



relight NY



Change a light bulb.

Change the city.

“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.”

— Native American Proverb

## A Guide To Relighting Your Community

### Knowing.

Today, most Americans use incandescent bulbs to light their homes. There's a newer, more energy-efficient way. They're called Compact Fluorescent Lamps, or CFL bulbs, and they last **TEN TIMES LONGER** than incandescent bulbs, use less energy and save money on your electric bill.

Your mission? Convince your community to start using these energy-efficient bulbs. It's a bright idea, a simple idea, and one that will protect our earth for this generation and the ones to come. Switching to energy-efficient CFL bulbs is a simple way to do your part to protect our planet.

### A NEW CFL REVOLUTION IS AT HAND.

Calling all young people, the world needs your help.

**How?** By bringing CFLs to your community!

**Why?** CFLs improve air quality: When you switch to an energy-efficient CFL bulb you are also helping the planet. CFL bulbs use 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs! Since CFLs use less energy, there are fewer gasses that are harmful to the environment!

CFLs help your wallet: Using 75% less energy also means that CFL bulbs lower the cost of your family's electric bill, putting more money in your pocket.

CFLs reduce pollution: CFLs last 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs, which means that you don't have to replace your CFL bulbs as often. Fewer bulbs means less trash in landfills. Since landfills leak into our water supply, reducing garbage means cleaner water.

Now that you know what CFLs can do—grab a CFL bulb and make the switch.

### Did You Know?

CFLs *match* the light quality of the energy-wasting incandescents we know and love!



## Knowing.

### Did You Know?

CFLs are most efficient when used in areas where lights are on for more than 15 minutes at a time.

## CFL Q&A

Take note of these questions, so you can be prepared to answer if asked.

### Their Light Isn't As Good As Regular Bulbs!

The newer CFL bulbs have the same warmth of light as incandescent bulbs and they also won't burn out all of a sudden. Oh, and they're cool to the touch.

### When My CFL Burns Out Can I Toss It In The Trash?

No, CFL bulbs must be disposed of properly. Check original packaging for recycling programs. Many retailers offer in-store programs. Visit [www.recycleabulb.com](http://www.recycleabulb.com) to find a recycling location near you.

### I Heard If They Break, It's Dangerous.

CFLs do contain a very small amount of mercury, but not enough to be dangerous. If one breaks, the US Environmental Protection Agency recommends these quick and easy steps:

- Open doors/windows and leave the room for fifteen minutes and turn off AC or heat
- Scoop up glass pieces and powder with stiff paper or cardboard
- Place them in a glass jar with metal lid
- Use sticky tape to clean up any remaining glass fragments and powder
- Wipe the area clean with damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes
- Place towels/wipes in glass jar with lid
- Do not use a vacuum or broom


Visit [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) to learn more.

### Did You Know?

CFLs use up to 75% less energy than standard light bulbs.



## Doing.

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<p><b>SIGN UP:</b> Register your team then use this website to choose the buildings you want to adopt.</p>		<p><b>GET READY:</b> Use these pages to get the facts, prepare an argument and make a plan.</p>		<p><b>DO IT:</b> Convince tenants to make the switch — from incandescent bulbs to CFLs.</p> 		<p><b>REPORT BACK:</b> Log on to RelightNY.com to report the number of bulbs converted in your buildings.</p>

## Did You Know?

CFLs last up to 10 times longer than standard light bulbs.

### What's Your Plan?

Join forces with kids in your school, class, or neighborhood to create a RelightNY team.

Register your RelightNY team at [www.relightny.com](http://www.relightny.com).

Choose the location to spread the word, and claim it online.

Find out who the building superintendent or manager is and inform that person of your goal.

### Tips

In large office or apartment buildings — don't forget the common areas!

Some ways to let people know what you are doing:

- Put a sign up in the lobby of your building or by mail boxes
- Slip your RelightNY pledge under doors
- Stand in the lobby and greet people with the RelightNY pledge

When your RelightNY team and adult sponsor are out, take an incandescent bulb and a CFL to help others understand.

Check out stores in the area that stock CFLs and make a note of prices.

### Your Goal.

Is to convince as many people as possible in your chosen location to make the switch to CFLs.

### Think Safety.

Always go with an adult and in a group. Consider relighting on a weekend, when people are home, and going during daylight.

### While Relighting.

- Track the number of bulbs people commit to replacing, using the Keeping Track form
- Ask residents to sign the Relight Pledge
- Tell them about stores in their area that carry CFLs

## Did You Know?

Electricity savings can be up to \$50 per CFL.



## Sharing.

### The RelightNY Pledge

Pledge to commit to taking a small step toward protecting the earth. Parents, teachers and kids can take the pledge now!

I am a member of the RelightNY team. I am one of a growing army of young people who want to inspire others to protect the earth's environment. It is our generation that will inherit the environmental problems, but collectively, by the small action of changing a light bulb, we can make a difference.

If every American home replaced just one incandescent light bulb with an energy-efficient CFL, the USA would:

- Save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year
- Save more than \$600 million in annual energy costs
- Prevent the greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars

Please take the pledge with me and protect our earth.

**Did You Know?**  
Electricity for America's elementary and secondary schools costs more than \$6 billion annually — more than is spent on textbooks and computers combined.



## Keeping Track

As you and your group are relighting, it is important to keep track of a few things.

Location/Address of building(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of team: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of members on your team: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of bulbs I estimate will be converted: \_\_\_\_\_

### Once You've Finished.

Report back by logging into your RelightNY.com team account and share with others how many bulbs your team converted. This way, we can track which buildings and neighborhoods have taken the small step to make a big change. Stay tuned for updates and check back to watch New York City relight.