energynotes

connected to energy savings

Light for less with tech-savvy twists on tradition

here'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



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. ■

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







Glimpse the future at our Smart Home

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

Biggest Energy Saver

Erica and Collin Faunce reduced electricity use by 46.5% at their Lakeside home, winning the Biggest Energy SaverSM contest and a new laptop computer. Participants pitted their energysaving 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.

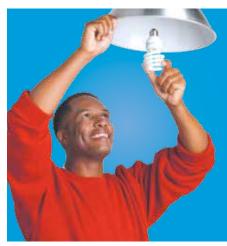


Collin, Logan and Erica Faunce

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* and look in the "Safety" section for "CFL Disposal Information."



© 2012 San Diego Gas & Electric Company. All trademarks belong to their respective owners. All rights reserved. Some materials used under license, with all rights reserved by licensor. Printed on recycled paper with soy-based inks. B-1202 S1180275 1.14M 0112