

# Schools to sell CFLs, raise money

Continental Divide Electric Co-op has launched "Project CFL," a fundraiser program designed to help service-area students raise money and save consumers money on their electric bills.

Throughout the month of October, participating school students will sell Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs for \$3.50, which is in line with area retail cost.


That dollar goes directly to the school, class or school-related club/team for which that student is raising money. But that's not all. Continental Divide will match that dollar, so the school actually makes \$2 on every bulb sold.

Consumers, meanwhile, can reap huge long-term savings on their electric bills by switching out their traditional incandescent bulbs with CFLs. For example, a single 14-watt CFL used in place of a traditional 60-watt incandescent will save you about \$30 throughout the life of the CFL. Switch out the five most used bulbs in your house and that adds up to \$150 in long-term energy savings!

And, that doesn't include the money you will save by having to buy fewer light bulbs in the future. (Not only do CFLs use as much as 75 percent less electricity, they are proven to last at least 10 times longer than incandescents.)

**Brighten Our Communities**

This fundraiser is your electric co-op's way of participating in the ENERGY STAR® Change A Light campaign, a national effort to make people aware of the economic and environmental importance of CFLs.



- Uses 75 percent less energy
- Lasts 10 times longer
- Saves about \$30 on your electric bill throughout bulb's life
- Provides the same amount of light as traditional bulbs
- Your purchase raises \$\$\$ for participating schools!

**With Energy Efficient Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs**

Your \$3.50 CFL purchase helps \_\_\_\_\_ earn money.

Here's how:

- For every 14-watt CFL sold, \$1 is donated to the school. (The remaining \$2.50 goes toward the co-op's cost of bulbs, sales tax and shipping.)
- Continental Divide Electric Co-op will match every \$1 raised by sales. So schools actually make \$2 on each bulb sold!
- The decrease in kilowatt hours of energy consumed also lowers the co-op's demand costs for power, which ultimately lowers everyone's bills!
- Everyone benefits!

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. A Trichstone Energy Cooperative

The projected savings on your electric bills is based on CDEC's general service rate of 6.5-cents per kilowatt hour. Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs are simply more energy efficient.

The bulbs students will sell are general purpose and can be used in just about any lamp or light fixture.

The fundraiser is part of "Operation EffCon," the co-op's new advertising and marketing campaign designed to raise awareness about energy efficiency and conservation. It's also part of a national campaign every October called ENERGY STAR "Change a Light, Change the World." The co-op is buying the CFLs from a distributor that makes the bulbs available at wholesale cost during the campaign.

Continental Divide's governing board and management decided to sell CFLs through the schools to allow all its service-area students an equal chance to benefit. It's also the best way to penetrate our consumer base with about 50 schools in the service area.

We are not making any profit, besides we are a non-profit utility. What we get, and what consumers get out of it, are the cost-savings associated with the projected decrease in kilowatt hours of energy consumed, which ultimately lowers the co-op's demand costs for power. So why not pay now, and save later.

**Brighten Our Communities Order Form**

To verify the authenticity of this fundraiser, call Xxx XXXXXX at xxx-xxxx.

• Your name.  
• A telephone number.  
• Street address where you want your 14-watt DuraBrights delivered.  
• Number of bulbs you want to order.

**A contact for the co-op's fundraiser will be listed on the order form, if you have questions about CFLs, or to confirm the program's legitimacy.**

## Tri-State cuts "green power" cost in half

In September, Tri-State's governing board approved a 50 percent reduction in the premium it charges consumers for renewable energy, effective Jan 1, 2007. The monthly charge is now \$1.25 per 100 kilowatt-hour block – down from \$2.50 per month.

Driving the decision to lower the renewable energy premium was a 20 percent increase in the number of green power kilowatt-hours Tri-State sold in 2005. With the cut, Tri-State hopes to encourage even more interest.

For more information, contact CDEC's Donna Venable at 285-6656.

## Tri-State approves rate increase

Beginning next year, the co-op's average consumer (those who use about 500 kilowatt-hours monthly) will pay about \$3 more per month for electricity.

The increase is based on Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association's anticipated power costs for 2007, which are expected to be nearly \$247 million (up from \$204 million this year).

"Until we get some new baseload generating facilities developed, we're going to have to buy expensive power on the open market..." Tri State's Executive Vice President/General Manager J.M. Shafer said in announcing the new rate.

It could be several years before Tri-State is able to generate enough wholesale power for all of its members. Until then, Tri-State members in New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska will likely face annual rate increases to pay for the more costly open-market power, as well as Tri-State's construction of new generation and transmission facilities.

"Once these other plants are built, they will help stabilize future rates. We will all benefit in the long run," Continental Divide Electric General Manager Richard Shirley said.

Tri-State's governing board voted in September to raise the average wholesale rate by 11.8 percent for Continental Divide and 43 other co-ops that buy power from Tri-State.

## Youth benefit from Bi-County Fair

CDEC contributed thousands of dollars to support local 4H club youth at this year's Bi-County Fair. The youth who benefited were:

- Mercedes Thompson, Bouzhetto
- Austin Enoah, Bouzhetto
- Mickelle Lantana, Double Spur
- Jamie Tracey, Tohatchi
- Alexandria Carlisle, Lil' Rascals



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