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(Image attached: LED Holiday Lights)

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See the Light: Saving Money This Holiday Season

Before climbing that ladder to string holiday lights this year, homeowners and business owners may want to consider installing energy-saving solutions that also save money. Replacing traditional incandescent lights with light emitting diode (LED) holiday lighting can result in significant energy savings while also contributing to the energy efficiency of the community.

The average operating cost of 500 feet of mini incandescent holiday lights is \$140 for the season, which compares to about \$10 for mini LEDs. Meanwhile, larger “C7” holiday bulbs of the same length costs about \$550, which compares to about \$20 for C7 LED bulbs.

“The other good news is that LED holiday lights are now comparatively priced with traditional incandescent,” said Arthur Zaczkiwicz, energy savings educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County. “Considering that 12 percent of a homeowner’s yearly energy bill goes toward lighting, using LEDs to save money just makes sense.”

Additionally, LED holiday lights are virtually indestructible and will last longer than standard holiday lighting strings while also reducing the risk of fire in your home. LED holiday lights will stay lit if a single bulb burns out. Imagine never having to search for burnt out bulbs again! LED holiday lights are constructed from solid-state chips that convert electricity into light without using a filament or glass bulb. LED candles are another holiday lighting option, emulating the flicker of a real candle, but without the problems created by a real flame. Smoke, dripping wax and fire hazard are also eliminated because there is no actual flame.

To learn more about ways to save energy, contact Arthur Zaczkiwicz (845) 340-3990, ext. 341 or via email at aaz25@cornell.edu.

For more information about Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County’s community programs and events call 845-340-3990 or visit us online at www.cceulster.org or follow us and Ulster County 4-H Youth Development on www.facebook.com.

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Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County (CCEUC) is a 501(c) 3 subordinate government agency of the State of New York under Article 5, 224(b) of the NYS County Laws organization that utilizes research based knowledge through their partnership with Cornell University. This information is disseminated through their on-going community programming in the areas of Agriculture, Horticulture, 4-H Youth Development, Family and Consumer Science and Environmental programs held throughout Ulster County.

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension in Ulster County provides equal program and employment opportunities.