



# Reduce Your School's Carbon Footprint with these ENERGY STAR® Activities to Improve Energy Efficiency



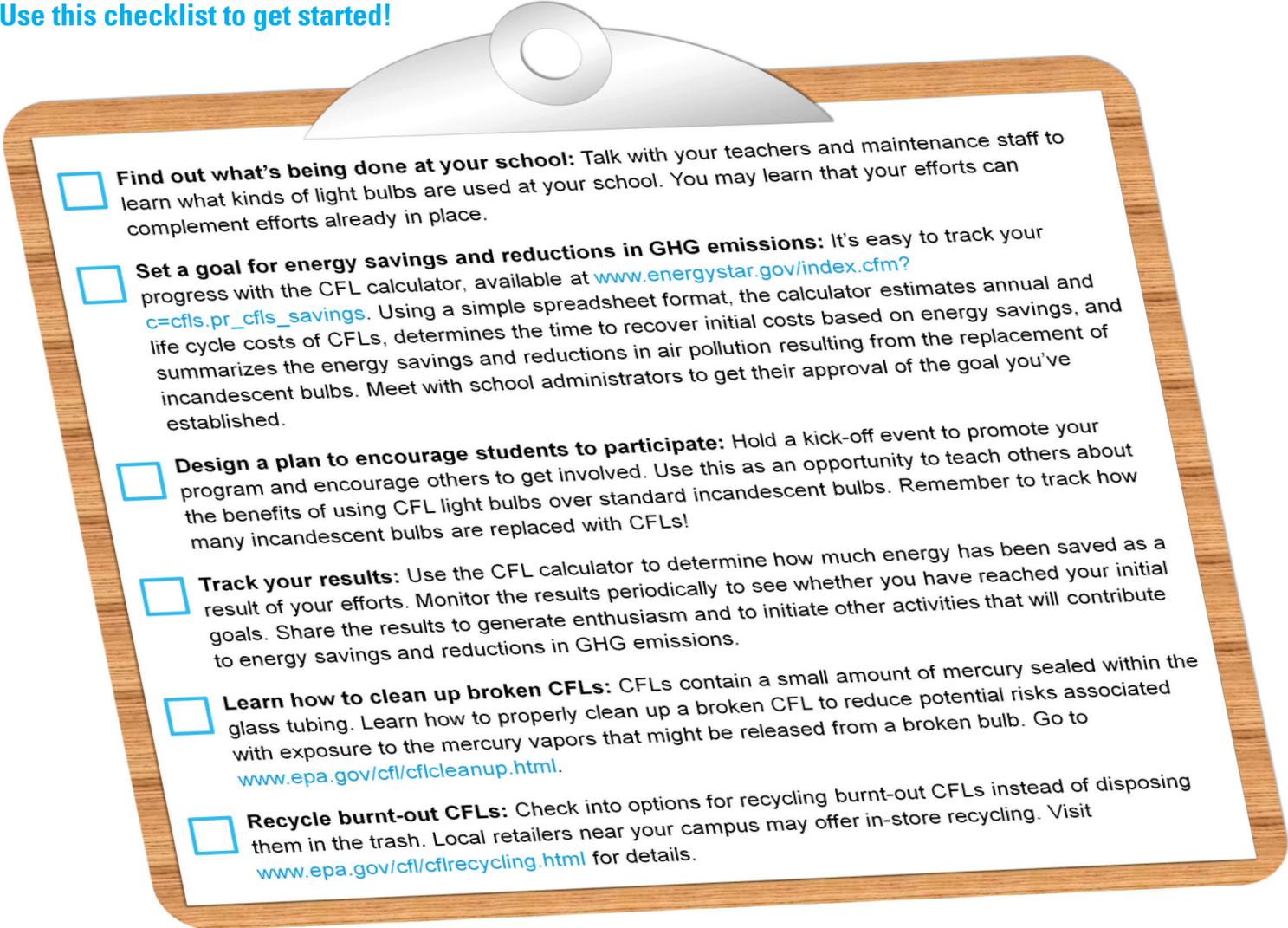
## ENERGY STAR Light Bulb Changeout Project

Switching your school's light bulbs from incandescent to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) is one of the easiest ways to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Although types of lighting can vary in school buildings, look for opportunities in your school to switch to CFLs and encourage students, faculty, staff members, and parents to use CFLs in their homes. CFLs can last up to 10 times longer than standard incandescent light bulbs and use approximately 75 percent less energy.

### Other CFL facts:

- One ENERGY STAR qualified CFL prevents 570 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions over its lifetime, the equivalent of preventing 270 pounds of coal from being burned.
- Replacing just one regular light bulb in every American home with an ENERGY STAR qualified CFL would save enough energy to light 3 million homes for one year, save \$600 million in annual energy costs, and prevent GHG emissions for one year equivalent to approximately 800,000 cars.

### Use this checklist to get started!

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- Find out what's being done at your school:** Talk with your teachers and maintenance staff to learn what kinds of light bulbs are used at your school. You may learn that your efforts can complement efforts already in place.
  - Set a goal for energy savings and reductions in GHG emissions:** It's easy to track your progress with the CFL calculator, available at [www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=cfls.pr\\_cfls\\_savings](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=cfls.pr_cfls_savings). Using a simple spreadsheet format, the calculator estimates annual and life cycle costs of CFLs, determines the time to recover initial costs based on energy savings, and summarizes the energy savings and reductions in air pollution resulting from the replacement of incandescent bulbs. Meet with school administrators to get their approval of the goal you've established.
  - Design a plan to encourage students to participate:** Hold a kick-off event to promote your program and encourage others to get involved. Use this as an opportunity to teach others about the benefits of using CFL light bulbs over standard incandescent bulbs. Remember to track how many incandescent bulbs are replaced with CFLs!
  - Track your results:** Use the CFL calculator to determine how much energy has been saved as a result of your efforts. Monitor the results periodically to see whether you have reached your initial goals. Share the results to generate enthusiasm and to initiate other activities that will contribute to energy savings and reductions in GHG emissions.
  - Learn how to clean up broken CFLs:** CFLs contain a small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing. Learn how to properly clean up a broken CFL to reduce potential risks associated with exposure to the mercury vapors that might be released from a broken bulb. Go to [www.epa.gov/cfl/cflcleanup.html](http://www.epa.gov/cfl/cflcleanup.html).
  - Recycle burnt-out CFLs:** Check into options for recycling burnt-out CFLs instead of disposing them in the trash. Local retailers near your campus may offer in-store recycling. Visit [www.epa.gov/cfl/cflrecycling.html](http://www.epa.gov/cfl/cflrecycling.html) for details.