


COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS (CFL)

Incandescent light 60 watt bulb	Compact fluorescent light 60-watt equivalent bulb
<p>5% light, 95% Heat Invented 1879</p> 	<p>A single CFL will save you \$40 or more over the life of the bulb Using 3 CFLs will reduce global warming pollution by over a ton That's the equivalent of the pollution from burning about 100 gallons of gas Using 8 CFLs will eliminate the need to mine and burn over a ton of coal!*</p>

If every household in America installed just ONE 60-watt equivalent CFL, the energy saved would be:

enough to power a city of 1.5 million people, or
enough to power all the homes in Delaware and Rhode Island, or
equivalent to taking 1.3 million cars off the roads
enough electricity to turn off two entire power plants--or skip building the next two

Source: "Fast Company", September 2006



Why stop at one bulb? How many are in your home? You can make a difference!

Caution: CFLs contain 5 mg or less of mercury. This is 100 times less than a mercury thermometer, and less than is emitted by coal power plants to burn a comparable incandescent bulb for the life of a typical CFL.

Disposal: "While CFLs for your home are not legally considered hazardous waste according to federal solid waste rules, it is still best for the environment to dispose of your CFL properly upon burnout. Only large commercial users of tubular fluorescent lamps are required to recycle." US EPA

RVCCC recommendation: Recycle your unbroken used CFL's at any Home Depot store, OR place the CFL in a sealed plastic bag and dispose the same way you would batteries, oil-based paint, motor oil, and other hazardous material at your local Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Site. Collection days are scheduled several times each year for Roanoke County, City of Roanoke, and Botetourt. Schedule is posted on the Roanoke County web site. Others check with your city or county government for collection procedures. Check our web site www.rvccc.org for possible updates.

"If your local HHW Collection Site cannot accept CFLs . . . seal the CFL in a plastic bag and place with your regular trash." US EPA

Broken CFLs: "If a CFL breaks . . . open nearby windows to disperse any vapor that may escape, carefully sweep up the fragments (do *not* use your hands) and wipe the area with a disposable paper towel to remove all glass fragments. Do *not* use a vacuum. Place all fragments in a sealed plastic bag and follow disposal instructions above." US EPA

Regular CFLs are available anywhere light bulbs are sold. Most major retailers carry many special purpose CFLs (e.g. dimmable, 3-way, globe, traditional bulb shape, candelabra, spot- & flood-light).

* The actual cost savings and emissions reduction from the use of CFLs is dependent on many variables and may be higher or lower depending on the type of bulb, how it is used, the cost of electricity, the fuel mix used to generate electricity, and other factors. These estimates are based on supportable assumptions that are specific to the Roanoke area using a typical 60W equivalent CFL.