



## Governor's Energy Office

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **“CHANGE A LIGHT SCHOOL CONTEST” CHALLENGES SCHOOLS TO REDUCE ENERGY USE, POLLUTION AND SAVE MONEY**

DENVER– The Governor’s Energy Office (GEO), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Colorado Environmental Film Festival, the Colorado State Forest Service’s Project Learning Tree program, and the Ricks Center for Gifted Children announce the “Change a Light School Contest” from September 15 through October 15. The goal of the contest is to engage school children on how the simple act of changing an incandescent light bulb to a compact fluorescent light (CFL) can save energy, money, and reduce pollution.

Students and schools can pledge to replace at least one light bulb in their home with one that has earned the ENERGY STAR label. Students can pledge to change a light or they can send in the proof of purchases from CFLs purchased for the home. The schools with the highest overall participation rate will be announced as winners on Thursday, November 1, at the Colorado Environmental Film Festival.

“Today is the start of the national ‘Pollution Prevention Week’ and we want Colorado schools to participate in this campaign focusing on ways to use and pollute less,” said Tom Plant, director of GEO. “Easy steps like changing to CFLs make a huge difference in our energy usage and remind us to be more conscientious in all our energy consumption.”

ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs use 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs and last six to 10 times longer. CFLs save energy and money, and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change. If every home in America replaced just one incandescent light bulb with a CFL, in one year it would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of more than 800,000 cars. Protect the environment of today and tomorrow - start by changing a light!

This contest is part of the national ENERGY STAR Change a Light Campaign to encourage every American to help change the world, one light bulb- one energy-saving step –at a time.

For more information:

- Change a Light School Contest: <http://www.epa.gov/region8/ee/ChangeaLightContest.html>
- Governor’s Energy Office: [www.colorado.gov/energy](http://www.colorado.gov/energy)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)
- Colorado Environmental Film Festival: [www. http://www.ceff.net](http://www.ceff.net)
- Colorado State Forest Service’s Project Learning Tree Program: <http://csfs.colostate.edu/plt.htm>
- Ricks Center for Gifted Children: [www.du.edu/ricks](http://www.du.edu/ricks)

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