



# CFLs

Twisted, Yet Brilliant!



## Frequently Asked Questions

### ▪ What is a CFL?

Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) are miniature versions of long straight-tube fluorescent lamps. They are available in many sizes, shapes, and wattages. CFLs are a simple replacement for inefficient incandescent bulbs.

### ▪ How much energy can CFLs save?

CFLs use about 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs. CFLs are available in several different wattages and will provide the same amount of light. See the table for incandescent to CFL equivalents. →

Incandescent	CFL
40 watts	9 watts
60 watts	13 watts
75 watts	18 watts
100 watts	23 watts

### ▪ How much money can CFLs save?

The greater efficiency and longer life of CFLs make them a wise investment. A 13 watt CFL will save you about \$55 in energy costs over its lifetime when replacing a 60 watt incandescent bulb.\* CFLs last about 10,000 hours, that's over 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Longer life means greater savings through fewer bulb replacements.

\*Note: Assumes 10,000 hr CFL life and \$0.12/ kwh electric rate.

### ▪ How much do CFLs cost?

CFLs are more affordable than ever. You can now purchase a standard CFL for a price comparable to incandescent bulbs. CFLs are available at local hardware stores, drugstores, markets, and discount outlets. Some stores even offer a PG&E instant rebate.

### ▪ Have CFLs improved?

Today's CFLs are much better than earlier versions and offer higher quality light, better color rendering, instant startup, and flicker-free performance. Always look for ENERGY STAR® CFLs, it's your performance guarantee.



### ▪ Do CFLs provide warm color light?

Many CFLs will match the same warm color as incandescent bulbs. Look for CFLs that say "Warm White" or "Soft White" and have a color temperature rating of around 2700K.

### ▪ Can I use CFLs everywhere?



CFLs are designed to replace most incandescent bulb applications. Many styles and sizes are available to fit almost all applications such as track lighting, recessed fixtures, candelabra fixtures, and outdoor lighting. Standard CFLs cannot be used with dimmer switches or 3-way lamps, but there are dimmable and 3-way CFLs available.

### ▪ When should I replace my incandescent bulbs?

Don't wait for your incandescent bulbs to burn out before you upgrade to CFLs. Installing CFLs today is a simple way that everyone can reduce their carbon footprint. The energy savings CFLs provide reduce the electrical demand and Green House Gas emissions from power plants.

### ▪ Do CFLs need to be recycled?

CFLs should be properly recycled at the Humboldt Waste Management Authority's Household Hazardous Waste facility (707-441-2005) or at RCEA (707-269-1700) because they contain trace amount of mercury.



### ▪ Where can I find additional information?

You can see a variety of CFLs and other energy efficiency technologies at RCEA's Energy Resource Center located at 517 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Eureka, CA. Visit our website at [www.redwoodenergy.org](http://www.redwoodenergy.org) or call 707-269-1700 for more information.