in your home. No mercury is released when the bulbs are in use and they pose no danger to you or your family when used properly. However, CFLs are made of glass tubing and can break if dropped or roughly handled. Be careful when removing the lamp from its packaging, installing it or replacing it. Always screw and unscrew the lamp by its base and never forcefully twist the CFL into a light socket by its tubes. Used CFLs should be disposed of properly using the guides above.



What should I do if a CFL breaks?

Because there is such a small amount of mercury in CFLs, your greatest risk if a bulb breaks is getting cut from glass shards. Research indicates that there is no immediate health risk to you or your family should a bulb break and it is cleaned up properly. You can minimize any risks by following these proper clean-up and disposal guidelines:

- Sweep up — **do not vacuum** — all of the glass fragments and fine particles.
- Place broken pieces in a sealed plastic bag and wipe the area with a damp paper towel to pick up any stray shards of glass or fine particles. Put the used towel in the plastic bag as well.
- If the weather permits, open windows to allow the room to ventilate.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

www.epa.gov/

www.cleanaircounts.org/

www.energystar.gov/

www.cleantheair.org/

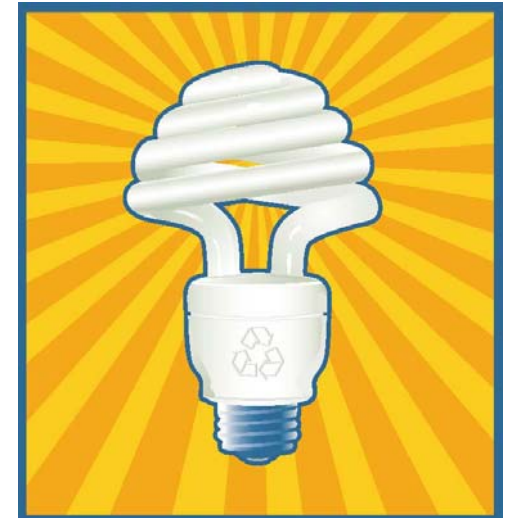
www.exeloncorp.com/ourcompanies/comed/

<http://www.oak-forest.org/pubworks/>



Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs

Using & Recycling CFLs in the City of Oak Forest



www.oak-forest.org

(708) 535-4090