



Montgomery Township Joins Energy Star Campaign

Oct 9, 2008

200 residents pledged to change 5 light bulbs to Energy-Efficient Lighting

Montgomery township has joined the national ENERGY STAR(r) "Change a Light, Change the World" campaign, a growing community of businesses, schools, non-profit organizations, etc. who have made a firm commitment to help change the world, one light - one energy-saving step - at a time.

So far 200 residents have made the pledge to change five light bulbs to ones that have the government's ENERGY STAR label. These pledges are predicted to save \$29,000 in energy costs and prevent 464,000 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions.

Lighting accounts for about 20 percent of the typical home's electricity use. Replacing standard lights typically left on longest at home with energy-efficient options that use 75% less energy is a significant way to cut energy costs while also preventing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.

PSE&G donated 200 CFL light bulbs to Montgomery Township citizens that pledged to change five. Pledges were received at the Montgomery Earth day fair and the Montgomery Farmers market by the Montgomery Sustainability Steering Committee. Residents were educated on the proper disposal of CFL light bulbs (Home Depot recycles for residents even if they weren't bought there) and advances in bulbs (ENERGY STAR dimmable recessed lighting/flood light bulb are now available and get \$30 in Energy Savings for just one bulb). These light bulbs are not meant for areas that the lights are turned on/off often such as closets, bathrooms) and are available at any hardware/home improvement store.

Montgomery Sustainability is also working with NJ Clean Energy partner HelpLightNJ to give Seniors and the Food Pantry families \$30 worth of CFL bulbs - that's \$400 worth of energy savings - FREE. HelpLightNJ, a group of Perth Amboy high school students doing their part in helping the environment, will do an educational talk at the Senior Center this fall. For more information, contact Denise Crowley, Montgomery Senior Center, 609-466-0846.

Montgomery Sustainability, the group that is leading this drive, is a citizens group formed in 2007, led by a member of the Environmental Commission but has a broader membership than the Environmental Commission.

Some of the other projects that Montgomery Sustainability is working on are; increasing recycling, working with schools and township to increase sustainability and a carbon inventory of the township to serve as a benchmark for reducing greenhouse gases. For those interested in working on making Montgomery more Sustainable, contact kimgiles@hotmail.com

You can be part of this movement by pledging to Change a Light. Pledges are tallied by location, so be sure to select Montgomery Township as the source that referred you and encourage your neighbors and friends to pledge too.

The next seven residents to make the pledge will receive a free energy saving light bulb
www.montgomery.nj.us