delmarva power
A PHI Company

Delmarva Power Promotes CFLs To Save Customers Energy Costs Over Time

Delmarva Power is committed to helping customers save energy, save money and protect the environment. That's why we have started a discount program to encourage the purchase of ENERGY STAR® compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) at participating Maryland retailers.

To fund this important energy conservation program for residential customers, Delmarva Power is adding a "Demand Side Management Surcharge" of $0.000029 per kilowatt-hour to the bills of the residential customers beginning the billing month of March. The impact of this additional charge on a residential customer's bill will vary from customer to customer, and is dependent on the amount of energy the customer uses each month. For example, a typical residential customer who uses 1,000 kilowatt-hours per month, the surcharge will cost the customer an additional 3 cents per month (1,000 kWh x $0.000029) for electricity usage, or 36 cents per year. The surcharge covers discounts associated with the purchase of the CFLs at the participating stores, customer awareness, promotions and administrative costs of the program.

The savings and benefits from the program will offset the costs of the program over time. Customers who purchase CFLs will see the savings and benefits more directly than those customers who don't. Over time the reduction in energy demand resulting from using CFLs is expected to limit the increase in the cost of electricity.

Although each residential customer will pay to fund this program, customers who purchase one or more CFLs can increase their savings and benefits associated with this energy conservation program. If the customer buys a CFL at The Home Depot and ACE Hardware stores participating in Delmarva Power's Maryland service territory, the customer can save $1.50 on a single CFL and $3 on multipacks. Replacing more bulbs means more energy savings which translates into lower energy bills. When compared to traditional incandescent bulbs, ENERGY STAR CFLs use 75 percent less energy to operate and last up to 10 times longer. And because CFLs use less energy, they reduce the environmental impact from power plant emissions.

Cost of the surcharge over a one-year period will be approximately 36 cents. If you buy one bulb at the price reduced by the rebate ($2.50), the electricity you save in the first year (about $5) more than makes up for the surcharge you pay in that year. And since the CFL bulbs last much longer than traditional incandescent bulbs, you will save far more over the life of the bulb.

While ENERGY STAR CFLs last a long time, you will want to dispose of them properly. Look for more information on recycling and disposal options in future bill inserts and on our Web site at www.delmarva.com. Below is information provided for discussion purposes only.

Is there mercury in CFLs?

CFL bulbs contain up to 5 milligrams of mercury, the amount that would cover the tip of a ballpoint pen, as compared to older home thermostats and mercury fever thermometers, which contain from 500 to 30,000 milligrams. If a CFL bulb breaks, the amount of mercury released can evaporate into the air where it will likely remain at an amount below the safety standards set by the Occupational Health and Safety Administration. If a CFL bulb breaks, follow the clean up and disposal recommendations provided below.

What safety precautions should be employed when handling CFLs?

CFLs are made of glass and can break if dropped or roughly handled. Be careful when removing the bulb from its packaging, installing it, or replacing it. Always screw and unscrew the lamp by its base (not the glass), and never forcefully twist the CFL into a light socket. CFLs are safe to use and no mercury is released while the bulbs are in use. If a CFL breaks in your home, follow the clean up and disposal recommendations provided below.

How should a broken fluorescent bulb be cleaned up?

The EPA recommends the following steps should be taken if a CFL is broken:

1. Open a window and leave the room for 15 minutes or more.
2. Carefully scoop up the fragments and powder with stiff paper or cardboard and place them in a sealed plastic bag.

- Use disposable rubber gloves, if available (i.e., do not use bare hands). Wipe the area clean with damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes and place them in the plastic bag.
- Do not use a vacuum or broom to clean up the broken bulb on hard surfaces.

3. Place all cleanup materials in a second sealed plastic bag.

- Place the first bag in a second sealed plastic bag and put it in the outdoor trash container or in another outdoor protected area for the next normal trash disposal.
- Wash your hands after disposing of the bag.

4. If a fluorescent bulb breaks on a rug or carpet:

- First, remove all materials you can without using a vacuum cleaner, following the steps above. Sticky tape (such as duct tape) can be used to pick up small pieces and powder.
- If vacuuming is needed after all visible materials are removed, vacuum the area where the bulb was broken, remove the vacuum bag (or empty and wipe the canister) and put the bag or vacuum debris in two sealed plastic bags in the outdoor trash or protected outdoor location for normal disposal. Use a long extension cord (rated for the device) to operate the vacuum (i.e., leave the vacuum running) outside the dwelling for a minimum of sixty (60) minutes in order to flush out the mercury from the inside of the vacuum cleaner.

Note: Do not dispose of CFLs in an incinerator, fireplace or other burning device.
Never use household cleaners to clean up mercury spills.

How do you dispose of a CFL?

CFLs should be recycled if possible. If recycling is not an option, a CFL may be placed in the household trash. The Maryland Department of the Environment strongly encourages consumers to take advantage of available local recycling options for CFLs. Some counties in Maryland have permanent sites for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection, including CFLs, while others have collection events on certain dates throughout the year. Refer to the table below to see which services your county currently offers. Information about individual county programs is available below or on the Web site at www.mde.state.md.us.

County	Collects Fluorescent Lamps Yes/No	Type of Fluorescent Lamps County Accepts	Where Does the County Collect the Lamps/Bulbs?	Accepts from Business/Residents	County Contact Person
Cecil	Yes	Straight tubes (1-8' long), u-bend, compact, high intensity, circular, specialty lamps & broken lamps	Central Landfill, 758 E. Old Philadelphia Rd., North East, 410-996-6275; Woodlawn Transfer Station Waibel & Firetown Roads, Port Deposit 410-658-6646; Stemmers Run Transfer Station 45 Stemmers Run Road, Earleville 410-275-2794	Residents Only	Tanya Adams 410-996-6275 Tadams@ccgov.org
Dorchester	No				
Harford	Yes				Charles Ernst crernst@harford countymd.gov
Midshore: Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne & Talbot Counties	No				James Wood jwood@friend.ly.net
Somerset	No				Charles Cavanaugh ccavanaugh@ co.somerset.md.us
Wicomico	No				Rai Sharma psharma@wicomi cocounty.org
Worchester	No				Ron Taylor rtaylor@worcester countymd.gov