



## WHY USE A CFL?

*NPR.org*, February 8, 2007. According to the federal government if every American home replaced just one light bulb with an **ENERGY STAR** ([www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)) approved compact fluorescent bulb (CFL), the United States would save enough energy to light more than 2.5 million homes for a year and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of nearly 800,000 cars.

**ENERGY STAR** is a joint project with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Energy (DOE) that promotes energy efficient - and thus climate-friendly - products.

# MMLD

**MARBLEHEAD MUNICIPAL LIGHT  
DEPARTMENT**

But not all CFLs are created equal. Here, some tips from **ENERGY STAR** about what to look for and where to use a CFL:

## THE BENEFITS

- \* **ENERGY STAR** qualified CFLs use at least two-thirds less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer (average lifespan of a CFL is five years).
- \* CFLs save \$30 or more in energy costs over each bulb's lifetime.
- \* CFLs generate 70 percent less heat, making them safer to operate.

## WHERE TO USE

- \* To get the most energy savings, replace bulbs where lights are on the most, such as the family and living rooms, kitchen, dining room and porch.
- \* Install them in hard to reach fixtures, like ceiling fans.
- \* Make sure the CFL matches the right fixture by reading any restrictions on the package. Some CFLs work with dimmers, others are specially made for recessed or enclosed fixtures.

## MYTHS

- \* **CFLs have a harsh, cold light quality.** Increasingly, this is less of an issue. Over the past few years, manufacturers have worked to provide a warmer color. Some people say they still notice a difference, but the gap is narrowing. For a warmer, white light, look for a color temperature of 2,700-3,000K on the package.
- \* **CFLs aren't for bathrooms.** Not necessarily. CFLs can work in bathrooms, but humidity may shorten the bulb's life.
- \* **CFLs can't be used in older houses.** In fact, CFLs may work better than incandescent bulbs in houses with older wiring; CFLs generate less heat and draw less electrical current.

**RECYCLE YOUR CFLs AT MMLD**