

## FACT SHEET: COMPACT FLUORESCENT LAMPS (CFL)

### IT JUST MAKES CENTS

- ◆ Save up to \$6 annually per incandescent bulb replaced with a CFL
- ◆ Great for the environment

### ALWAYS DISPOSE OF YOUR CFL PROPERLY

While CFLs for your home are not legally considered hazardous waste according to federal solid waste rules, it is still best for the environment to dispose of your CFL properly upon burnout. Listed are the area recycling centers:

- ◆ KleenAir Vacuum & Appliance, Rice Lake
- ◆ Rainbow Home Center, Rice Lake
- ◆ Madson's Hardware Hank, Barron
- ◆ Spooner Ace Hardware
- ◆ Northwest Regional Planning Commission, Spooner
- ◆ Cumberland Hardware & Lumber
- ◆ Horton's Hardware, Chetek

Mercury is released into the environment when products with mercury are broken, disposed of improperly, or incinerated. If a CFL breaks, clean it up safely. Help keep CFLs working for the environment.



### WHY CFLS?

CFLs use 2/3 less energy than standard incandescent bulbs to provide the same amount of light and last up to 10 times longer. By changing one 60-watt incandescent light bulb to a 13-watt compact fluorescent, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions can be reduced by 106 pounds annually. Over 9 million pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions would be eliminated each year if every Barron Electric member changed out 5 incandescent bulbs to CFLs. Members can save up to \$6 annually per bulb in energy savings. In 2008, Barron Electric will distribute 3 CFLs to every residential member.

### SAFE CLEAN UP PRECAUTIONS

1. Open a window and leave the room (restrict access) for at least 15 minutes.
2. Remove all materials possible **without** using a vacuum cleaner.
3. Wear disposable rubber gloves, if available (do not use bare hands)
4. Carefully scoop up the fragments and powder with stiff paper or cardboard.
5. Wipe the area clean with a damp paper towel or disposable wet wipe.
6. Sticky tape (such as duct tape) can be used to pick up particles.
7. Place all cleanup materials in a plastic bag and seal it.
8. Remove the vacuum bag and place in two sealed plastic bags in the outdoor trash the first time the area is vacuumed.

### DO CFLS CONTAIN MERCURY?

CFLs contain a very small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing, about 4 mg, which is roughly equivalent to an amount that would cover the tip of a ball point pen. No mercury is released when the bulbs are intact or in use. By comparison, older thermometers contain about 500 mg of mercury. It would take over 100 CFLs to equal that amount. Mercury currently is an essential component of CFLs and is what allows the bulb to be an efficient light source. Ironically, CFLs present an opportunity to prevent mercury from entering the air. The highest source of mercury in the air comes from burning fossil fuels such as coal, natural gas, wood, etc. A CFL uses 75% less energy than an incandescent light bulb and lasts at least 10 times longer. A power plant will emit 10 mg of mercury to produce the electricity to run an incandescent bulb compared to only 2.4 mg of mercury to run a CFL for the same time.



*CFLs: A greener alternative*