



# Eco Wise



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## Housing Agencies: "Change a Light" and Save Thousands

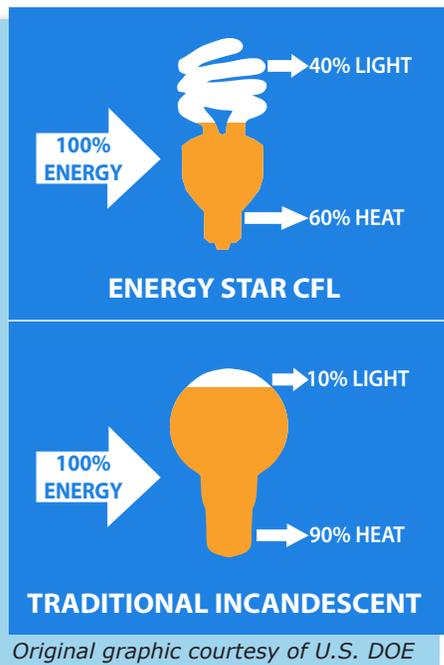
How many people does it take to replace a light bulb? About the same number it takes to change the world, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Energy's "Change a Light, Change the World" campaign. Re-launching for the eighth year on October 3rd, the campaign presents an exciting chance for Housing Agencies (HAs) to join millions of Americans nationwide by switching from incandescent light bulbs in their homes to more energy efficient, longer-lasting compact fluorescent lights (CFLs). Thanks to the campaign, an estimated 322,307,388 kWh of energy has been saved so far, equating to \$32,230,739.

A single CFL costs about \$3.00 but lasts almost 12 times longer than its incandescent counterpart, saving an average of \$30.00 over the life of the bulb. Multiplying this by the number of lights in a community reveals the thousands of dollars that HAs nationwide could save.

Indeed, while Housing Agencies have and continue to focus on energy efficient heating and cooling systems, lighting is an area where discretion and awareness can have significant impact on costs. As people plug in an ever-increasing number of

electronic appliances, plug load has grown to account for up to 35% of a home's energy consumption. Incandescent lighting is chief amongst plug load energy culprits; not only is electricity consumed to produce light, but it is also consumed to help cool and remove the heat generated by such lighting. These hidden costs may seem small, but can add up to thousands of dollars over the years. Thus CFLs, which consume less electricity and produce much less heat than their incandescent counterparts, offer an extraordinary chance for people to directly impact and reduce their energy costs.

As October rolls around, some utility companies may be offering discounted or free quantities of CFLs. So if you haven't already, begin contacting local utilities, HUD field offices, and state energy offices to see if you and your residents can take advantage of these exceptional opportunities. Likewise, ENERGY STAR's online "Quantity Quotes" service (see Resources) enables you to easily price and bulk order the CFL bulbs that best suit your needs.



## This Issue

- "Change a Light," Save Thousands
- HUD Partnerships Boost Savings
- Energy Watch
- Events
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**Energy Watch Survey Coming Soon!**

Be on the lookout for a survey come September 10, because we want YOU to tell us about your experiences with ENERGY STAR and the energy audit process.

## Events

[NAHRO Energy Performance Contracting Seminar](#)  
August 30-31 - San Antonio, TX

[HUD Energy Webcast](#)  
September 18 - New Construction Techniques

[2007 New Jersey Clean Energy Conference](#)  
September 27-28 - New Brunswick, NJ

[Building Science Fundamentals \(2007 Seminars\)](#)  
Various dates and locations

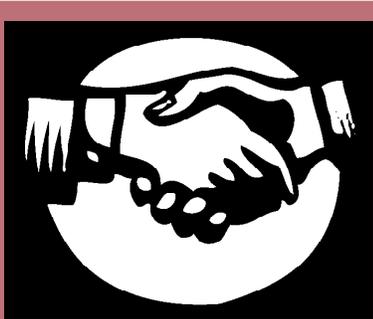
## HUD Partnerships Boost "Change a Light" Campaign Savings

From Maine to Washington, Housing Agencies (HAs) have seen the light! As it happens, that light is coming from an energy efficient compact fluorescent light (CFL). HAs across the country are replacing standard incandescent bulbs with CFLs as part of their commitment to the "Change a Light, Change the World" campaign. They will all save on their utility costs as a result. Some, however, are going to save even more. Why? Because they didn't have to pay for the bulbs!

How did they do it? They did it by establishing partnerships with municipalities, HUD field offices, state energy offices, and local power companies. Last year, for example, the City of Seattle and City Light, a municipal electric utility, donated four CFLs to each of the 60 units of Vincent House, a senior housing development in Seattle, WA. In Phoenix, to kick off the 2006 campaign, Arizona Public Service donated around 330 CFLs to Paradise Homes, a complex that provides housing for the elderly and disabled.

HUD field offices in Tennessee and Alabama are making the South a hotbed for energy partnerships. At an energy conference last year in Tennessee, representatives from HAs and HUD field offices met with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Through a partnership that developed between the HUD office in Knoxville and the TVA, the TVA donated more than 3,000 bulbs to HAs in Tennessee. When HUD's office in Birmingham, Alabama got word of this partnership, they initiated their own relationship with the TVA, which has since donated a total of 540 CFLs to HAs in Alabama. The utility savings achieved from these 540 bulbs alone is surprising — adding up to \$14,162. The HUD offices in both states are building on this success by continuing to forge partnerships in their areas.

Developing relationships with municipalities, HUD field offices, state energy offices, and local power companies can lead to partnerships that could be very beneficial to your HA in the future.



**"The 3,000 bulbs that went to HAs were a result of building relationships."**

*Mark Brezina  
Field Office Director,  
Knoxville, TN*

### Tips for Maintenance Staff

## Maintenance Corner

### Disasters and Emergencies: Are You Ready?

Disasters— both natural and manmade— can cut off energy supplies and destabilize communities; successful planning and prevention can make all the difference. You may wish to develop a comprehensive emergency plan about what your offices need to do in case of a disaster.

- Distribute your emergency plans in hard copy to all staff and residents
- Develop communication strategies amongst your offices. Each manager and employee should know how and to whom they report information about emergencies
- Map and familiarize your offices with the location of all circuit breakers, water and gas tanks, power generators, and other key equipment in your communities
- Routinely check smoke detectors, CO alarms, and backup generators to ensure proper functioning
- Know your point-of-contact at FEMA, the Red Cross, and other local agencies
- Make sure your evacuation plans accommodate elderly and disabled persons. This is especially true for senior communities, where residents are heavily dependent upon such amenities as elevators and heating

Email us with your Maintenance Corner questions at [pheccinfo@nelrod.com](mailto:pheccinfo@nelrod.com)

## Regional Spotlight - "Change a Light, Change the World"

[Cambridge, MA](#) - The Cambridge Housing Authority distributed 1,200 CFLs to its residents, courtesy of a donation from Constellation NewEnergy.

[Memphis, TN](#) - The City of Covington, TN partnered with HUD and the Tennessee Valley Authority to save \$26,000 by using CFLs.

## Resources

[QuantityQuotes.net](#)

A direct link to the Quantity Quotes website

[Change a Light, Change the World](#)

ENERGY STAR's campaign page

**For tips on disaster preparedness, check out the following documents from FEMA:**

[Best Practices and Case Studies](#)

[Are You Ready? A Guide](#)

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