Multi-state Comparison of CFL Saturation Levels

Kathleen A. Gaffney, KEMA, Oakland CA

Overview

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) have become the mainstay of many energy efficiency programs., and program designers have for years relied on their adoption to help them achieve their ever-increasing energy savcings goals. CFLs are easy to distribute, relatively inexpensive to provide, and after some early quality problems, they have in recent years become a mature technology. They have also become an icon of the energy efficiency efforts in the United States.

The Question

When considering the rationale for continuing to subsidize their purchase (up to and including a full subsidy, that is, giving them away), the question naturally arises — has the market become saturated? Framing that question into a researchable question, and gathering relevant data to answer it, is the scope of this poster.

The Data

This poster presents CFL saturation results for several US states. The results characterize CFL saturation levels at the end of 2008, specifically the average number of CFLs installed per household as well as the average number of CFLs being stored for future use. Where data is available, the poster presents additional information that helps frame the saturation results – for example, time-series assessment of CFL program funding, CFL awareness, etc. These key indicators can help explain differences in the results, such as demographic characteristics and environmental attitudes.

The state-specific results presented in this poster range from those with very mature programs (e.g., California, Pacific Northwest) to those just now launching programs (e.g., Kansas, Pennsylvania, etc.).

The Implications

Findings from studies like this will contribute to the discussion and ultimately the decision about whether public funds should continue to be used to promote this technology.