The difference a bulb makes

Just how much difference does choosing a different kind of light bulb make on how much you spend on energy? Here's a quick comparison of key stats about incandescent, compact fluorescent (CFU, and light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs.



	INCANDESCENT	CFL	LED
Brightness	800 lumens	840 lumens	840 lumens
Energy used	60 watts	13 watts	9 watts
Cost per bulb*	\$1.49	\$2.49	\$1.37
Yearly energy cost**	\$7.55	\$1.64	\$1.13
Estimated lifespan	1.8 years (2,000 hours)	11 years (12,000 hours)	13 years (15,000 hours)
Total cost over 10 years	\$83.78	\$18.89	\$12.67

^{*}Prices quoted all come from the same large retailer for comparably sized and style bulbs.

Considering the average home uses about 40 bulbs, the difference for one home over 10 years is more than \$2,800 in cost savings, and more than 22,000 kilowatt hours in energy savings.

^{**}Assumes use of three hours per day at an average public power bundled rate of 11.5 cents per kWh.