

## **The Little Change Designed To Add Up To Big Savings**

Did you know that regular incandescent light bulbs are becoming obsolete? You may have heard about an upcoming "ban" on general purpose incandescent light bulbs. The "ban" is actually part of a broad energy efficiency initiative signed into law in 2007. The federal Energy Independence and Security Act raises standards for light bulbs by requiring a 30 percent increase in energy efficiency in light production. Most incandescent light bulbs, using technology developed more than 100 years ago, won't meet the new standard. The law aims to save energy and lower the nation's carbon emissions, while prodding manufacturers to develop more efficient bulbs.

The law goes into effect in California in 2011 and will be phased in throughout the rest of the country from 2012 to 2014. The law also addresses energy efficiency in many other areas, such as household appliances, transportation, and building.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, lighting accounts for about 25 percent of total electricity consumption in the U.S., costing consumers about \$40 billion annually. Since fossil fuels are often burned at power plants to generate electricity, a reduction in energy use should lead to a reduction in carbon emissions.

Several incandescent bulb types have no energy efficient equivalent, so those lights will still be widely available, for instance, three-way light bulbs, 40-watt appliance bulbs, and other specialty bulbs. If a more efficient incandescent bulb is developed, the bulb could be sold under the new law. Energy efficient light bulbs currently on the market are compact fluorescent, halogen, and LEDs.

To read the full text of the legislation, go to [www.govtrack.us](http://www.govtrack.us).