

Did you know...

..the glowing environmental progress record of the European lamp industry?

ELC member companies account for 95% of lamps produced in the EU. Over the last two decades our companies have striven to improve the environmental performance of their products by developing a range of energy-efficient lamps for the European market. Our achievements include:

The introduction of 'Energy Savers' onto the European market

Energy savers (other wise known as Compact Fluorescent Lamps - CFLs) are an energy efficient alternative to conventional incandescent lamps. They consume up to five times less energy and can last up to fifteen times longer than conventional incandescent lamps. They are now used by both private and professional applications thereby greatly contributing to energy savings in both residential and industrial areas of Europe.

A substantial reduction of mercury in lamps

Of all our lamp ranges, only gas discharge lamps contain mercury. ELC member companies have developed a range of innovative manufacturing techniques and new products in order to drastically reduce the amount of mercury used in gas discharge lamps without compromising light output or life time. In fact, these lamps produce more than six times the amount of light than their less energy efficient equivalents – such as incandescent lamps. Plus they last for many thousands of hours longer.

Minor quantities of mercury are required by the lamp industry to create energy efficient lighting solutions – which through less use of energy provide positive benefits to the environment. ELC member companies are compliant with the RoHS Directive (Restriction of Hazardous Substances) which requires a very low mercury content for fluorescent lamps. We have also been working closely with The European Commission on its "Development of an EU Mercury Strategy". See: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/chemicals/mercury>

Weight reduction in straight fluorescent lamps

- We have developed a range of straight fluorescent lamps with smaller tube diameters. One of the requirements of making fluorescent tubes with smaller tube diameters is the development of fluorescent powders that can produce more light per m². By reducing a 38mm lamp (otherwise known as a T12) to a 16mm (or T5) we can reduce the volume of the lamp by up to 60% ensuring better pre design freedom for fixtures, enhanced light distribution and lower logistics costs.
- A reduction in lamp size also results in a reduction in lamp weight, often by up to 40%. The result: a significant decrease in raw materials such as glass and fluorescent powder producing lighter loads for transport, disposal and recycling.

Improved lamp waste management

■ Over the past two decades we have encouraged and endorsed specific waste legislation in Europe, most recently the WEEE ⁽¹⁾ Directive to promote the separate collection and recycling of used gas discharge lamps. The lamp recycling techniques we promote create secondary material streams, such as glass, ferrous and non-ferrous materials, mercury & fluorescent powder. These can be reused in various ways. The WEEE Directive ensures that these secondary waste material streams are collected and recycled in strict accordance with the waste management provisions set out in the Directive.

Putting energy efficient lighting into practice

ELC members participate in a number of EU energy saving initiatives. Our own **Eco Design Working Group** specifically looks at ways to promote energy efficient lighting solutions wherever appropriate and in a way that satisfies end user needs. The group recently presented a range of 'energy efficient cases' to the European Commission at its third Energy Efficiency in Domestic Appliances & Lighting (EEDAL) conference in Turin in October 2003.

We also support the **European Quality Charter for energy efficient lamps (CFLi)**, an initiative developed by the European Commission and supported by Eurelectric and others to promote efficient lighting in the domestic sector. A voluntary set of criteria has been established by the Commission in collaboration with a number of private and public organisations, including the ELC. The aim is to raise consumer awareness and confidence in environmentally friendly technology and to further enhance the adoption of energy efficient lighting in the EU. The ELC has also been invited to participate in discussions on the future of the CFLi Quality Charter.

The ELC has a dedicated **Energy and Environment working group** bringing together qualified experts from all our member companies to advise policy makers on existing and future measures to promote energy efficient & environmentally

conscious lighting¹. We are currently in the process of implementing (within the specified timeframe):

- The **Energy Performance of Buildings** Directive aimed at reducing energy consumption in buildings.
- The **Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS)** Directive which requires a very low mercury content for fluorescent lamps.
- The **Waste of Electric and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)** Directive - we have developed a blueprint providing efficient solutions for users.

THE MAJOR CHALLENGE...

Stakeholder commitment - the key to energy efficiency in the lighting sector

ELC members promote the use of efficient light sources by designing & promoting energy efficient lamps. But this alone is not enough to ensure that end users make the switch to energy efficient lighting, where up to 99% of the environmental impact is felt during use stage.

We are working with other industry associations to ensure that energy efficient design, production and end compliance is also at the top of their agenda. Without commitment from all related sectors, real progress towards improving the environmental performance of lamps (from design stage, to the manufacturing process through to the promotion and adoption of energy efficient lighting) is difficult to achieve.

Policy makers also have a role to play. Voluntary lamp industry initiatives have proved to be insufficient to convince households, companies, offices and public buildings to make the switch. The only way to convince and encourage end users to seriously examine how they can minimise their energy use by adopting energy efficient lighting alternatives is through a combination of additional measures including incentives, guidelines and legislative initiatives.

¹ www.elcfed.org/documents/let_there_be_light_brochure.pdf

We are committed to finding energy efficient solutions for the lighting sector

Help us to make it happen...

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