



## High-Efficiency Exit Signs Tip Sheet

Replacing a traditional incandescent exit sign with a highly efficient LED or LEC exit sign can save businesses more than \$20 per sign a year on electricity costs.

Here are answers to common questions to help you take advantage of them:

### **Q. What are LED and LEC, and how do they work?**

A. LED (light-emitting diode) and LEC (light-emitting crystals) exit signs use highly efficient lights that use less than 12% of the electricity than incandescent exit signs use. And they come with other added benefits: They are typically brighter and easier to read than traditional exit signs. They also last far longer: Lamps in incandescent signs generally last about 3 months, according to the Department of Energy – LED exit signs typically last 10 years or longer.

There are other types of exit signs that require no electricity whatsoever, but these signs come with drawbacks that may not make them ideal for every business.

So-called photoluminescent exit signs – which typically emit green light -- must be exposed to light each day in order to light properly and so must be placed in well-lit areas. “Tritium” exit signs, also typically illuminating green, contain a mildly radioactive form of hydrogen and their lamps fade over time. The signs may also be subject to special disposal rules under local environmental ordinances.

### **Q. How much do LED and LEC signs cost?**

A. Both LED and LEC exit signs generally range anywhere from \$20 to about \$100.

### **Q. How much money can you save?**

A. The signs use far less energy than traditional incandescent signs and can pay for themselves in less than two years. An LEC sign, for instance, costs about 25-cents to run continuously for one year, while LED signs cost about \$4 annually. Compare that with the \$26 it costs to run an incandescent sign each year.

Many electric utility providers offer rebates for replacing old incandescent exit signs with LED or LEC models, shortening the payback time even further. Contact your utility directly or contact Energy Smart for details on your utility’s rebate programs.

***Need help or have questions? Call Energy Smart at (651)292-4653.***