

Calgary Herald

CFLs brighten energy savings

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New Calgarian Jack Zois is renting a place he likes, but he's changing one thing -- every light bulb in his house.

"I'm using compact fluorescent lights for the cost savings and the energy efficiency," says Zois.

The federal government on Wednesday asked Canadians to phase out the use of all incandescent light bulbs by 2012 in an effort to nationally reduce climate change.

"It's time that we got on it. We're far behind and we need to catch up," says Margaret Purdy, a Calgary resident for 37 years.

Using compact fluorescent light bulbs, or CFLs, in your home could save two-thirds of the energy you'd be using with incandescent bulbs, says Courtney Oishi of Climate Change Central.

And traditional light bulbs give off a tremendous amount of heat.

"An incandescent bulb gives off 175 degrees Celsius of heat. A CFL only gives off 32 degrees Celsius," says Oishi.

Mark Antonuk of ATCO Energy Sense says if Canadians make the switch from traditional to CFL bulbs, they could save, on average, about \$6 per year per light bulb.

CFLs will cost consumers about \$7 a bulb compared with the \$2 they'd spend for an incandescent bulb.

"Switching will save 'em a pile of money," says Jerry Wojcik, electrical manager at Home Depot.

"It uses half the energy a conventional light bulb uses."

And consumers appear to be happy with the newer high-efficiency bulbs, says Wojcik.

"We don't get any CFLs back, unless someone's dropped them or something."

Though light bulb styles have been somewhat limited in the past, D'Arcy Timmons of Home Depot says technology, style and selection are changing. Consumers can now find a CFL bulb for almost any socket in the house.