

You may have heard that there are changes coming to the light bulbs we use every day. Not to worry, there are options that will produce the same amount of light – and save you money!

Between 2012 and 2014, federal legislation requires that all 40 Watt to 100 Watt bulbs must be 30% more efficient, while producing the same light output.

January 2012 – phase out 100 Watt incandescent bulb.

January 2013 – phase out 75 Watt incandescent bulb.

January 2014 – phase out 40 and 60 Watt incandescent bulbs.

A retailer may still sell their existing inventory of incandescent lights after each phase-out date, those lights just cannot be manufactured. Also, there have been exceptions made for many of the specialty bulbs, such as 3-way, plant, bug, decorative, colored, and appliance light bulbs.

In response to these requirements, manufacturers have been busy making sure there are plenty of alternatives. Here is a list of the top three choices:



Halogen

Halogen lights are a form of incandescent, and produce the light most similar to traditional light bulbs. Halogen lights meet the new efficiency requirements, but still produce heat and are not as efficient as some of the other options. These are recommended for use with dimmers.



CFL (Compact Fluorescent Lamp)

CFLs have been around for some time now. CFLs only use about one-third the amount of energy as a traditional incandescent. Advances in these lights now provide many choices in the color of light produced to appear the same as incandescent. These take about a minute to reach full light output. Because these are so much more affordable than in the past, CFLs are the most cost-effective option when replacing traditional incandescent lights.



LED (Light-Emitting Diode)

LEDs have also been around for some time, but have mostly been used for special purpose lighting – such as commercial signs and traffic signals. The production of a consistent white light for everyday lighting applications has been the challenge. However, there are some options available today. As with any evolving technology, there can be a big difference in performance and cost of these products.



These efficiency requirements have prompted the need to change how we refer to lighting needs. For example, instead of looking only at the “Watts,” the industry will begin referring to the amount of light produced, called “Lumens.” For example, a 100 Watt incandescent produces 1600 lumens, as does a 72 Watt Halogen, a 23 Watt CFL and a 16 Watt LED.

Here is a comparison of the available lights and the lumen equivalents to a traditional incandescent light:

Standard Incandescent Bulb	100 Watt	75 Watt	60 Watt	40 Watt
Lumens Produced	1600	1100	800	450
Halogen	72 Watt	53 Watt	43 Watt	29 Watt
CFL	23 Watt	19 Watt	13 Watt	9 Watt
LED	16 Watt	9 Watt	6 Watt	4 Watt

Continue to look for the ENERGY STAR label on CFLs and LEDs. ENERGY STAR has expanded their testing standards to ensure higher quality and better efficiency.

Tips for Choosing the Right Light:

- Look at the Lumen rating on the package. This will help you find the bulb that provides the amount of light you need.
- Look for the color temperature listed on the package – for example, 2700K or 3000K will be closest to the traditional incandescent light color.
- Check the size of the new bulb to make sure it will fit in your fixture.
- If you are using a dimmer, be sure the new CFL or LED clearly says it is dimmable on the package.
- Try one or two of the new lights first to see if it meets your needs.
- Be sure to save the receipt and package should the light fail during the warranty period.

For more information on changes made as a result of the federal legislation, visit the U.S. Department of Energy’s website at energy.gov.



Plant the Right Tree In the Right Place

YOUR LIGHTS CAN GO OUT ON A LIMB

To learn more about proper tree planting, trimming, and how to avoid power outages, watch CU's new video,

“Your Lights Can Go Out On a Limb”

Go to cityutilities.net, residential programs and services--tree management, and choose one of these options:

- View online
- Complete the online form to request your own copy



Plant A Tree In The Right Place.

Tall trees, such as: maple, oak, spruce, and pine

Plant the right tree in the right place

Plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines.



Do you plan to plant new landscaping around your home this year? CU offers information that can help with your decision-making.

Knowing where to plant trees and shrubs where they will not interfere with power lines will save you money and headaches in the future.

A small tree planted in the wrong spot today may grow too close to power lines in a few years. If a tree becomes a safety issue or threatens the power reliability, the tree may need to be severely trimmed or removed before it causes widespread outages.

Select the right tree for the available space. In addition to growing tall and wide, tree roots can cause damage to underground utilities. Check the clearance distance from power lines, drainage pipes, sidewalks and other underground utilities based upon full maturity of the tree.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

CU's website provides links to helpful information on purchasing trees, species best suited for the Ozarks, pruning guidelines and more. Go to cityutilities.net to learn more.

Contact Missouri One Call for a utility locate before you dig. Call 811 or make a request online at MO1Call.com.

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