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Dirty Little Secrets of the Greatest Snow On Earth



University of Utah professors Jim Steenburgh and Tom Painter examine the real reasons why Utah powder skiing is so incredible and evaluate the threats posed to Utah snow by climate change, dust and pollution deposition. Given the projections of how quickly winter temperatures and precipitation are likely to change and how much snowmelt will be enhanced—due to dust and soot in the snow, your Wasatch snowpack and its place within global climate change is more complex than you might think.

The Alta Environmental Center and ACE invites you to take an insider's look at the greatest snow on earth Friday, February 19, 6-8pm, at Our Lady of the Snow, FREE. There will be a raffle too!

Your Question Here: How easy is it to quantify cost savings on energy efficient upgrades?

Question courtesy of Douglas: It is simpler than one may think. We can start with the benefits of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) versus incandescent light bulbs. CFLs do not emit excess heat like incandescent bulbs because of simple increased technology, this keeps the CFLs form requiring less wattage (up to 75%) to run and allows CFLs to last up to 10 times longer. Less wattage equates to less electricity needed to light the lamp, which means a smaller electricity bill.

To convert that to cost savings we compare the average cost of a 100-watt incandescent bulb (\$1) and its lifespan (750 hours) to the average cost of the equivalent 27-watt CFL (\$5) and its lifespan (10,000 hours). In this case, one CFL would last 13 times longer than its rival incandescent, a savings of \$8 or return on investment on purchase alone less than a year (based upon a 12 hour/day lighting time). The national average for electricity is 11 cents per kwh, costing \$8.25 to run the 100-watt incandescent bulb to the end of its lifespan (750 hours) versus \$2.25 to run the 27-watt CFL for 750 hours. When you finish the math, it would cost \$120 for 13 incandescent bulbs to match one CFL bulb at \$34.25, which includes the cost of electricity and the purchase of the bulb.

One can take this same strategy of comparing voltage, cost of electricity, run-time/lifespan, initial cost and apply it to any product that has potential energy and cost savings or visit any of these websites that will do the math for you: www.energysavers.gov or www.eia.doe.gov or www.energystar.gov.

What's New?



We now have a well-constructed shelter for Alta Ski Area's glass recycling. It is located on the north side of the buckhorn dumpster, same location as before. When dropping off your department's glass, just as before, stack your full bin on the bottom inside the shed and grab an empty bin from the shelf, and please do not forget to close the door.

Here are some practices you can do to help keep our glass recycling program running smooth:



- 1. Do not let your glass overflow. When your bin is full, grab an empty one and take the full one down.
- 2. Glass only please. Take off caps and lids off bottles or jars and please empty your glass out of cardboard boxes and plastic bags.
- 3. Please empty all liquids and food. This will keep the bins cleaner and odors down.

Lastly, glass pick-up is every Tuesday, 10 a.m. To keep the glass from overflowing, remember to bring your glass to the shed by this time every week. Thank you!

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