

Maine Public Utilities Commission

NEWS ADVISORY

Maine Public Utilities Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS CONFERENCE

1 Millionth CFL Sold in Maine

PUC's Efficiency Maine hits one million mark for purchased Compact Fluorescent Lights

- What:** The Public Utilities Commission's Efficiency Maine program estimates that tomorrow the 1,000,000th CFL will be purchased utilizing its incentive program. Compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) give off high-quality light using a fraction of the electricity traditional incandescent lights use. One million CFLs in Maine homes represents a savings of more than \$46 million in electricity costs and the elimination of 194,000 tons of CO₂ from the atmosphere, which is equivalent to taking more than 33,000 cars off the road.
- Who:** Representatives of Efficiency Maine will be joined by xx from Maine Hardware and the purchaser of the millionth CFL.
- When:** Thursday, March 1, 2007
11:00 AM
- Where:** 274 Maine Hardware, St. John's Street, Portland

The Efficiency Maine Residential Lighting Program, administered by the Maine Public Utilities Commission, is a statewide effort to promote more efficient use of electricity, help Maine residents reduce electricity costs and protect the environment. Coupons from Efficiency Maine for the purchase of CFLs are available at local hardware stores. More information about Efficiency Maine, how to save on electricity and where to purchase ENERGY STAR rated bulbs is available at www.energymaine.com or call 1-866-376-2463.

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The Public Utilities Commission is committed to ensuring that consumers have access to safe and reliable service for public utilities and that the rates for these utilities are just and reasonable. PUC programs include Maine Enhanced 911 Service, Dig Safe, and Efficiency Maine.

1 Million CFLs The Facts

- Compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) give off high-quality light using a fraction of the electricity traditional incandescent lights use. In fact, CFLs are four times more efficient, use 50 to 80 percent less energy and last up to 10 times longer than traditional incandescent light bulbs.
- Traditional incandescent light bulbs were patented in 1880 and are inefficient dinosaurs. They waste energy and money and are responsible for millions of tons of greenhouse gases and pollution.
- Replacing a single traditional incandescent bulb with a CFL will keep a half-ton of CO₂ out of the atmosphere over the life of the bulb. If everyone in the U.S. used energy-efficient lighting, we could retire 90 average size power plants. Saving electricity reduces greenhouse gases including CO₂ emissions, sulfur oxide and high-level nuclear waste.
- If every Maine home changed one light bulb, more than 210 million pounds of greenhouse gases would be kept out of the air - the equivalent of taking 2,500 cars off the road.
- In 2004, Maine residential energy consumption resulted in the release of over 3,761,300,000 pounds of greenhouse gases. The amount of greenhouse gases resulting from Maine's energy consumption has grown more than 10 percent in the past ten years.