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Contact: Andrea Travers
Power Smart Manager
Phone: (604) 623-3964

Power Smart installs free energy saving compact fluorescent light bulbs

VANCOUVER – The Power Smart Youth Team is installing free energy saving compact fluorescent lights bulbs (CFLs) in subsidized, seniors and coop housing throughout Vancouver. Today Power Smart representatives replaced 150 incandescent light bulbs with CFLs in the Manhattan Co-op hallways, as these lights offer the greatest potential for energy savings being illuminated 24 hours a day.

"As a result of this light bulb exchange, the Manhattan Co-op will save over \$2,000 annually in energy costs," said Bev Van Ruyven, Senior Vice-President Distribution. "This initiative is an exciting opportunity for BC Hydro to work with managers of subsidized, seniors and co-op housing to make immediate improvements to energy efficiency in their buildings."

"This program enables customers to gain a better understanding of CFLs and their benefits, and encourages the installation of energy saving technology in other applications," explains Joanne McRae, Power Smart Program Manager. "It assists us in educating about conservation throughout the province and reducing overall energy use."

Replacing 3000 incandescent bulbs with CFLs will result in \$75,000 in energy savings, or approximately 1-gigawatt hour. This is enough electricity to power one hundred homes for a year.

The Manhattan, a building downtown on Robson and Thurlow streets, was doomed to become a parking lot or one-storey commercial development. The tenants in the building banded together and formed the Manhattan Co-operating Housing Association in 1982. Twenty years later, the building has earned heritage designation and offers 44 renovated suites to families, singles and seniors.

Power Smart Lighting Facts:

- Lighting accounts for, on average, 15% of the electricity consumption in a home
- CFLs use 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs
- CFLs last up to 8 times longer than standard bulbs and produce the same amount of light
- A 15-watt CFL will produce the same amount of light as a 60-watt incandescent bulb
- CFLs are available in a variety of shapes and sizes to fit a variety of light fixtures
- To maximize savings, use CFLs in places where lights are on for long periods of time, such as, stairwells, hallways and porches, also in hard-to-reach places because they last much longer
- Some CFLs can be used on dimmer switches, timers or photocells - check the manufacturers' label to ensure compatibility

For more information on Power Smart, visit - www.bchydro.com/powersmart