

Electricity Volume 218 January 25, 2011

Compact Florescent Bulbs

After spending \$548 million to subsidize compact florescent bulbs, California utilities are finding that the light source that once seemed so promising is not returning the expected benefits.

The spiral-shaped bulbs were part of the state's plan to reduce power production by introducing energy-efficient devices to end users. Since the United Nations estimates 8 percent of greenhouse gas emissions are linked to lighting, the newer bulbs, which offer 75 percent energy savings over traditional incandescent models, seemed like a great option.

When Pacific Gas & Electric Corp. created its 2006-2008 incentive program, however, it estimated the average bulb lifetime would be about 9.4 years. Now officials are finding that figure might be closer to 6.3 years, a significant cut in the energy savings made possible by installing the bulbs.

Researchers for the California Public Utilities Commission have suggested that companies like PG&E should make good on their energy savings promises regardless of product shortcomings.

Utilities were expecting a certain return on their multimillion-dollar investment, but sales figures were inflated when customers purchased cheap subsidized bulbs for \$1.30, as opposed to \$4 unsubsidized bulbs, to save for future use.

After conducting evaluations and field studies, state utility regulators found it was difficult to assess energy savings. They were also faced with the challenge of rewarding -- but not overly rewarding -- companies that offered promotions to customers. Since California's program aimed to compensate utilities only for energy savings they directly cause, it has been difficult to distinguish their effect on customers who might have purchased the bulbs even without the subsidy.

"We're not only trying to measure the technical side, but determine how much of a difference utilities have made in transforming the market," said Peter Miller, senior scientist at the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group that supports the incentives.

Researchers for the utilities commission plan to overhaul future incentive programs in an effort to evaluate utilities' success based on their technology installation rates instead of direct energy savings

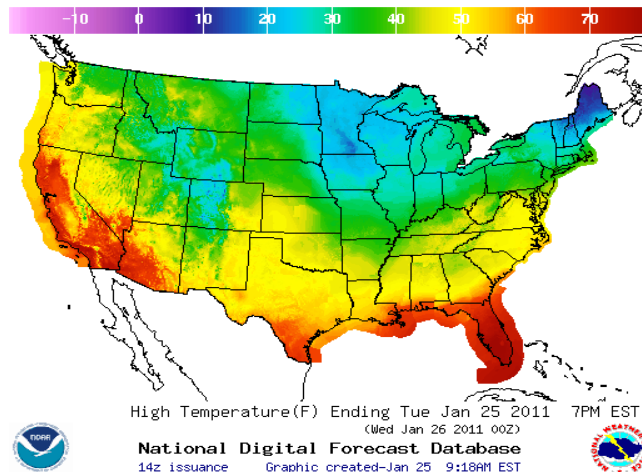
Electricity Pricing Areas – On Peak - Month – Feb 2011

	Jan 25, 2011	Per kWh
Cinergy	Hub Peak Swap Monthly	\$.04150
PJM Hub	Electricity Monthly	\$.06073
PJM	No. Illinois Peak LMP	\$.04128
PJM	Western Peak LMP	\$.06083

ComEd Average Day Ahead LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
Feb 1 –Feb 28, 2010	\$.03984
Mar 1 –Mar 31	\$.03247
Apr 1 – Apr 30	\$.02911
May 1- May 31	\$.03389
Jun 1- Jun 30	\$.04184
Jul 1 - Jul 31	\$.04741
Aug 1 –Aug 31	\$.04628
Sep 1 - Sep 30	\$.02934
Oct 1 - Oct 31	\$.02702
Nov 1 - Nov 30	\$.02778
Dec 1 – Dec 31	\$.03545
Jan 1 through Jan 24	\$.03921

Weather - Tue: Overcast. High 28F. Winds WSW at 5 to 10 mph. **Wed:** Mostly cloudy. High 27F. Winds NW at 5 to 10 mph. **Thu:** Snow showers at times. Highs in the upper 20s and lows in the mid 20s. **Fri:** A few snow showers. Highs in the low 30s and lows in the upper 20s. **Sat:** Cloudy with flurries. Highs in the low 30s and lows in the upper teens



Extended Temperature Forecast: Chicago Area

Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
20 - 28	19 - 27	25- 27	29 - 32	17 - 30