**SUSTAINABILITY SAVINGS TIP**

**SMARTER LIGHTING FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE**
*Installing a Light Bulb is No Joke*

In 2007 the **Energy Independence and Security Act** set energy efficiency standards for many products, including light bulbs. This created a gradual phase-out for inefficient incandescent light bulbs starting in 2012 with the 100-watt bulb, in 2013 with the 75-watt and in 2014 with the 40- and 60-watt bulbs.

**WATTS VS. LUMENS:** Under this law, screw-based light bulbs are required to use fewer watts for a similar lumen output (brightness). A standard incandescent bulb is only 10% efficient – the other 90% of the electricity it uses is lost as heat. Look for energy-efficient halogen, LEDs and CFLs that use up to 75% less energy and last longer.

**HOW DOES THIS BENEFIT CONSUMERS?** We’re plugged in now more than ever and our individual energy use continues to rise - especially with the popularity of electronics. One of the most effective ways to help consumers save energy is to make it easy. Energy efficient bulbs cost less to operate with a flip of a switch, saving you money each month!

**WHY SELECT ‘ENERGY STAR’ Labeled Bulbs?** While all of the newer style bulbs are dramatically more efficient than the century old incandescent design, it is still important to select bulbs that have earned the ENERGY STAR label. This means that they have been independently tested to meet efficiency, lifetime and quality standards. There is also a 3-year minimum warranty requirement. I was disappointed to find that many of the popular manufacturers did not have the ENERGY STAR label on their packaging. When I contacted them, I was told that the approval for labeling was in progress, but with technology changing so rapidly, they wanted to get their improved products quickly to market.

**IS THERE A LIGHT BULB JOKE?** You remember light bulb jokes, right? What could be easier than screwing in a light bulb? While I don’t have a joke, I do have a surprising twist. The light bulb standard has spurred so much innovation in lighting that consumers have more choices than ever. You can easily get overwhelmed with today’s options – and you will likely find something new on the shelf tomorrow! Always start with brightness (measured in lumens) and efficiency, but also check for dimmability, light color and distribution (for example, for a table lamp, make sure the LED bulb will shine light downward). Look further and you’ll find flat bulbs, bulbs with fins or bulbs that you can turn off with your Smartphone. The good news is the cost of LEDs is much more affordable. I paid over $50 5 years ago for just one flood bulb. That will get you a four-pack today.

**LEARN MORE**

- **What about vintage bulbs?** You’ve seen the hot trend of using reproductions of Thomas Edison’s ‘vintage’ bulbs in restaurants. While they might provide a period ambiance or industrial look, they can be energy guzzlers and use roughly three times the energy of a standard incandescent. LEDs to the rescue... you can now find vintage LEDs!
- **Find a helpful light bulb purchasing guide:** [www.energystar.gov/lighting](http://www.energystar.gov/lighting).
- **Disposal/Recycling:** CFLs contain a small amount of mercury, and LEDs may contain small amounts of nickel or lead that can be recycled. Deliver to Mesa’s Household Hazardous Waste events for disposal/recycling.

**$START $AVING**
Start saving on your energy bill while doing your part for building a sustainable community. Visit our website for more sustainability savings tips at [www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability](http://www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability).