

On-The-Line

A publication of Northwestern Wisconsin Electric Company

Grantsburg
(715) 463-5371

Frederic
(715) 327-4231

Toll Free
(800) 261-1200

Change a Light, Change Wisconsin

Starting Oct. 1, NWE customers can save money on their electric bill by visiting the local hardware store.

In conjunction with the Focus on Energy program, which is funded in part by NWE, local participating retailers will provide an instant \$2 rebate on ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). This program is called Change a Light, Change Wisconsin.

CFLs are an energy-saving alternative to standard incandescent light bulbs. They can be used in a variety of fixtures in your home. They use 75 percent less electricity than incandescent lamps and last 10 times longer.

If every homeowner in the US replaced one incandescent with a CFL, the energy saved would be



enough to light more than 3 million homes in one year. If every homeowner in Wisconsin replaced one incandescent with one CFL, we would save enough energy to power over 8,500 homes.

“Few of us think about the environmental impact of turning on

a light,” said Karl Hilker, program manager for Focus on Energy. “If people realized the positive impact they can have on the environment and their utility bills by changing even one light bulb, the decision to use ENERGY STAR

Continued on back

ASK WALLY T. WATTMEISER

Q:

What is the most energy-efficient way to boil water?



Northwestern Wisconsin Electric Company

ASK WALLY

A:

With the cold winter months just around the corner, this

is a timely question. Some would think the best way would be to simply heat the water on the stove with a tea pot. Unfortunately, this is the most expensive way. Because of the time it takes it would cost approximately 4 cents to heat-up your cup of water on the stove (even more if you fill the tea pot.) The best way would be to simply place your cup of water in the microwave, punch in the time for about one and a half minutes and, walla; your water is at or near boiling. Total cost would be less than 1/2 of a cent. If you're a heavy drinking tea totaller, this information could save you a bundle.

Leaving for winter? Don't forget to...

- Turn the main breaker to the off position; not just the individual breakers.

- Ensure the water pipes and pump are drained and in proper condition for freezing temperatures. Make sure to drain the pipes by attaching a hose to the lowest point in the plumbing. Then blow out all the water with an air compressor.

- If you shut the power off, always leave your empty refrigerator and freezer doors open a crack to prevent a musty smell in the spring.



- If you heat your cabin in the winter, make sure you are not on NWE's Seasonal Rate. You should receive a bill each month.

- Keep the thermostat no lower than 55 degrees and make sure your heating system is in peak working order.

Reminder about freeze-ups

NWE is not responsible for freeze-ups at unattended homes due to power outages or other unforeseen circumstances. Cabin and home owners should always have a system in place to warn them of problems. This could be as simple as a neighbor who checks on the cabin once a week or include an electronic warning system in the event of freezing temperatures inside the cabin. NWE is not responsible for investigating the cause of low-temperature alarms.

Change a Light cont...

qualified CFLs over standard incandescents would be easy."

The participating retailers have agreed to stock ENERGY STAR CFLs and provide a \$2 instant rebate on lamps right at the store until March 31, or while supplies last. The Change a Light Change Wisconsin program also provides a great opportunity to support your local hardware store.

In another related program customers qualify for a mail-in rebate. From July 1 to Dec. 18, NWE customers qualify for a \$2 Cash-Back reward on ENERGY STAR CFLs from any retailer. Customers will need to complete a mail-in form and send it to Fo-

cus on Energy to get their cash reward. These forms and instructions can be obtained at www.focusonenergy.com, or at any of NWE's offices.

Either way, NWE customers qualify for yet another way to save on electric costs. In both cases the CFLs must have the ENERGY STAR approval.

The average CFL lamp will last about 7 years, but when you need to properly dispose of your lamps some local retailers will have recycle bins available for your burned-out CFLs. The Focus on Energy website lists the retailers who have these bins available for your use.



Northwestern Wisconsin Electric Company

Participating Retailers

Balsam Lake:
Hardware Hank

Frederic:
Frederic Hardware

Milltown:
Do It Best

St.Croix Falls:
Clayton Hardware Hank

Siren:
Jenneman's
Hardware Hank

Webster:
Ace Hardware