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Utilities team to help region's consumers light for less

Bonneville Power Administration

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PORTLAND, ORE. — Picture a commercial dumpster full of used light bulbs. Now picture a wheelbarrow full of used light bulbs. A reduced impact on landfills is one of several long-term benefits of a new program called "LightSaver," which will encourage Northwest electricity users to buy long-lasting and ultra-efficient compact fluorescent (CF) light bulbs at about half their normal price.

The Bonneville Power Administration, along with Northwest utilities, will provide incentive payments to two CF manufacturers to help reduce retail costs to the \$6 to \$12 range, about half the current consumer prices. The bulbs will be sold to retailers at a reduced wholesale cost.

The *LightSaver* program partners, which include the Oregon cities of Monmouth, Forest Grove, Ashland and McMinnville, advocate the program because widespread use of the CF bulbs will mean a reduction in the need for new power generation, which saves millions of dollars and reduces our impact on the environment. Additionally, since the CF bulbs last longer, they ultimately will make a smaller impact on our landfills.

Initially, 185,000 of the *LightSaver* bulbs from Sylvania and Lights of America should appear in Northwest home improvement stores by the end of April. The total number of bulbs could reach one million by the program's third year.

The CF bulbs last up to ten times longer and use 75 percent less energy than conventional incandescent bulbs.

The CFs are high-quality lights available in seven sizes, ranging from 13 to 30 watts each. They are designed to replace 60- to 150-watt incandescents and can be screwed into the same sockets with no special wiring. Customers can purchase up to 10 bulbs per visit while supplies last. A variety of home improvement stores will carry the low-cost CF bulbs, including Bi-Mart, Builders Square, HomeBase, Eagle Hardware and Home Depot.

The *LightSaver* program's sponsors include BPA, Pacific Power, Portland General Electric, Puget Power and Washington Water Power.

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