

# Kansas Green Teams

## Friday Facts



### Fluorescent Light Bulbs

#### Why you should use Fluorescent Light Bulbs

Switching from traditional light bulbs (called incandescent) to CFLs is an effective, simple change everyone in America can make right now. Making this change will help to use less electricity at home and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Lighting accounts for close to 20 percent of the average home's electric bill.

Source: [ENERGY STAR](#)

### Facts On Energy Star Qualified Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs



- ⇒ Use 75 percent less electricity.
- ⇒ Last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs.
- ⇒ Will save about \$30.00 over its lifetime and pay for itself in about 6 months.
- ⇒ In 2007, Americans saved 1.5 billion dollars by switching to qualified CFLs. The energy saved could light all the households in a city the size of Washington, DC for over 30 years.
- ⇒ If every American home replaced one light bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year. That would prevent the release of greenhouse gas emissions equal to about 800,000 cars!

Source: [ENERGY STAR](#)

### Be Careful Where You Toss....There's Mercury in That Bulb!



Although you can dispose of CFLs in the regular waste stream, some more environmentally friendly options exist, such as [Home Depot recycling program](#), [Waste Management recycling program](#), local recycling centers or Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facilities. Please check with your local recycling center or HHW facility for disposal options. If your local recycling center or HHW facility does not accept CFLs and regular trash is your only option, seal the used CFL in two plastic bags and place it in the regular trash.

#### The mercury in compact fluorescent bulbs poses no threat while in the bulb, but if you break one:

- \* open a window and leave the room for 15 minutes or more
- \* use a wet rag to clean it up and put all of the pieces, and the rag, into a plastic bag
- \* place all materials in a second sealed plastic bag and throw in the trash
- \* wash your hands after disposing of the plastic bags containing clean-up materials

For more information on "What to Do if a Fluorescent Light Bulb Breaks" visit the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Waste Management website <http://www.kdheks.gov/waste/index.html> and click on the light bulb.