

## *News Release*



**[www.energymaine.com](http://www.energymaine.com)**

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### **A Change In Lighting Adds Energy Savings To Daylight Savings**

Augusta, MAINE (October 19, 2004) Daylight Savings Time cues us to turn clocks back and check batteries in smoke detectors. The Efficiency Maine Residential Lighting Program encourages Maine residents to add installing energy efficient lighting products to their Fall routine. ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> rated lighting reduces electricity consumption and lasts longer than incandescent or standard products.

With the short, darker days of winter upon us, Efficiency Maine offers ways to brighten up Maine homes while reducing energy use and lighting costs. ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) can last six to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs and save the consumer up to \$50 per bulb over the seven-year average life of the bulb. This means a bulb replaced this Fall won't need to be changed for at least seven years – when used for approximately 3.5 hours per day. Additionally, less energy is consumed over the course of the life of the bulb.

“By installing energy efficient lighting products, Maine homeowners will reduce energy consumption and increase savings on electric bills,” remarked Denis Bergeron, program director of Efficiency Maine. “Few things in a home can offer a payback through energy savings like light fixtures.” Efficiency Maine’s Residential Lighting Program works with retailers to have them stock energy efficient products and encourages customers to buy and install them.

In Maine, more than 160 retailers are participating in the Efficiency Maine Residential Lighting Program and stock these products. Consumers may visit [energymaine.com](http://energymaine.com) on the Web or call toll free, 1-866-376-2463 (press option 6) to get the complete list of participating retailers in Maine.

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The following are simple actions to take to reduce home energy costs and the impact on the environment:

- **Replace five.** Replace the five most frequently used fixtures in your home, or the bulbs in them, with ones that have earned the ENERGY STAR.
- **Safety first.** The bulb in a halogen torchiere lamp poses a fire hazard. It burns between 700 – 1,100 degrees Fahrenheit, which is hot enough to fry an egg! ENERGY STAR qualified torchiere bulbs not only operate at much cooler and safer temperatures, they last up to 10 times longer than standard halogen bulbs.
- **Save money.** Depending upon the products, receive \$2 to \$12 back at the time of purchase with cash incentives on energy qualified lighting fixtures from participating retailers. For a store near you, call toll free, 1-866-376-2463 (press option 6), or go to [efficiencymaine.com](http://efficiencymaine.com) and click on the residential section.
- **Use timers.** Install timers that automatically turn lights on and off according to your needs.
- **Use motion detectors.** On outdoor fixtures, use motion detectors for safety and to prevent lights from being on all night.
- **Choose a fixture with a strong warranty.** A warranty is a great way to avoid unnecessary replacement costs. ENERGY STAR qualified light fixtures come with a two-year warranty – double the industry standard.
- **Flip a switch.** Saving energy and money can start by not wasting energy. When leaving a room, turn off the light and see the savings.

For more energy efficient information and a list of participating retailers, visit the Residential section of [efficiencymaine.com](http://efficiencymaine.com).

Efficiency Maine is a statewide effort to promote the more efficient use of electricity, help Maine residents and businesses reduce energy costs, and improve Maine's environment. The Residential Lighting Program is one of several programs offered to achieve this goal. Efficiency Maine is funded by electricity consumers and administered by the Maine Public Utilities Commission.