



MAYOR CHRIS BOLLWAGE

CITY OF ELIZABETH PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 24, 2007

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The City of Elizabeth Joins ENERGY STAR® Campaign to Help "Change the World"

Mayor Bollwage encourages residents to Commit to a Simple Switch to Energy-Efficient Lighting

Elizabeth, NJ- 10/22/07-- Mayor Chris Bollwage today announced that City Hall and the Elizabeth Housing Improvement Program (EHIP) has joined the national ENERGY STAR® Change a Light, Change the World campaign. The national initiative includes a growing community of businesses, schools, utilities, non-profit organizations, individuals, and countless others who have made a firm commitment to help change the world, one light — one energy-saving step — at a time.

As part of this program, EHIP plans to encourage all City Hall employees to pledge to replace at least one standard bulb or fixture at home with one that has earned the government's ENERGY STAR label, as an important step to save energy and join the fight against global climate change. Mayor Bollwage will kick off the effort on **October 25, 2007 at 10:00am, in the City Council Chambers**. All employees you sign the pledge will receive a free Energy Star rated light bulb.

"This campaign is just part of our overall commitment to saving our environment," said Mayor Chris Bollwage. "Whether it's changing a light bulb or properly recycling household trash, we all have a duty to help keep our environment healthy and strong. We hope that not only City employees will take the pledge, but that all our residents will take a stand in the fight against global warming."

City officials encourage everyone to make a simple, yet meaningful commitment by taking the online ENERGY STAR Change a Light Pledge. Lighting accounts for about 20 percent of the typical home's electricity use. Replacing standard lights typically left on longest at home with energy-efficient options that use 75% less energy is a significant way to cut energy costs while also preventing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.

"Becoming part of the solution to global climate change takes less time and effort than you might think. In fact, it can start by taking energy-saving steps at home as simple as changing a light," said Wendy Reed of the Environmental Protection Agency. "Organizations like the City of Elizabeth are an important part of the ENERGY STAR Change a Light community who have committed their time to help spread the word about the need to use energy more efficiently at home. We are proud to work with them and with the Americans in every part of the country who have already pledged to change more than 1 million lights collectively."

The ENERGY STAR Change a Light, Change the World campaign is a national call-to-action sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Energy and Department of Housing and Urban Development to encourage Americans to use energy efficiently at home and to start by switching to lighting options that have earned the government's ENERGY STAR label for energy efficiency. If every American home replaced just one light with an ENERGY STAR, every year we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes, more than \$600 million in energy costs, and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars.

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About ENERGY STAR®

ENERGY STAR was introduced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1992 as a voluntary, market-based partnership to reduce air pollution through increased energy efficiency. Today, with assistance from the U.S. Department of Energy, the ENERGY STAR program offers businesses and consumers energy-efficient solutions to save energy and money, and help fight global climate change. More than 8,000 organizations have become ENERGY STAR partners and are committed to improving the energy efficiency of products, homes and businesses. For more information about ENERGY STAR, visit www.energystar.gov or call toll-free 1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937).

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