

Call to action

Help us ~~phase-out~~ mercury light bulbs in Vermont

All fluorescent light bulbs contain mercury, a toxic substance so dangerous that the World Health Organization lists it as a [top ten](#) chemical of public health concern. Fluorescent bulbs are also inefficient – they consume twice as much electricity to produce the same light as an LED. Vermont has an opportunity to end the sale of common fluorescent light bulbs under an [existing state law](#) adopted a decade ago. Doing so would reduce toxic mercury pollution and bring many environmental, public health, and economic benefits to the state.

In the year 2030, the annual benefits to the State of Vermont would be:

Electricity Savings	Emission Savings	Mercury Savings	Utility Bill Savings
103 GWh of electricity in 2030; that's 2% of total state consumption	7,000 metric tons of CO₂ ; that's like taking 1,500 cars off the road for one year	2.1 pounds of mercury , enough to pollute 105 million gallons of water	\$12 million per year , that's almost \$20 annually for each person in Vermont

...but the [lighting industry is fighting](#) to keep selling these toxic, inefficient bulbs in our state. We need your help to tell the State experts that now's the time to say "farewell to fluorescent". The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has issued an [initial determination](#) to phase out screw-base compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), but this only represent 2% of all fluorescent lamps sold, the rest - 98% of sales - are mostly fluorescent tubes. DEC must go further!

LED light bulbs that replace fluorescents are widely available and an easy direct, drop-in solution that will save Vermont residents and businesses money year after year. By 2030, Vermont residents, businesses, and local and state governments will save more than **\$12 million annually** which can be re-invested in the local Vermont economy, spurring job creation. And in many cases, LED light bulbs offer **super-short payback periods and long-term benefits**. For example, [this 4 foot LED retrofit](#) bulb only costs 72 cents more than a [fluorescent](#) one, but since the LED uses half the electricity, it pays for the difference in 1 month – and then goes on to last 9 years saving over 20 times what you paid for it.

We encourage all concerned citizens to submit a comment to DEC asking the agency to go further and end the sale of both compact and linear fluorescent bulbs because they all have cost-effective, mercury-free LED replacements. For more information, click [here](#). Comments must be sent to Karen Knaebel at karen.knaebel@vermont.gov by 4:00 pm EST on January 28, 2022.