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## **ENERGY SAVING LIGHT BULBS ARE A BRIGHT IDEA**

If all Leeds households switched to energy saving light bulbs it would save £13 million each year according to new research.

Leeds City Council's Fuelsavers Team is supporting the Energy Saving Trust to encourage more people to switch their traditional bulbs to energy saving ones – a move which will save money and the environment.

New research carried out by the Energy Saving Trust shows that although most people think energy saving light bulbs are just as good as traditional ones only half of households use them - and those that do, only fit them in a small number of rooms.

Energy saving light bulbs can last around ten times longer than ordinary light bulbs and use only 20% of the electricity but give the same light output as other bulbs. They typically save around £60 over the life of each bulb. If all Leeds households replaced all their traditional bulbs with energy saving ones it could prevent 47,800 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) a year from being added to the world's atmosphere and would also save enough electricity to power over 39,000 homes every year.

### **Cllr Steve Smith, executive board member for energy efficiency, said:**

“Saving energy isn't just about saving the planet, people can actually save themselves a lot of money. Many people think that energy saving bulbs are too expensive when in reality they can be purchased for less than 50 pence each in a number of retail outlets and they are also available in a variety of shapes and brightness.

“Of course using energy efficient light bulbs is just one way of reducing your home's carbon emissions, simple measures such as loft insulation, cavity wall insulation or fitting an energy efficient boiler can have a big difference on the amount of wasted

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energy and will save money on fuel bills as well. With the average home energy bill totalling £1,100 a year, there has never been such a great incentive to save energy”.

**Leeds City Council’s Fuelsavers Team** provides free, impartial and locally relevant advice on saving energy in the home. The Team is also host to the Leeds, Bradford and Hull Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre and can be contacted on Freephone 0800 512 012.

Fuelsavers offers:

- Home energy checks to help you identify improvements that can be made to heating, domestic hot water systems, controls and insulation in your home.
- Energy grant advice.
- Heating and insulation up-grade to those with a medical need.
- Renewables advice and grant signposting.
- Advice surgeries on a drop-in and appointment basis.
- Talks and training to groups

**ENDS**

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