

Sentinel Green Newsletter



Second Quarter 2015

Think LED

Recently, the cost of LED light bulbs has dropped significantly. You will find a pack of 2-60W equivalent LED bulbs for only \$4.97 in major home improvement stores. LED light bulbs provide advantages over other types of light bulbs:

Light Bulb Comparison			
Light Output (Lumens)	Incandescent	Fluorescent	LED
1300-1600	100w	23w	15w
900-1100	75w	19w	12w
700-900	60w	14w	9-10w
400-550	40w	9w	5w
250-350	25w	5w	3w
Av. Life (Based on 4hrs p/day)	1+ year	5+ years	10+ years

Source: <http://www.ecopowerlighting.co.uk/led-lighting.html>

- Longer life: 10+ years, which means both cost savings and lower maintenance.
- Instant on: no wait time for lights to get bright.
- High tolerance for frequent switching on and off without damaging light fixtures.
- Significant cost savings on utility bills: approximately 85% savings compared with incandescent bulbs and 35% savings compared to CFL bulbs.

Update on Electric Car Charging Stations

Sentinel started to install electric car charging stations in our communities in December of 2014. The charging stations at the first property installed were charged 813 times in the first five months. This represents savings of 2,932 KG of greenhouse gases and 876 gallons of gasoline saved just in that short period. Adding more electric car charging stations is one of our major green efforts in 2015. We use a built-in system where residents can simply start a charge, track real time charging status and receive notifications from a mobile app. It's a great amenity to have in areas where electric cars are becoming popular.



Top 10 home energy saving tips

Small action can create big change, especially when it comes to energy savings. Here are 10 no or low-cost ways to make a difference.

1. *Adjust temperature settings*

Turn down your thermostat to 68 degrees in winter. For every degree you lower your heat in the 60-degree to 70-degree range, you'll save up to 5% on heating costs. Wear warm clothing like a sweater and set your thermostat to 68 degrees or lower during the day and evening, health permitting. Set the thermostat a bit lower at night or when leaving home for an extended time, saving 5%-20% of your heating costs.

2. *Monitor water usage*

Be conscience of your water usage. There are many ways to conserve water from taking shorter showers to not running water constantly when brushing teeth. Free flowing water wastes many gallons of this precious resource.

3. *Change laundry settings*

If you could wait until you have a full load and then do your laundry on cold wash (BRIGHT COLOR SETTING). It not only extends the lifespan and vibrancy of your clothing it also saves 90% of the energy that would have been used to heat the water.

4. *Monitor ineffective appliances and HVAC operations*

Report noticeably subpar performance of your appliances or HVAC system to management. For example, if it takes two hours to dry clothing your dryer vent may need cleaning. Report this to management and they can correct the problem for greater efficiency.

5. *Other ways to cook*

Don't overlook the other cooking appliances beyond your oven. Fast and efficient microwave ovens use around 50% less energy than conventional ovens, and they don't heat up your kitchen.

6. *Look for ENERGY STAR-qualified TVs*

They're up to 30% more efficient than noncertified models.

7. *Unplug devices*

Make sure your chargers, adapters and small appliances are all unplugged when you leave the apartment. Phantom energy is the electricity that electronic devices pull from the outlet while plugged in. Even when the device is off, it can waste as much as 10% of your home's energy.

8. *Manage power settings*

Make sure your computer isn't wasting any unnecessary energy. Set your power management settings to Energy Saver Mode and get rid of the screen saver. This cuts energy consumption and prolongs the computer's battery life.

9. *Consider LEDs*

Consider swapping out incandescent and CFL bulbs for LED bulbs in your table, desk and floor lamps. LEDs are 90% more efficient, contain no harmful gases and can last up to 20 years!

10. *Use your blinds*

Use daylight wisely, by keeping blinds open during the day to let in the warm rays and closed at night to keep out drafts.