

# energynotes

connected..... to energy savings

## Light for less with tech-savvy twists on tradition

There's an easy way to save money every time you flip a light switch. Simply replace traditional incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient equivalents.

The incandescent bulb converts only 10% of the electricity it uses to visible light. The other 90% is wasted as heat. Thanks to advances in lighting technologies, you'll find many more efficient alternatives stocked by local retailers. Here are some shopping tips:

- **Get discounts automatically** when you buy ENERGY STAR®-

qualified lighting products that are displayed with signs or stickers showing SDG&E's sponsorship or "Promotional Price."

- **A new "Lighting Facts"** label now required on packages for most bulbs makes it easier to compare brightness, yearly energy cost, expected life and other facts.
- **Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs)** produce the same amount of light using about 75% less energy than comparable incandescent bulbs, and they last up to 10 times longer. CFLs typically save enough

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2012

## ▶ Lighting as you like it

With today's technologies, your energy-efficient lighting choices include:

- ▶ **"Instant on"** CFLs that turn on immediately – a great choice for motion-activated and security lights.
- ▶ **Dimmable** CFLs and LEDs for ambiance and energy savings.
- ▶ **Three-way** CFLs for low, medium and high lighting levels.

energy to offset their somewhat higher purchase price within the first year of use and last more than five years.

- **Light-emitting diodes (LEDs)** can save you 75% or more of the energy needed by incandescent light bulbs, and are remarkably durable, lasting up to 25 years. LEDs produce a focused, directional light and stay cool – a great choice for task, accent and landscape lighting.

To learn more, read the "Home Lighting" brochure at [sdge.com/forms](http://sdge.com/forms). ■

NOTE: Energy-efficiency programs are funded by California utility customers and administered by SDG&E® under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

▶▶▶ For more info, visit us anytime at [sdge.com](http://sdge.com).





## Glimpse the future at our Smart Home

Register online at [seminars.sdge.com](http://seminars.sdge.com) for a free 30-minute "Smart Home Experience." Learn about today's energy-saving technologies and what's on the horizon. Offered now through March 2012 at our new Energy Innovation Center, [sdge.com/eic](http://sdge.com/eic).

## Biggest Energy Saver

Erica and Collin Faunce reduced electricity use by 46.5% at their Lakeside home, winning the Biggest Energy Saver<sup>SM</sup> contest and a new laptop computer. Participants pitted their energy-saving skills against one another in a new social gaming application as part of a national program piloted by SDG&E. "It was fun," said Erica Faunce. "Every day we'd see how we placed in the competition and we'd figure out ways to save energy. We saved a lot of money." Visit [sdge.com/biggestsaver](http://sdge.com/biggestsaver).



*Collin, Logan and Erica Faunce*

# Don't trash your CFLs

All good things come to an end, including your energy-saving compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). Though typical CFLs last more than five years, you'll eventually need to replace them. When that time comes, remember:

- **Don't put CFLs in your regular trash or recycling bins.** California law requires separate disposal procedures for lamps that contain mercury. These include compact and full-sized fluorescent lamps, metal-halide lamps, sodium lamps and mercury-vapor lamps. CFLs have an average of 4 mg mercury sealed within, far less than the 500 mg of mercury contained in an older thermometer. It would take 125 CFLs to equal that amount of mercury – or 500 of the new CFLs that contain only 1 mg per bulb.
- **Find a CFL recycling center near you** by checking with the city or county agency that collects solid waste or household hazardous waste in your area.
- **Prior to drop-off**, place CFLs in sealed plastic bags to help prevent them from breaking and cutting you.
- **With proper recycling**, 99% of an old CFL can be used to make a new CFL. By taking your spent CFLs



*All good things come to an end. When that time comes for your compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), be sure to dispose of them properly.*

to a qualified recycling facility, you'll be keeping small amounts of mercury out of the regular solid waste stream and landfills.

For recycling locations and other information, visit [sdge.com/forms](http://sdge.com/forms) and look in the "Safety" section for "CFL Disposal Information." ■

**SDGE** <sup>connected</sup>

 Sempra Energy utility<sup>SM</sup>