

Bright Ideas To Save Energy [®]

(NAPSA)—How many lightbulbs would it take to change your energy bills?

It may often seem that, just when you replace one lightbulb, another one burns out—especially in those hard-to-reach fixtures. With the average home containing at least thirty light fixtures, many with several bulbs each, that's a lot of bulb-changing—and a lot of wasted energy.

Lighting plays a big part in home energy use. In fact, a typical household spends more to light their home than to run their refrigerator for an entire year. Home energy use has a direct impact on the environment, as well. Most Americans may not realize that the average home can cause twice the greenhouse gas emissions as the average car.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a suggestion to help bring down those energy bills and protect the environment. With its annual, fall Energy Star[®] Change a Light, Change the World campaign, EPA encourages Americans to replace their five most frequently used light fixtures, or the bulbs in them, with models that have earned the U.S. government's Energy Star label for energy efficiency. Energy-efficient lighting lasts six to ten times longer than standard lighting and performs using two-thirds less energy.

By making this "five light change," a household can save more than \$60 each year in energy costs. In addition, EPA says that if every American home made the change, it would prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to the emissions of more than eight million cars, saving Americans more than \$6 billion a year in energy costs.



A home's five most frequently used light fixtures commonly include: the kitchen ceiling light, bathroom vanity, outdoor porch or post lamp and the living room table and floor lamps. Qualified fixtures can be found in an increasingly wide variety of styles, from portable lamps to hard-wired lights such as recessed, outdoor, hanging pendants or ceiling-mount models.

There are more ways to help save energy. In addition to choosing high efficiency lighting for the five highest-use lights at home, you can:

1. Look for the Energy Star on heating and cooling equipment, consumer electronics, and major appliances;
2. Heat and cool your home smartly;
3. Seal your home and add adequate insulation; and
4. Spread the word to friends and family that energy efficiency is good for their homes and the environment.

Visit www.energystar.gov or call 1-888-STAR-YES (782-7937).