



TRI-COUNTY Electric Cooperative, Inc.

" A Commitment to Service and Savings "



Federal Regulations on Lighting Efficiency Standards Will Change How We Illuminate Our Nation ●●●●●

Although lighting accounts for only 3.3% of the energy use in homes, it often accounts for a large fraction of the electricity bill. You can cut your electricity use significantly by installing energy-efficient lights, fixtures, and controls.

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Compact fluorescent light bulbs can replace the incandescent light bulbs in most light fixtures in your home, and they are now widely available. Compact fluorescent lights use one-fourth the amount of electricity that incandescent lamps use, and they last seven times longer. Because they use less electricity, compact fluorescent also reduce carbon emissions, which is good for the environment.

Manufacturers and environmentalists are hammering out a nationwide energy saving lighting standard that if enacted by congress would effectively phase out the common household light bulb in about 10 years. That in turn could produce significant cuts in the nations electricity use and reduce green house gas emissions.

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Energy Committee aides say there is bipartisan support for a new lighting standard and that any agreement worked out between the industry and environmentalists will likely be incorporated into the legislation. Congress should do all it can to encourage industry and consumer groups to work with government in setting standards for energy-efficient products including light bulbs and new lighting technologies.

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The move away from the current incandescent bulb, invented by Thomas Edison in 1879 would create at least an \$8 billion market for more efficient lighting analysts say. There are an estimated four billion electric light sockets in the United States alone. The three biggest light bulb manufacturers, Philips, General Electric and Osram Sylvania, a unit of Germany's Siemens AG already have more efficient lighting products in development. General Electric is the biggest seller of the compact fluorescent bulb and has plans to introduce a incandescent bulb with performance

comparable to the compact fluorescent.

Manufacturers are also re-engineering the light emitting diodes that are currently too expensive for the consumer market but will likely fall in price over time. One reason bulb makers are willing to negotiate a new federal standard is that half a dozen states including California and Texas, are weighing bans on incandescent bulbs. Australia, Canada and the European Union are also considering phasing out low performance

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lighting.

The talks on establishing a new nationwide standard include the bulb makers, the lighting association, the Alliance to Save Energy, the American Council for Energy Efficient Economy and the Natural Resources Defense Council, among others. Talks have been underway ever since Philips declared that incandescent bulbs should be phased out within 10 years. Standards have already been put in place that will remove low efficiency street lighting and traffic lighting within 10 years.

Homeowner's will be required to spend more money on compact florescent, they cost between \$2.00 and \$3.00 each compared to a incandescent bulbs which are priced as low as \$0.25 each. Although the purchase cost is higher the CF bulbs life cycle is longer requiring fewer replacements. The energy consumption is so much less that the increased cost of the bulb can be recovered in as little as six months with reduced power consumption on lighting alone. If you factor in the savings associated with reduced heat contribution which increases air conditioning cost, the recovery is even quicker.

With ever changing technology continuing to impact our lives, it just makes sense when we help introduce it to the public. Collectively we all reap the benefit associated with reduced energy consumption and a cleaner environment.



Light Emitting Diodes (LED) lighting is already offering 100 lumens of light per watt of energy consumption. Still considered too expensive for the current market they hold promise for the future.

If It Can't Breathe It Can't Work!

With summer officially on the calendar it's important to make sure that your air conditioning equipment is operating at peak performance. A dirty outdoor coil is a good way to run up operating costs and repair bills. Make it a habit to check the surface of your outdoor condenser coil and make sure it is clean and moving plenty of air across the coil. Check coil for grass clippings, leaves, spider webs, cottonwood fibers and those pesky plastic shopping bags that blow around the yard and get sucked up into the air-conditioning coil.



Keep your unit clear of high grass so that it can pull in plenty of fresh air. Coil blockage increases operating cost and shortens equipment life cycle.

If the coil looks dirty, disconnect the power and rinse the coil with a garden hose. If it is extremely dirty, it might be necessary to use a soft brush and mild liquid dishwashing soap. Use care not to bend the coil fins when cleaning. Once the coil surface is clean, you can reconnect the power and the unit is ready to run.

If your equipment has a protective cover around the coil it can still be inspected by looking through the louvers. Cleaning may require the removal of the protective cabinet to gain access to the coil surface. On some units the cabinet is fairly easy to remove requiring nothing more than a nut driver and a bowl to keep track of the metal screws. With some manufacturers a professional service call may be required because the cabinet walls support the fan assembly requiring more tools and expertise when disassembling.



Poor filter maintenance or unfiltered return air will contaminate a condensing coil making it difficult for equipment to function. This unit will require a professional cleaning costing hundreds of dollars. In the long run proper filter maintenance is cheaper!

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The indoor coil must also be kept clean and the best way to do that is by maintaining the air filter. Regularly scheduled filter replacement will keep the coil clean. If you can see the coil is blocked, a professional cleaning is recommended. On most units the coil must be removed to be properly cleaned.

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It Pays To Stay Informed!

Find your account number in our Member Information Bulletin and you will receive a \$20.00 credit on your electric bill. Simply contact one of the offices listed below and make them aware of your discovery. **It pays to stay informed!**

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From The Cooperative Kitchen



This month's recipe was provided by Dollie M. Bailey from Weatherford TX. She will receive a Texas Co-Op Power Cookbook, compliments of TCEC.



Us cows hope everyone loves this dish!

Chicken Fritos Pie



... INGREDIENTS ...

- 1 - BOILED CHICKEN (SAVE 1 CUP OF BROTH)
- 1 - CAN ENCHILADA SAUCE
- 1 - CAN CREAM OF MUSHROOM SOUP
- 1 - ONION (CHOPPED)
- 1/2 - TEASPOON OF SALT
- 1/4 - TEASPOON PEPPER
- 11 - OZ. PKG. OF SMALL FRITOS
- 1 - CUP OF GRATED CHEDDAR CHEESE

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BOIL CHICKEN UNTIL TENDER AND REMOVE ALL BONES. CUT CHICKEN INTO BITE SIZE PIECES.

COMBINE CHICKEN WITH ENCHILADA SAUCE, SOUP, ONION, AND SEASONING (SALT AND PEPPER).

SPRAY A 9 X 12 INCH PAN WITH PAM AND PUT HALF OF FRITOS ON BOTTOM LAYER.

ADD CHICKEN MIXTURE ON TOP OF THIS LAYER OF CHIPS.

COVER WITH THE GRATED CHEESE AND REMAINING CHIPS.

POUR 1 CUP OF CHICKEN BROTH OVER THE TOP.

BAKE AT 350 DEGREES FOR 30 MINUTES AND SERVE.



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