Sustainable Success Stories

Million Lights Campaign

Goal:
The city of Kansas City, Mo., Kansas City Power and Light (KCP&L) and others launched the Million Lights Campaign to increase energy efficiency, save money and reduce the risks of global climate change.

Project Description:
The Million Lights Campaign was launched in October 2006. This project — the result of a collaboration between the city of Kansas City, KCP&L and others — encouraged Kansas City residents to switch light fixtures or bulbs to those that have earned the ENERGY STAR label. This label designates products that meet strict energy efficiency criteria set by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

In October 2007, the Million Lights Campaign had surpassed its goal of placing one million ENERGY STAR light bulbs in homes and businesses in Kansas City. Additionally, the city’s Home Weatherization Program has required installation of compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) in all weatherized homes.

Community Benefits and Lessons Learned:
As of March 2008, 1,603,680 CFLs had been purchased or distributed. More than 23,000 CFLs have been distributed to low-income, elderly and disabled households.

Lighting accounts for nearly 20 percent of the average home’s electric bill. ENERGY STAR-qualified CFLs use at least 75 percent less energy than standard bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. Households in Kansas City have acted by changing more than one million bulbs. Over the life of the CFLs, households are saving a combined total of $34.3 million in energy costs and preventing more than 378,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions, equivalent to the emissions from 13,250 cars.

Funding Sources and Partnerships:
KCP&L
Wal-Mart
Burns & McDonnell
Power Partners (NECA and IBEW)
UMKC

Contact:
City of Kansas City, Mo.
324 E. 11th St., Ste. 1606
Kansas City, Mo. 64106
(816) 513-3459