

For Immediate Release
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Minnesota SEE Districts Partner with ENERGY STAR to Change a Light and Change the World

September 27, 2005, White Bear Lake, MN – Did you know that the energy you use in your home can be responsible for twice the greenhouse gas emissions as your car? That's because most electricity is generated by burning fossil fuels, which releases greenhouse gases into our air. If you're like most people, you want to make a difference...but don't know where to start.

Here's a bright idea. Changing the world takes less time and energy than you might think. In fact, it's as simple as changing a light.

The Schools for Energy Efficiency (SEE) Program along with utility companies, energy efficiency organizations, retailers, manufacturers, and consumers across the country, have joined the ENERGY STAR® *Change a Light, Change the World Day* campaign on Wednesday, October 5th -- a national challenge to help Americans change the world one light, one step, at a time.



You typically spend more to light your home than you do to operate your refrigerator all year long. If you're still using traditional incandescent bulbs and inefficient fixtures, you're wasting a lot of energy and money—and creating a lot of unnecessary pollution.

Switching to energy-efficient lighting can save you time, energy and money—and help the environment. These products last up to ten times longer, which can mean more than seven years between bulb changes. And since they also use at least two-thirds less energy, you'll save money on your utility bills.

Try simply changing out the five lights you use most to ENERGY STAR qualified ones. You'll be doing your part to reduce the emissions that cause global warming, and if all of our homes did it, we'd prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from more than 8 million cars.

School districts participating in the SEE Program in the Twin Cities and outlying areas will help spread the word about this campaign to staff, students, and parents in their communities. This national effort ties in well with what SEE school districts are already accomplishing within their school facilities.

The Schools for Energy Efficiency (SEE) Program is a partnership designed to help schools with ideas and methods to save energy and energy-related expenses. Focusing on low and no cost strategies, schools follow a systemized plan promoting efficient facility operations and behavior modifications through energy awareness. Nearly 250 schools in Minnesota are working to save energy in support of education through this program and have avoided \$2 million dollars in utility expenses so far. In addition, five schools have received an ENERGY STAR Label ranking their facility in the top 25% in the nation for energy efficiency. Through over 25 years experience in

working with schools, Hallberg Engineering, Inc. of White Bear Lake, MN, created the SEE Program. For more information visit www.seeprograms.com.

The ENERGY STAR Change a Light, Change the World campaign is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy. For information, go to www.energystar.gov/changealight.