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Asbestos/Lead
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Soils
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Emergency
Response

Remediation
Restoration

ENERGY SAVINGS ALERT

Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs)

Switching from tradition, incandescent light bulbs to CFLs is an effective, simple way of going green. These "spiral shaped" CFLs use up to 75% less electricity and last 8-15 times longer. CFLs lamps typically have a life span of 6000-15000 hours where as, incandescent lamps have a life span of 750-1000 hours. Hence, CFLs cost more upfront (\$.55cents vs. \$3.00), but provide a quick return on your investment.

EPA ENERGY STAR FACT: If every home in America replaced just one incandescent light bulb with an Energy Star CFL, annually this change would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes, save more than 600 million dollars and prevent the release of greenhouse gas emissions equal to that of about 800,000 cars.

Additional cost savings from CFLs is due to the fact that incandescent lights are very inefficient whereby roughly 10% of the energy is used for lighting and 90% is lost to heat. This added heat to the interior space must be removed by air conditioning.

Better yet, manufacturers producing Energy Star CFLs are required to offer at least a **2-year limited warranty** (covering manufacturing defects) for CFLs used at home. Save your receipt to document your date of purchase. If your CFL burns out before it should, look at the CFL base to find the manufacturers name. Contact the manufacturer at their website to find out about a refund or replacement.

Mercury Disposal Issues: CFLs contain on average 4-5 milligrams of mercury within the glass tube. California banned the disposal of CFLs in household waste in 2006. The EPA recommends CFLs be recycled. Home Depot, Lowes, Ikea and other household retailers have set up recycling bins for this purpose.

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WIN-WIN: Each one of us at home and work must do our parts to help the environment. AET has replaced the incandescent lights in our office with CFLs. We will monitor our electric bills and report back in a future newsletter on our monthly cost savings.

