



## Rebates for Energy Efficiency

Have you taken advantage of the rebates available from PG&E for energy efficiency yet? If you haven't, you're not only wasting energy, you're missing out on loads of incentives available for some really great energy investments.

To get a significant break on lighting products, look for the PG&E sticker on the package; this rebate is instant because PG&E has already lowered the price of the item. Lighting products with rebates include:

Compact Fluorescent Lamps (spiral, selected covered reflector lamps and dimmables)  
Fluorescent Interior Hardwired Fixtures  
Fluorescent Exterior Hardwired Fixtures (such as selected covered reflector lamps)  
Fluorescent Torchieres  
LED Nightlights  
LED Holiday Light Strings

You can find these all over. Last week I found a two-pack of 23 watt dimmable fluorescent lamps at Grocery Outlet for \$0.99. It's not easy to find dimmable fluorescents, much less at this price, so I bought several packages just to try them out. As is usually the case with this manufacturer, ULA, they weren't the highest quality lamps. The amount of light given off by the different lamps varied a little bit, and it took a while for the flicker to stop after dimming them way down but, hey, for the price I couldn't resist.

Occasionally people will express concern about the mercury in fluorescent bulbs, and rightly so. They should not be thrown away because they contain mercury, a toxic substance. It's been illegal to put them in your garbage for the last two years, but the McCourtney Road landfill will recycle them along with other toxic waste like thermostats, household batteries, electronics, etc (see <http://www.mynevadacounty.com/iwm/> for more information).

Other efficiency items that qualify for a rebate include:

- Duct sealing; \$600 (up to 20% of your heated and cooled air can be lost through leaky ducts).
- High efficiency natural gas furnace; \$300 (up to 15% savings relative to an older unit)
- Variable speed motor for your HVAC system; \$50 (saves on fan energy)
- Whole house fan; \$100 (save up to 90% over air conditioning by night ventilating)
- Swimming pool pump; \$100 (variable speed pump saves about \$477/year)
- High efficiency clothes washer; \$75 (saves up to \$40 and 7,000 gal water per year)
- High efficiency dish washer; \$50 (saves up to \$20 per year)
- Energy star room air conditioner; \$50 (saves up to \$18 per year)

- Energy efficient natural gas water heater; \$30 (saves up to \$13 per year)
- Cool roofs; up to \$0.20 per square foot (savings highest with less roof insulation)
- Attic and wall insulation; up to \$0.15 per square foot
- Recycle your old refrigerator, freezer or room air conditioner; up to \$35
- Solar electric systems; up to \$1.90 per watt

Lastly, if you're in the market for a new computer pick one up with an efficient power supply; it will have the PG&E sticker, like for lighting products, so the price of the item includes the rebate.

These rebates won't last forever, so take advantage of them while you can! For more information go to <http://www.pge.com>, click on "For My Home" and then "Save With Rebates"!

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