

Free ecobulbs light up homes

TRUST Horizon is lighting up the Eastern Bay with a giveaway that will help households save money on their power bills.

The Ecobulb LED project, co-funded by the Horizon Energy Group and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority, will light up local homes and save \$13 million on their power bills over the next 10 years.

Eastern Bay householders will receive a letter from Trust Horizon this week containing a voucher for five free, latest generation Ecobulb LED energy saving light bulbs.

These ecobulbs last up to 30 years and use up to 90 percent less electricity than the inefficient light bulbs they will replace.

"The average Eastern Bay home could save up to \$940 on their power bills over the next 10 years simply by swapping five of their most frequently used, inefficient light bulbs to Ecobulb LEDs," said Trust Horizon chairman Aaron Milne.

On Saturday, people can take their voucher and redeem it for five free ecobulbs at one of the Whakatane, Kawerau or Opotiki venues listed on the voucher.

There they can select any combination of five ecobulbs, including halogen replacement ecobulbs.

They can also select the world first screw-in retrofit Ecobulb LED downlight.

This downlight reduces heating and cooling costs by sealing the air gaps found in typical incandescent down-



LIGHT UP: Trust Horizon manager Rawinia Kamau, chairman Aaron Milne and Horizon Energy Group chief executive Ajay Anand with some energy saving light bulbs they will be distributing to residents on Saturday.

Photo Troy Baker
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lights, without requiring an electrician to install it.

"If you are not going to be around this Saturday, we encourage you to give your voucher to a neighbour or friend to collect the ecobulbs on your behalf," Mr Milne said.

EECA chief executive Andrew Caseley said LEDs had significant benefits.

"Quality LED lamps last considerably longer than normal incandescent bulbs and use less electricity, so save money in a short period of time.

"Our research shows that most New Zealanders are aware of the advantag-

es of LEDs and keen to get them into their homes, which is also great news for the environment."

Mr Caseley said EECA was supporting the initiative to help all householders get these benefits and to assess the level of interest and uptake of the offer.

"EECA sees a huge advantage to consumers and the country if LEDs became the norm and we're keen to see the shift to this proven energy-saving technology as soon as possible."

Ecobulb LED managing director Chris Mardon said: "Our goal is to save enough electricity to power New Zealand for one year, and we are over

halfway there".

"Our aim is to get the rest of the way to our goal by rolling out this project on a nationwide scale.

"Ultimately we want to replace every single one of the 31 million inefficient light bulbs in New Zealand homes with Ecobulb LEDs.

"This would save New Zealanders \$570 million per year on their power bills, the equivalent of shutting down the Huntly coal-fired power station, and the equivalent of taking all the cars off the road in the wider Canterbury region."