Compact Fluorescent Lights…

- Contain a gas (argon and mercury) that produces invisible ultraviolet light (UV) when the gas is excited by electricity. The UV light hits the white phosphor coating inside the fluorescent bulb and the coating changes it into light you can see.
- Don't use heat to create light, so they are far more energy-efficient than regular incandescent bulbs.
- Can save on cooling costs in the summer.
- Use 2/3 less energy than standard light bulbs.
- Contain a very small amount of mercury - an average of 5 milligrams, so they need to be disposed of properly.
- Emit less mercury into the atmosphere… A coal-fired power plant will emit 13.6 milligrams of mercury (Hg) to produce electricity required to use an incandescent light bulb, compared to 3.3 milligrams for a CFL.

**Phosphor: something that glows after exposure to oxygen or energized particles such as electrons*

Incandescent Lights

"normal light bulbs"…

- Create light by heating a filament made of tungsten inside the bulb; the heat makes the filament white-hot, producing the light that you see. Electricity runs through the filament which then turns electrical energy into **heat**. The heat is enough to make the filament white hot, and the "white" part is light. The filament glows because of the heat -- it incandesces.
- Contribute to higher cooling costs in the summer.
- Require more electricity than CFLs.