

2007, under President George W. Bush.

The first major U.S. federal action announcing and requiring a phase-out of traditional inefficient incandescent light bulbs was the **Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007** (EISA), which Congress passed and President George W. Bush signed into law on December 19, 2007. metaefficient.com

Key details

- The law set technology-neutral efficiency standards requiring common household (“general service”) light bulbs to use about 25% less energy (phased in from 2012–2014). Traditional inefficient incandescents could not meet these standards, so their manufacture and import were effectively phased out. epa.gov
- It explicitly included compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), improved/halogen incandescents, and **light-emitting diode (LED)** lamps among the options that could satisfy the standards. LEDs later became the dominant replacement as costs fell and performance improved. codes.iccsafe.org
- The phase-out of the most common 100-watt, 75-watt, 60-watt, and 40-watt traditional bulbs began in 2012 and was largely complete by 2014. A stronger “backstop” efficiency standard (favoring LEDs in practice) was later delayed under the Trump administration and reinstated under the Biden administration (taking full effect in 2023).

Earlier discussions and proposals existed, and other countries (e.g., Australia, parts of Europe) announced similar moves around the same time, but the 2007 U.S. law under Bush was the first national statutory announcement and requirement in the United States that set the phase-out in motion.