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EFFICIENCY VERMONT PROVIDES VERMONT FOODBANK WITH 15,000 CFL BULBS
Hunger Action Month Distribution Means More Money Available for Food

Burlington, VT; September 24, 2009 – Efficiency Vermont is providing 15,000 60-, 75- and 100-watt equivalent compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs to the Vermont Foodbank, the state’s largest hunger-relief organization. The bulbs will be distributed to needy Vermonters through the Foodbank’s network of 270 sites located in all 14 counties of the state.

The CFL distribution program kicks off during Hunger Action Month, a nationwide effort in September to motivate local action to end hunger. In Vermont, the number of families seeking assistance from the Vermont Foodbank has risen 35-40 percent in the last 10 months.

“We’re thrilled to support the Vermont Foodbank in its efforts to fight hunger in Vermont,” said Michael Russom, efficient products manager at Efficiency Vermont. “For every CFL that’s used, needy Vermonters will save money on their energy bills, which gives them more money to buy the food they need.”

Switching just six bulbs from incandescent to CFLs can save up to \$250, and ENERGY STAR®-qualified CFLs use up to 75 percent less energy and can last 6-10 times longer than incandescent bulbs. When any Vermonter saves energy, utilities generally need to buy less energy, so everyone’s electric bills are lower than they would be without energy-efficient practices.

“September is Hunger Action Month, and we’re excited to work with Efficiency Vermont to empower our clients,” said John Sayles, CEO of the Vermont Foodbank. “This partnership reduces energy usage and increases the funds available for purchasing food, moving us a step closer to eradicating hunger in our state.”

The CFL bulbs, manufactured by Greenlite Corporation of Irvine, CA, are available through the Vermont Foodbank’s network of 270 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, senior centers and after-school programs.

The 15,000-CFL distribution project is the latest collaboration between Efficiency Vermont and the Vermont Foodbank. The partnership extends to energy efficiency projects at Foodbank facilities around the state.

At its new southern Vermont warehouse in Brattleboro, the Vermont Foodbank is adding new refrigeration systems that include advanced Freeaire® technology. This new system utilizes temperature sensors linked to a fan controller to bring in fresh – and free – cold air when the outside temperature is below the necessary cooler temperature.

Efficiency Vermont also has completed energy-saving projects with the Vermont Foodbank at its facilities in Barre and Wolcott, helping to make the business more energy efficient.

“Every reduction in the Vermont Foodbank’s operating costs achieved through energy efficiency means that the Vermont Foodbank has more resources to do even more to support the neediest in communities around the state,” said Sheryl Graves, project manager at Efficiency Vermont.

Efficiency Vermont was created by the Vermont Legislature and the Vermont Public Service Board to help all Vermonters reduce energy costs, strengthen the economy, and protect Vermont’s environment. Efficiency Vermont is currently operated by Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC), an independent organization under contract to the Vermont Public Service Board. VEIC is a Vermont-based nonprofit organization founded in 1986. For more information, contact Efficiency Vermont at 888-921-5990 or visit www.encyvermont.com.

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