

# Lines

THE NEWSLETTER FOR PEPCO CUSTOMERS IN THE DISTRICT

WWW.PEPCO.COM

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## How To Maximize Energy Savings with CFLs

Many consumers are trying compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) to reduce their energy costs and impact on climate change. CFLs use 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and they last up to 10 times longer.

But to enjoy the greatest savings, ENERGY STAR®, the national program to save money and the environment through energy efficiency, recommends using CFLs in fixtures that are “on” for at least 15 minutes at a time or for several hours a day.

For instance, family and living rooms, the kitchen, dining rooms, bedrooms and outdoor fixtures are areas where installing qualified CFLs are recommended.

Here are some other guidelines from ENERGY STAR for ensuring CFLs perform properly:

- Use CFLs in open fixtures that allow airflow, such as table and floor lamps, wall sconces, pendants, and outdoor fixtures.
- For recessed fixtures, it is better to use a reflector CFL than a spiral CFL since the design of the reflector evenly distributes the light down to your task area.
- If a light fixture is connected to a dimmer or three-way switch, you'll need to use a special ENERGY STAR qualified CFL designed to work in these applications.

The next time you shop for light bulbs, try CFLs. Just make sure to install them properly for maximum energy savings.

### Take Credit for Home Energy Improvements

Have you recently replaced your home's windows, doors, roof, insulation, HVAC, and non-solar water heater?

If so, or if you've made other energy-efficient improvements to your primary residence from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2007, you may be eligible for federal tax credits.

Go to [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) or check out IRS Form 5695 for more information.

### DID YOU KNOW?

*Q: I've heard a lot about climate change. Is there something I can do to decrease my impact on the environment?*

A: Yes, you can determine your “carbon footprint.” A carbon footprint is a measure of the impact your everyday activities have on the environment in terms of greenhouse gas emissions.

By using a Web-based carbon calculator, you can learn ways to lessen your personal impact on global warming.

Visit [www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind\\_calculator.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind_calculator.html) for more information.

# Warm Up To Indoor Safety

Now that the cold weather is here, we are spending more time indoors. The following are electrical safety tips to help you enjoy the comfort of your home even more.

- Always unplug electric appliances before repairing or cleaning.
- Never stick objects other than an electrical plug into an outlet, and if you have small children in your home, be sure to cover outlets not in use with childproof plastic covers.
- Do not overload outlets with too many lights, appliances or other home electrical equipment.
- Never use electrical appliances in, or while near water, including wet surfaces.
- Only use appliances with the Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) symbol.
- Keep electrical cords out from under rugs and heavy furniture.
- Replace frayed or cracked electrical cords.

Keep these tips in mind to avoid fire or personal injury. For more safety tips, visit [www.pepco.com](http://www.pepco.com), and click on the "Safety & Conservation" link.



## Be Prepared for Winter Storms

Winter weather can bring ice storms that may cause power outages as trees and branches fall on power lines. Fortunately, there are some steps you can take to be prepared for such events:

- Assemble a "storm kit." Include a battery-operated radio or television, flashlight, a first-aid kit, battery-powered or windup clock, extra batteries, an insulated cooler and a list of important and emergency phone numbers.
- Cover windows with drapes or blankets to minimize heat loss at night. During the day, open blinds to let the sun warm the space.
- Dress in loose layers.
- Pepco does not recommend using candles. However if you do use them, never leave them unattended.
- Keep at least a three-day supply of nonperishable foods and bottled water and have a hand-operated can opener available.
- Check for medical supplies, prescription drugs and any special health items, such as contact lens supplies or infant supplies.
- Use portable generators in a well-ventilated area. Never run it inside your garage since the carbon monoxide fumes can be deadly.

If you do lose power, remember to call Pepco at 1-877-PEPCO-62. Customers on medical support equipment should identify a location with emergency power capabilities and plan to go there in the event of a prolonged outage.

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### *Pepco Honored for River Cleanup Efforts*

Living Classrooms of the National Capital Region recently named Pepco a 2007 Living Legend Award winner in recognition of the utility's help in cleaning up the Anacostia River.

Living Classrooms is a non-profit organization that uses maritime settings to provide education and job skills training for students from diverse backgrounds, especially at-risk youth.

In addition to its financial support, hundreds of Pepco employees have volunteered for waterway cleanup events over the past several years.



A PHI Company

Customer Service: (202) 833-7500  
TTY Telephone Number for Hearing Impaired: (202) 872-2369  
To Report Power Outages: 1-877-PEPCO 62 (1-877-737-2662)