

### **Green Tip:**

Heads up! 2023 is bringing about a number of changes to the light bulbs being sold in the US, so be prepared! Two issues are driving these changes – energy efficiency, and reducing the use of mercury in lamps.

Starting in June 2023, all remaining incandescent and halogen light bulbs will be off the shelves in the United States. This is due to the latest phase-in of lighting efficiency standards set out by the 2007 Energy Independence & Security Act.

Simultaneously, there is a global effort to eliminate bulbs containing mercury. The European Union and several US states are banning the sale of fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) this year. Specifically, the states of Vermont, California, and Maine are banning the sale of mercury-based bulbs. In Vermont that begins this month, January 2023. In California it begins in 2024.

These regulations mostly cover the use of “General Service Lamps” – the most commonly used bulbs. Bulbs with a screw-in base (A-type and spots/floods) or bi-pin fluorescent tubes. Specialty bulbs used for appliances, machines, or integrated light fixtures may or may not be covered by this ban. Most of these bulbs have LED replacements on the market already.

High-Intensity Discharge (HID) bulbs are currently not covered in this phase. But that will likely change in the coming years. These include Mercury vapor, Metal Halide, and High Pressure Sodium (HPS) lamps typically used in outdoor fixtures like floodlights, yard lights, parking lots, stadiums, gymnasiums, etc.

So now is the time to change the remaining bulbs in your home, business, etc to LED. If you need help finding replacements, you can always talk to Steve Jones at church about your options.

ALWAYS be sure to recycle your old fluorescent and CFL bulbs properly!

For more information, check these websites:

Restrictions on Mercury Bulbs

<https://insights.regencylighting.com/state-light-bulb-bans>

Restrictions on Incandescent & Halogen Bulbs

<https://inside.lighting/news/22-04/new-energy-standards-target-non-led-lamps>