

**MARCH**

## **GREEN TEAM TEACHER RESOURCE REFERENCE**

### **Green Team Targets Electricity!**

Have you ever thought about how much electricity you use in a day? Heating, air conditioning, lights, computers, TV's, appliances, stereos, phones, video game systems, hair dryers - all of these require electricity.

There are many ways that Americans can reduce the amount of electricity they use, and one is as easy as changing a light bulb!

Switching your traditional incandescent bulbs to compact fluorescent light bulbs or CFL's is an effective, accessible change every American can make right now to reduce energy use at home and prevent greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change.

#### **Facts:**

1. Lighting accounts for close to 20% of the average home's electric bill.
2. CFL's use up to 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs.
3. CFL's last up to 10 X longer.
4. CFL's produce 75% less heat; so they are safer and can help reduce home cooling costs.
5. If every home in America replaced just ONE incandescent bulb with a CFL it would save enough energy to:
  - Light more than 3 million homes for a year
  - Prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars
  - Reduce energy costs more than \$600 million annually

#### **Suggested Discussion Ideas**

1. Identify things in the classroom that use electricity
2. Identify ways to reduce electricity usage every day
  - Turn off lights when not needed
  - Use timers on lights when on vacation
  - Unplug appliances when not in use: toaster, coffee maker, hair dryer, razor, printer, cell phone charger
  - Run air conditioning selectively
  - Replace incandescent bulbs with more energy efficient CFL bulbs.
  - Look for the Energy Star label when purchasing new products
    - i. Energy Star products are the most efficient on the market today.
    - ii. The typical household can save up to 30% on utility bills just by using Energy Star qualified products.

**Websites:** [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov);  
[www.stopglobalwarming.org](http://www.stopglobalwarming.org);  
[www.comedcare.com](http://www.comedcare.com); [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)