



TIDINGS

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SERVICES

Ride the Green Wave

Take the Sting Out of Lighting Bills

Nature creates amazing creatures that glow in the dark. Today's technology creates smart light bulbs that brighten your home—more efficiently, more cheaply, with less pollution for the planet. Traditional incandescent bulbs are energy hogs: 90% of the energy is wasted heat. Because lighting is 14% of your home's electricity use, better bulbs mean big savings. Compared to incandescents, CFLs (compact fluorescent bulbs) are 75% more efficient and last 10 times longer. One bulb can save \$40 over its life: imagine changing all the bulbs in your house! For more light on new efficient bulbs, turn the page.



Tidings Tips: AC—How Low to Go?

Here's the answer: set the thermostat no lower than 78°, the temperature of a pleasant day. Every degree lowered can add 4% to your cooling cost per degree. Some other numbers (and facts) are also important for summer savings.

- Fans make you feel 3–4° cooler, allowing for a higher thermostat setting. Fans cool skin, not air. Turn them off when leaving a room.
- Set the thermostat to AUTO, not ON. The fan runs continuously in the ON position, causing improper system operation.
- Raise your thermostat 3-5° when away for a few hours. Better yet—especially if you're away from home during work hours—buy a **programmable thermostat** (Beaches Energy Services offers a rebate). This thermostat automatically adjusts settings for your schedule. It can save \$180 in a year, more than paying for its cost.



Electric price for 1,000 kilowatt-hours

	July	August
Base charge, residential	\$4.50	\$4.50
KWH base charge	\$74.57	\$74.57
Power cost adjustment	\$50.84	\$50.84
Total	\$129.91	\$129.91

New Light Bulb Standards Begin in 2012

More efficient lighting is a clear way to reduce our nation's energy use. The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 set new specifications for lighting manufacturers. Light bulbs from 40 to 100 watts must be about 30% more efficient in producing light than current incandescent bulbs.



What You Can't Buy, and When. The market phase-out of typical incandescent bulbs will span three years. Each phase starts January 1, in this order: 2012 (100-watt), 2013 (75-watt), 2014 (40–60) watt.

What You Can Buy. The federal rule does not specify types of bulbs that manufacturers must make. It requires them to increase the lumens per watt: the light produced for the electricity consumed. This is spurring new high-efficiency incandescents, as well as introducing consumers to other light bulbs that give cooler, cheaper, pleasing light. The higher cost of advanced bulbs is offset quickly by their longevity and energy savings. Energy Star-qualified bulbs are the best choices.

Here are some options you will have:

- CFL bulbs and tube fluorescents: Already inexpensive, these use 75% less energy than incandescents and last 10 times longer. You have many choices in color, brightness, fixtures, and dimming.
- LED (light-emitting diode) bulbs: These also use 75% less energy, but last 15 times longer, turn on instantly, and focus light precisely.
- Halogen incandescents: Halogen gas makes these incandescent bulbs more efficient, but only by 25%, with 3-times longer life.

