



MID OHIO ENERGY COOPERATIVE, INC.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The Power of Human Connections

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Members make swap for CFLs

CFL bulbs have always been known for their ability to save, but they have also been subject to a few negative misconceptions. The following table sheds some light on a few common CFL “myths”.

CFL Myth	CFL Fact
CFLs are a threat to individuals and the environment because they contain mercury.	CFLs do contain mercury, but the amount (4mg) is relatively small (about 1/100 th the amount found in old mercury thermometers). Over its lifetime, a CFL actually releases less mercury into the environment than an incandescent bulb because less energy is generated to power it.
The light is unattractive or produces an undesirable amount of light.	Manufacturers have made many changes to the CFL’s design. Individuals now have a variety of choices when it comes to style, color, and light output. To find an appropriate replacement for an incandescent bulb, match a CFL’s “watt equivalent” rating with the wattage of the bulb you are replacing.
CFLs don’t last as long as incandescent bulbs.	Many CFLs have a life span of 10,000 hours. That is more than 10 times longer than the average incandescent bulb! This helps you reduce the costs and hassles associated with changing burned out bulbs. Many CFLs also come with a manufacturer’s warranty.
Replacing all my old incandescent lights will cut my household’s energy bill by 30% , etc.	Be wary of claims that promise a set dollar amount of savings on your energy bills. Savings will vary based upon an individual’s home and lifestyle. There are no guarantees on how much money you will save, but making energy efficient choices is a good place to start.

Here are some useful tips to keep in mind when using CFLs in your home:

- Some CFLs are now available for use with dimmer switches, although most are not dimmable. Check the bulb’s packaging for any usage restrictions.
- Recycling options are still unavailable in most areas. Mid-Ohio members may return used bulbs to our offices. If you can’t find a recycling site, the EPA suggests placing bulbs inside of two plastic bags before disposal.
- If a bulb breaks in your home, the EPA recommends opening a nearby window and carefully sweeping up the bulb’s fragments (don’t use a vacuum). Wipe the area with a disposable paper towel to remove all glass fragments. Place all fragments in a sealed plastic bag and follow proper disposal guidelines.