

# New Bulbs Provide More Light, Save Energy

Most of us flick a light switch without thinking about how much energy we are using. Multiply that one flick, though, by millions (*or billions!*) of light bulbs, and that's a lot of electricity flowing.

Light bulbs, in fact, account for one quarter of all electricity used in the United States, but experts say light bulbs waste most of their energy.

Now scientists have developed a new light bulb that does not waste as much energy and is better for the environment.

The new bulb uses light-emitting diodes, or LEDs, that produce light when electricity flows through them. LED-bulbs could use nearly 100 percent of their electricity to create light. That means they would consume much less energy than the most common light bulbs -- called *incandescent bulbs* -- used in homes today. Incandescent light bulbs use 95 percent of their energy to generate heat and 5 percent for light -- so much of their energy is wasted.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the new bulb could reduce U.S. energy consumption by 29 percent by 2025 for a total savings of \$125 billion.

## MORE FACTS ABOUT THE NEWS

- The incandescent light bulb has changed little since Thomas Edison invented it in 1879.
- A typical incandescent light bulb lasts 850 hours. "Long-life" incandescent bulbs can last up to 2,500 hours. LEDs vary in life, but some white LEDs can last up to 50,000 hours. That's nearly six years of use.



## NEWS WORD BOX

electricity    energy  
incandescent  
light-emitting diode

## THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

- What are some things you can do in your home to conserve energy?