

# New Energy Efficiency Standards for Light Bulbs

Under the bipartisan Energy Independence and Security (EISA) Act of 2007, which was signed into law by President George W. Bush, efficiency standards for light bulbs started taking effect on January 1, 2012. The new standards require light bulbs to use **at least 25% less energy than the traditional incandescent bulbs**. As the standards are phased in between now and 2014, bulbs as bright as the current 100, 75, 60 and 40-watt bulbs will gradually use less energy. The standards are technology-neutral, meaning that they **do NOT ban any type of light bulb**. Advanced incandescents, compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and light-emitting diodes (LEDs) all meet the new standards. While the Department of Energy (DOE) is currently prohibited from enforcing the lighting efficiency standards due to a funding limitation passed late last year, the law remains in effect, with American lighting manufacturers in full compliance.

## Help Consumers

The lighting efficiency standards have spurred innovation in the marketplace and afforded consumers **more choices**. The new advanced incandescent bulbs provide light that is indistinguishable from that of old incandescents, are fully dimmable, are the same shape as old incandescents, and contain no mercury—and cost as little as \$1.50 each. According to the [Department of Energy](#) (DOE), advanced incandescents will save consumers about 25% of energy costs, CFLs 75%, and LEDs 75-80%. For example, while a traditional 60 W incandescent bulb costs approximately \$4.80 to operate per year, a similar advanced incandescent bulb costs consumers \$3.50, a CFL \$1.20, and an LED \$1.00. ([DOE](#))

## Create Jobs

The lighting efficiency standards are **creating domestic jobs**, because much of the research and development and high-tech manufacturing for the new bulbs are conducted in the United States, while

A lumen is the true measurement of light output and brightness.

Incandescent	Lumens	LED Most efficient	CFL More efficient	Halogen/Incandescent Efficient
100W	1600	unavailable	up to 26W	up to 72W
75W	1100	unavailable	up to 23W	up to 53W
60W	800	up to 12W	up to 15W	up to 43W
40W	450	up to 9W	up to 11W	up to 29W

## Not Banned, Just Better

- Under the new standards, a bulb as bright as an old 100-watt incandescent bulb will now use no more than 72 watts.
- More choice: **New incandescent and LED bulbs** have been developed that meet the standard.
- Less waste: New bulbs will **save a typical family \$100 a year** on household energy bills, and save the U.S. \$10 billion a year.
- New jobs: Lighting companies are **hiring people** to design and make the new bulbs.

most of the manufacturing of cheap incandescent bulbs moved overseas years ago. As such, American light bulb manufacturers have contributed greatly to our economy.

- CREE has added more than 800 new jobs since 2009 in LED lighting in North Carolina.
- Philips employs approximately 800 in its LED facility in San Jose, California. More broadly, Philips Lighting employs 7,500 in the United States (including the

DOE lighting efficiency comparisons of watts and lumens provided by [Phillips](#). *Watts* measure the amount of energy a bulb uses – not how bright it is. *Lumens* measure brightness.

largest linear fluorescent tube factory in the world in Salina, Kansas).

- TCP now assembles some CFLs and LED bulbs in Ohio. GE invested \$60 million in an Ohio plant to manufacture linear fluorescent tubes, doubling the workforce at that site.
- Sylvania has been hiring people in Pennsylvania, Philips in New York, and GE in Illinois, to make the new incandescent bulbs.

## Are Supported by Lighting Manufacturers

Manufacturers strongly support the new lighting standards, which were jointly proposed by manufacturers and efficiency and environmental advocates, and supported by consumer groups and states. The lighting manufacturers' lead trade association, National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), has fully endorsed the standards. Repealing the standards would undermine manufacturers who have already invested millions of dollars to develop, manufacture and sell more efficient lighting technologies, and would pose additional problems for manufacturers and distributors by allowing a patchwork of different state standards. The current enforcement ban may allow illegal imports to undercut U.S. manufacturers and workers who are abiding by the law.

## FAQs

### 1. Why should inefficient light bulbs be phased out?

*Roughly 90% of the energy used by traditional incandescent bulbs is wasted as heat (or 97% if you include energy losses at the power plant), requiring more electric plants and power lines and causing air pollution. Standards encourage manufacturers to innovate and drive down the price of more efficient lighting.*

### 2. Will I be required to purchase a CFL?

*No. CFLs are one of several options available to consumers. Though CFLs do contain very small amounts of mercury (1-4 milligrams depending on the manufacturer), one actually consumes more mercury by eating a can of albacore tuna than from typical exposure to a broken CFL bulb.*

### 3. What do the new advanced incandescent bulbs look like?

*Advanced incandescents are nearly indistinguishable from old incandescents but consume at least 25% less energy. For example, a new bulb needs only 72 watts of electricity to produce the light of an old 100-watt bulb.*



A new advanced incandescent bulb, frosted or clear, is similar in shape, size and light output to a traditional incandescent bulb.