

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY URGES CITIZENS TO PARTICIPATE IN 'CHANGE A LIGHT, CHANGE THE WORLD' CAMPAIGN

State Agencies And Utilities Challenge Consumers To Make Simple Changes To Save Energy

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today challenged every person in North Carolina to change at least one light bulb in their home from an incandescent to a “CFL,” or Compact Fluorescent Lamp. Just taking that simple step would save North Carolinians more than \$15 million in annual energy costs.

“The technology to make our lives more energy efficient is already here, and we need to take advantage of it,” Easley said. “If every household in North Carolina changed just one light bulb from an incandescent to a fluorescent, we would conserve enough energy to light more than 86,000 homes for a year.”

The “Change a Light, Change the World” campaign is a partnership between the State Energy Office, the Divisions of Air Quality and Environmental Education, the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service, the National Energy Education Development Project, the Environmental Education Fund, Progress Energy, Duke Energy, Dominion Power, Electricities, Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation and Union Power Membership Corporation.

Individuals are invited to take a pledge to “Change a Light, Change the World” on the campaign’s web site, www.changealightnc.org. Scheduled events include free energy efficiency workshops being conducted by the State Energy Office in conjunction with the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service and the E-Conservation program, the “*Our Land, Our Legacy*” exhibit at the North Carolina State Fair, and 22 county fairs and other local events. Utility partners will provide free energy-efficient light bulbs to all those taking the pledge on a first-come, first-served basis.

Teachers in K-12 school systems can download a teacher guide from the campaign web site which contains classroom activities and pledge cards which can be sent home with students. State Employees received information on compact fluorescent light bulbs and an invitation to participate in the campaign with their September paycheck..

Easley has declared October “Energy Awareness Month” in North Carolina to increase awareness about energy management as a way to reduce rising energy costs and help protect the state’s environment. Energy Awareness Month activities are also underway in other states across the nation, with support from the U.S. Department of Energy’s State Energy Program.

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Easley signed Senate Bill 668 in September to require state, university and community college officials to include energy efficient materials and products in new buildings along with those that are renovated. The goal is to reduce energy use for all state buildings by 20 percent by 2010 and 30 percent by 2015. Energy conservation measures will include replacing older lighting systems with more energy-efficient light bulbs, reviewing heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems for efficiency, greater use of “Energy Star” rated appliances and using more solar power to heat water.

Energy-saving tips can be found on the State Energy Office web site, www.energync.net/efficiency or on the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy web site, www1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips.

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