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# Region 6 Employee News Journal

## Front Lines Message from the Regional Administrator

### Pledge to Make a Difference, One Light at a Time

This year, EPA is volunteering to help preserve our country's energy resources and help reduce the risks of global climate change by encouraging our employees to change at least one light at home to one that has earned the government's ENERGY STAR for energy efficiency.

We are doing this as part of the National ENERGY STAR "Change a Light, Change the World" campaign, a partnership between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy and organizations across the country to encourage individuals to actively help save energy at home, starting by switching to energy-efficient lighting.

We have set a goal to encourage 200 employees to take the online ENERGY STAR Change a Light Pledge by November 1, 2006. To give you a sense of how the energy and environmental savings can add up, individuals who pledged to change a light in 2005 alone have the potential to save more than \$2 million in energy costs and prevent more than 33 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions!

Because lighting accounts for nearly 20 percent of the average home's electric bill, changing to more efficient options not only makes a dent in the amount of fossil fuels our local power plant must burn to generate electricity, but also helps reduce our electric bills at home. Over the life of a single compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL), you can save an average of \$30 or more in electricity costs while preventing more than 450 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions. And, every CFL uses at least 2/3 less energy than a standard incandescent and lasts as much as 10 times longer.

This October 4<sup>th</sup> will mark the second annual ENERGY STAR Change a Light Day, and hundreds of organizations like ours will announce their pledge progress at that time. Please join us now in taking the pledge. It's a simple commitment that will go a long way to assure that the energy resources we rely on and the environment we live in are preserved for generations to come. Go to [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) and help demonstrate that we are a significant part of this vital national movement.

