

Save Money With Compact Fluorescent Lights



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There are many easy ways to make your house more energy efficient.

This month's improvement – compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) – should cost you less than \$20. That's a small price to pay for what I believe is the greatest advancement in lighting since Thomas Edison's invention of the incandescent light bulb. In fact, they are so

great that I just know that Thomas would be proud of us. When CFLs were first introduced, they cost about \$9 each and blinked when they first came on. Well, since then, "they've come a long way, baby." If you buy them in the four-pack, they now cost about \$3 each. For this month's improvement, I want you to buy at least four CFLs and install them in your most used locations. (In my house, that would be the garage door opener light). I am aware that they may not fit in some older appliances. They are available for recessed lighting, too, in both spotlight and floodlight designs.

So just what is the advantage of a CFL? First of

all, the CFL uses two-thirds less electricity than an equal-watt incandescent bulb. And since the CFL operates at a much lower temperature, they last much longer – in fact, they can last up to 10 times longer than a standard bulb. The filaments of the hotter burning incandescent bulbs simply burn out sooner because of the heat.



By the time the CFL burns out, you will have saved at least what it cost you to buy the original four CFLs.

Next, consider this. Ninety percent of the energy of incandescent bulb turns into heat and 10 percent goes for light. In a CFL, 90 percent of the energy goes for light and only 10 percent for heat. (See how this might help reduce your cooling load in the summer).

Now, for the really good part. By the time the CFL burns out, you will have saved at least what it cost you to buy the original four CFLs. By simply replacing a 100-watt incandescent bulb with a 32-watt CFL, you can save about \$30 in energy costs over the life of the bulb. Now, let's see – \$30 times four bulbs equals \$120 saved. Duh – No-brainer!

Where can you get them? Many home improvement stores now have them and you can always check with your local electric cooperative. So, do yourself a favor and switch to CFLs. In the meantime, you can always call me at the office at 501-653-7931 with any other energy efficiency questions you may have.



Doug Rye, a licensed architect living in Saline County, Ark., is the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show and a promoter of energy efficiency building. To order Doug's video, call Doug at 1-888-Doug-Rye.

Notification of Intent Filed

Basin Electric filed a Notification of Intent Feb. 19 with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission in Pierre.

Cris Miller, Basin Electric's senior environmental administrator, said the notice is a "heads up" for the commission that Basin Electric is planning to develop its next base-load power plant near Selby. The project is called NextGen. "Commission procedural rules require that this notice be filed," he said. "It describes the project and any associated infrastructure that may be required."

However, Miller pointed out that the final facility description, facility operation methods, quantities and other items described in the notice are preliminary and subject to modification as the development progresses to the final stage of design.

Now that the NOI has been filed, PUC rules preclude Basin Electric from filing any permit applications for the next six months, Miller said. "The earliest we could file a permit application would be in August of this year," he said.

Line Superintendents Award Future Linemen Scholarships

Eight students enrolled in Mitchell Technical Institute's power line construction and maintenance program received scholarships from the South Dakota Rural Electric Line Superintendents Association.

Each of the students received a \$500 scholarship.

Each applicant had to submit an application form, a short essay and a grade transcript. The caliber of applicants was so high that the Interview Committee, composed of five line superintendents, decided to provide awards to each of the eight finalists.

After the interviews, the line superintendents and Rick Hoffman of the South Dakota Rural Electric Association, gave a presentation to the entire power line class about safety on the job.

This year marks the 12th year the scholarships have been awarded. Sixty-two individual awards have been made to MTI students totaling more than \$46,000.



Pictured left to right are: Larry Jensen, Kingsbury Electric Cooperative; Chad Ziebart, Sisseton; Brian Bultje, Central Electric Cooperative; Cody Auch, Lesterville; Corey Van Vlack, Rapid City; Jesse Brown, Madison; Gregg Zwart, Dell Rapids; Kyle Broderson, Lennox; Corey Anderson, Dell Rapids; Mike Kelly, Northern Electric Cooperative; and Lynn Kruse, Dakota Energy Cooperative. **Not pictured are** Tucker Jochim, Belle Fourche; and Dean Nelson, West Central Electric Cooperative. Jensen, Bultje, Kelly, Kruse and Nelson are members of the SDRE Line Superintendents Association Scholarship Committee.

Aberdeen Teens Head to National Competition

Five students from Aberdeen Central High School will be representing South Dakota at the U.S. Department of Energy's National Science Bowl in Washington, D.C., May 1-6.

The students comprised Aberdeen Central High School Team #1, which won the 15th Annual South Dakota Regional Science Bowl Feb. 23, in Huron, S.D.

Since the program began in 1991, the national event has brought together more than 60,000 high school mathematics and science students from across the country. The contest tests knowledge in astronomy, biology, chemistry, math, physics, earth, computer and general science.

Brookings High School placed second, Rapid City Central High School Team #1 placed third and Vermillion High School placed fourth. Thirty-two teams from 25 high schools competed in this year's event.

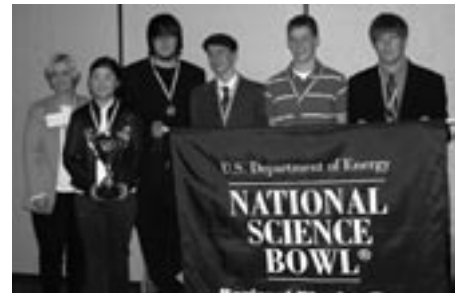
Members of the Aberdeen Central team are

Ka Man Lee, John Boggs, Jordan Punt, Nick Reese and Ryan Janish. Their coach is Jan Palmer.

The second place Brookings High School team members included: James Francis, Carlton Hesler, Yuchi Hu, Sarvesh Kaushik and Josh Peterson. Their coach is Lauren Hesler.

The third place Rapid City Central High School team members included: Jeffrey Lang, Ben Redinius, Mike Krsnak, Josh Smith and Dillion Dell. Their coach is Michael Slaback.

The fourth place Vermillion High School team members included: Alex Anderson-Kahl, Ji Wen Li, Mike Oberle, Steffani Donahoe and Alex Larson. Their coach is Brenda Buschkamp.



Aberdeen Central's winning team consisted of Coach Jan Palmer, Karman Lee, John Boggs, Jordan Punt, Ryan Janish and Nick Reese.