

Thank you to Mr. Ryan for this opportunity and thank you all for inviting me to speak to you. Today seems like a great day to talk to you about this since it's the day after Earth Day!

My name is Katie Ring, and I am a 5th grader at Our Lady of Sorrows School in White Plains.

Change a Light was my project for our school Academic Fair in February. I wanted to do a project that could help make a difference and my mom told me about an article she read about energy efficient bulbs called Compact Fluorescent Bulbs or CFLs. And that's how I got started! I would like to share with you some of the things that I learned about CFLs and why it is so important that we use them.

I have a question for all of you...

How many light bulbs does it take to change the world?

Just one and you're looking at it!

This is a CFL. It may look like an ice cream swirl but it is a big energy and money saver. CFLs generate the same amount of light as incandescent bulbs, but generate a lot less heat. Only 10% of energy used by an incandescent bulb is used for light – 90% escapes as heat.

Did you know that 50% of the electricity generated in the US comes from burning coal. Another 20 percent comes from oil and natural gas. Here is a chart that shows how electricity is generated. When you burn these fossil fuels to create energy, carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere. These are greenhouse gas emissions and they are causing the world's climate to change, or you can say global warming.

CFLs use a lot less energy than an incandescent light bulb to produce the same amount of light. Just look at this savings chart. You can save more than \$33 a year in energy costs by replacing 1 light bulb. And you can prevent 450 pounds of greenhouse gases emissions.

It is important to know that CFLs contains a small amount of mercury in order to make the bulb work. No mercury is released by using them, but CFLs should not be thrown away in your regular garbage. They should be recycled. In Westchester, you can bring old CFLs to Household Chemical Clean up days.

Some companies, like Wal Mart and Home Depot, are really trying to encourage people to use CFLs. Home Depot gave away 1 million CFLs yesterday for Earth Day. Westchester County also gave away bulbs on Saturday at the Kids Fair at the County Center and yesterday at an Earth Day Celebration.

Change a Light Day is on Wednesday, October 3, 2007.

At the Academic Fair I asked people to take the Energy Star Change A light Pledge. I collected pledges from 38 people who agreed to change 135 bulbs.

I entered the pledges into a spreadsheet and sent them to Energy Star so they could be counted toward the goal of getting 500,000 people to take the pledge

Over their lifetime, those 135 bulbs will save:

38,000 kilowatt hours of electricity and will remove 60,000 pounds of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere

I would really like to keep telling people about CFLs. My family and I just changed 4 more bulbs in my house. I have some Change A Light Pledges here for you if you would like to take the pledge today.

I hope that we can have more events in Westchester County to help spread the word about CFLs.

Here are some brochures and zipper pulls I received from Energy Star. Please take some and please take the Change a Light pledge.

Thank you very much.

“ I pledge to do my part to save energy and help reduce risks of global climate change by replacing at least one light in my home with an ENERGY STAR® qualified one. ”

(*) indicates a required field

First Name* _____

Zip* _____ Email* _____

How many bulbs do you plan to replace with an ENERGY STAR? (up to 10) _____

I'd like to receive quarterly emails from ENERGY STAR with energy-saving tips.

PRIVACY DISCLAIMER: Your identifying information will be used only for the purposes of the ENERGY STAR Change a Light Pledge. This information will never be provided or sold to third parties. If you are under 13 years old, ask a parent or guardian to complete the pledge for you.

CHANGING A LIGHT IS A SIMPLE STEP WE CAN EACH TAKE TO PRESERVE ENERGY RESOURCES, SAVE MONEY AND HELP PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT.

Products that earn the ENERGY STAR® prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy.
www.energystar.gov

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