

The Holland Board of Public Works

Your hometown utility.



SPRING 2008

NEWSLETTER

A Quarterly Publication for HBPW Customers



Holland BPW giving \$2.00 discount on compact fluorescent light bulbs

The Holland Board of Public Works is lighting up the issue of energy conservation by offering its customers a \$2.00 discount on the purchase of ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs. (See discount coupon below.)

Holland Ace Hardware, Graafschap Hardware, Overisel Lumber Co., and Van Wieren Hardware are cooperating to deliver the CFL program initiative.

By replacing less efficient incandescent bulbs with CFLs, Holland BPW customers can reduce their electric consumption, lower their bills and reduce their impact on the environment.

CFLs cut energy use by using ultra-violet rays and gas instead of heat to create light. Compared with similar incandescent bulbs, CFLs produce the same amount of light but use about 75 percent less energy and last up to 10-times longer. The purchase price of a CFL is higher than that of an incandescent lamp of the same luminous output, but the cost is recovered in energy savings and replacement costs over the bulb's lifetime.

The HBPW hopes that the discount on CFLs will help customers to realize that simple changes, such as replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs, can significantly reduce both energy costs and help the environment.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, if every American home replaced just one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR qualified bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year, more than \$600 million in annual energy costs, and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars.

It is recommended that qualified CFLs be installed in fixtures that are used at least 15 minutes at a time or several hours a day. CFLs work best in open fixtures that allow airflow, such as table and floor lamps, wall sconces, pendants, and outdoor fixtures.

If a light fixture is connected to a dimmer or three-way switch, you'll need a CFL that is designed to work specifically with dimmers or three-way fixtures.

To choose the CFL that has the right amount of light for your needs, pick a CFL that is labeled as equivalent to the bulb you are replacing.

Made of glass, CFLs 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 the light socket.

Lighting accounts for close to 20 percent of the average home's electric bill. Switching from traditional light bulbs to CFLs is an effective, easy change every one of us can make right now to reduce energy use at home. Change a light, and start changing the world!

Information about proper CFL disposal and recycling can be found on Holland BPW's Web site, at www.hollandbpw.com.



OFFER GOOD

March 1, through April 30, 2008

HBPW customers can redeem this coupon at any one of the following stores:
Ace Hardware, 835 Lincoln Ave.;
Graafschap Hardware, 4578 60th St.;
Overisel Lumber Co., 573 E. 32nd St.; or
Van Wieren Hardware at 645 Douglas Ave.



Receive \$2.00 off the purchase of ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs .



HBPW Employees Wear Identification Badges

HBPW employees are frequently in your neighborhood while working on electric, water, wastewater, and fiber optic lines. All HBPW employees are required to have photo identification badges, and many Holland BPW employees also wear uniforms which feature our logo. If someone claiming to be an HBPW employee requests entry into your home, or you just have doubts about someone's identity, ask them to display their badge.

If at any time you are unsure whether or not someone is an HBPW employee, call us at 355.1500.

IT MAKES CENTS!



Instead of lighting an entire room, focus the light where you need it.

- + Use task lighting such as fluorescent under-cabinet lighting in the kitchen.
- + Consider three-way lamps which allow you to keep lighting levels low when brighter light is not necessary.



Extension Cord Safety Tips

Extension cords can be job savers if the power cord you're using isn't long enough to reach the nearest outlet. Unfortunately, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, extension cords are one of the most abused electrical accessories in the house.

The HBPW offers the following tips for safe usage:

Never run cords across a wet floor or wet ground, and never under a carpet. Cords retain heat when covered, which can result in fire.

Do not use extension cords that are damaged. Touching even a single exposed strand can give you an electric shock or burn.

Never use three-prong plugs with outlets that only have two slots. Don't cut off the ground pin to force a fit. Also, never force a plug into an outlet if it doesn't fit. Use an adapter if necessary.

Cords used outdoors or in damp areas must be designated for outdoor use. They should be connected to an outlet that is protected by a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI). Store all cords indoors when not in use.

Never install extension cords in a permanent fashion, or inside ceilings, floors, or walls. Use only for temporary purposes, and disconnect cords when not in use.

Coiled cords can present a fire hazard. Uncoil cords completely, and never double them up during use.

Don't use staples or nails to attach extension cords to a baseboard or to another surface. This could damage the cord and present a shock or fire hazard.

Don't overload extension cords by plugging in appliances that draw a total of more watts than the rating of the cord.

Read the label when you're buying a new extension cord. Labels carry valuable information about the use, size and wattage rating of the cord. This can help you choose the right cord for the right job rather than overloading or misusing a cord. Make sure the cord is listed by a recognized national testing laboratory.

Use extension cords properly, and enjoy longer, safer use of your power tools and appliances.

\$2.00 OFF COUPON

Please answer the following questions before turning this coupon in to receive \$2.00 off the purchase of ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs.

Have you previously replaced any incandescent bulbs with fluorescent lighting fixtures? Yes () No ()

Have you taken any other measures to reduce your energy usage? Yes () No ()

Address _____ Zip Code _____