

smart energy choices

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Spring Clean with Energize Connecticut by Making the Change to **Energy Efficient Lighting**

Consumers can reduce their electric bills and save energy by installing ENERGY STAR® LED light bulbs

New Britain, Conn. (May 22, 2015) – As you clean out your garages and dust off your patio furniture, Energize Connecticut encourages residents to make energy-efficient advancements both inside and outside your home with ENERGY STAR® light emitting diode (LED) light bulbs. To reduce electric bills and save energy, consumers can install LED light bulbs in their homes and around their property, such as changing out flood lights, lamp posts lighting and other decorative and ornamental lights.

LED light bulbs last 25 times longer and use up to 80 percent less electricity than old-fashioned incandescent bulbs. In addition, compared to compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), LEDs contain no mercury so they are safer for the environment. There is an LED option for every application inside and outside homes, but choosing the proper LED light bulb is much different than selecting an old incandescent or CFL. Most homeowners select bulbs by looking at watts, but with LEDs, the important thing to remember is to look at the lumen rating.

"Manufacturers have made it easy for consumers by including this information on the package," said Marissa Westbrook, manager of residential energy services, UIL Holdings Corporation. "Similar to a nutrition label found in grocery stores, the lighting facts label provides information that can help consumers choose the right bulb for indoor versus outdoors."

While lumens help you determine a bulb's brightness, another important consideration is the color of the light, or "color temperature", which can affect the appearance of an area. LED light bulbs are available in a variety of colors from warm yellow to cool daylight, with options for outdoor applications listed on the packaging and facts label.

Westbrook added that switching from traditional incandescent light bulbs to LEDs is a simple, yet effective way to reduce energy use outside your home. "Not only will these bulbs use less energy, they will help save money on energy bills and prevent greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change," said Westbrook.

To help consumers make the easy switch to LEDs, discounts are now available through Energize Connecticut, and prices continue to drop as more options become available. Consumers are urged to look for the Energize Connecticut logo at participating retailers throughout Connecticut for special discounts.

For more information on energy-saving programs and services supported by Energize Connecticut, call 1-877-WISE-USE or visit: EnergizeCT.com.

About Energize Connecticut

Energize Connecticut helps you save money and use clean energy. It is an initiative of the Energy Efficiency Fund, the Connecticut Green Bank, the State, and your local electric and gas utilities, with funding from a charge on customer energy bills. Information on energy-saving programs can be found at EnergizeCT.com or by calling 1.877.WISE.USE.

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