



Free CFLs now available at sites around county

By **BOB AUDETTE**

BRATTLEBORO -- Efficiency Vermont is giving away thousands of compact fluorescent light bulbs at Vermont Foodbank-sponsored food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, senior centers and after-school programs around the state.

The bulbs are being distributed to needy Vermonters through the Foodbank's network of 270 sites located in all 14 counties of the state.

The CFLs are the equivalent of 60-, 75- and 100-watt incandescent bulbs.

The giveaway will help reduce electric bills for those families hit particularly hard by the economic downturn. In turn, they will be able to spend the extra money on other necessities, such as food.

In Vermont, the number of families seeking assistance from the Vermont Foodbank has risen 35 to 40 percent in the last 10 months.

Energy Star-qualified CFLs use up to 75 percent less energy and can last six to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Because of the reduction in energy usage, some families can cut their annual electric bills by \$250 by switching to CFLs.

The CFL distribution project is the latest collaboration between Efficiency Vermont and the Vermont Foodbank.

CFLs are currently available at Morningside Shelter, the Phoenix House's three locations and Agape Christian Fellowship.

In addition to the giveaway, Efficiency Vermont is helping to reduce costs at the Brattleboro warehouse of the Vermont Foodbank by adding new refrigeration systems.

The new system utilizes temperature sensors linked to a fan controller to bring in fresh, cold air when the outside temperature is below the necessary cooler temperature.

"Every reduction in the Vermont Foodbank's operating costs achieved through energy efficiency means that the Vermont Foodbank has more resources to do even more to support the neediest in communities around the state," said Sheryl Graves, project manager at Efficiency Vermont.

Efficiency Vermont was created by the Vermont Legislature and the Vermont Public Service Board to help all Vermonters reduce energy costs, strengthen the economy and protect Vermont's environment.

Efficiency Vermont is operated by Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, an independent organization under contract to the Vermont Public Service Board.

VEIC is a Vermont-based nonprofit organization founded in 1986.

For more information, contact Efficiency Vermont at 888-921-5990 or visit www.encyvermont.com.

Bob Audette can be reached at raudette@reformer.com, or at 802-254-2311, ext. 273.

Advertisement

Get a Free GE Home Alarm System
Call Now: 866-943-3874
Protect America



Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™