



ONE-STOP EFFICIENCY SHOP®

Minnesota fluorescent ban: What commercial building operators need to know



Minnesota is taking steps to reduce hazardous waste, mercury pollution, and carbon emissions by phasing out general-purpose mercury-containing lights through the recently passed Clean Lighting bill. This move aligns Minnesota with several other states that have implemented similar measures. The bill's main goal is to protect Minnesota residents by reducing mercury pollution, a toxin that can contaminate water and air. Businesses will benefit financially in the long term as well. Making the switch to LED lighting will significantly lower electricity and maintenance costs for commercial building operators across the state.

The bill allows commercial building operators to keep and use their existing inventory of fluorescent screw-in bulbs and tubes, but they will not be allowed to purchase new mercury-containing lamps after these dates:

- Starting **January 1, 2025**, the sale, offer for sale, or distribution of screw- or bayonet-based types of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) will be banned.
- Starting **January 1, 2026**, the sale, offer for sale, or distribution of pin-based linear or compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) will be banned.

LEDs have numerous advantages over fluorescents in commercial settings:

- Longer lasting (2–3x)
- Up to 50% less energy use
- Lower maintenance costs
- Improved lighting quality and aesthetics
- Mercury-free
- Rebates and incentives available to help cover upfront costs

Many electric utilities and co-ops in Minnesota provide rebates and guidance for commercial building operators interested in upgrading to LEDs. Xcel Energy commercial customers in Minnesota can access free lighting consulting, project support, and efficiency-based rebates from CEE's One-Stop Efficiency Shop. Starting with a free, onsite consultation, our lighting experts can help you plan lighting retrofit projects, review bids, and navigate the rebate process.

Looking to upgrade your facility to LEDs?

Schedule a free, no obligation lighting consultation today at mncee.org/business or by calling **612-244-2427**