



MTA Press Releases

Select Language | ▼

Press Release

April 28, 2009

[MTA Headquarters](#)

IMMEDIATE

Grand Central Terminal's Last Incandescent Light Bulbs Replaced

Energy Efficient Compact Fluorescent Bulbs Save MTA \$200,000 per Year in Electricity Costs

After carefully lowering an ornate Beaux Arts chandelier from the ceiling of Grand Central Terminal, electricians from MTA Metro-North Railroad today removed the last incandescent light bulbs serving the Terminal and replaced them with energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs.

The chandelier, a 96-year-old light fixture, contained the last 110 of the more than 4,000 incandescent bulbs that have been replaced over the past two years. It is one of 10 "melon" chandeliers located in the Terminal. Five of the chandeliers are located above the ramps leading to the Oyster Bar and five are located above the north balcony. Each chandelier is 11 feet wide by 18 feet high, creating the slightly oblong or "melon" shape.

Incandescent bulbs were a commercial novelty in 1913 when Grand Central Terminal opened, but they use much more power than modern energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs, which are very similar if not identical in appearance. The MTA will save about \$200,000 in energy costs per year because of the increased efficiency of the new bulbs. Because they last up to 10 times longer than the average lifespan of the older bulbs, less labor is required to replace burned out bulbs, resulting in additional savings.

The transition to compact fluorescent bulbs is a component of the effort to win LEED Silver status for the Terminal. Seeking LEED-EB status for GCT was one of the recommendations made by the Facilities Working Group of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Sustainability and the MTA, a panel created by MTA Executive Director and CEO Elliot G. Sander in September 2007. For 15 months, the commission's 22 members studied ways to improve the environmental sustainability of the MTA agencies and the region the MTA agencies serve. The Commission divided itself into six working groups: Energy & Carbon, Facilities, Smart Growth & Transit-Oriented Development, Materials Flow, Water Management, and Climate Adaptation.

The Commission's final report contains nearly 100 recommendations, with about 20 that are transformational, 40 that can be accomplished in the near term, and about 30 that require legislative and/or policy action by decision-makers at the federal, state, and local levels. The report can be found at www.mta.info/environment.

Elliot G. Sander, Executive Director and CEO of the MTA, said: "Sustainability is an important strategic priority for the MTA, and our success in executing our overall mission is the most important contribution the MTA makes to ensure the sustainability of our region and the globe. We must not forget this track record of success as we work with our funding partners in Albany and elsewhere on the critical decisions about how to fund the MTA's capital and operating budgets."

Howard Permut, President of MTA Metro-North Railroad, said: "Nearly four-thousand incandescent bulbs in Grand Central Terminal have been replaced with bulbs that use a fraction of the electricity and last up to 10 times longer," said Metro-North President Howard Permut. "We expect to save at least \$200,000 a year as a result of this change. We celebrate the successful completion of this major green initiative."

Robert F. Fox Jr., Chair of the Facilities Working Group of the Commission on Sustainability and the MTA, said: "New York City had visionaries when we first built our mass transit system over a hundred years ago. Now, through that same bold leadership, the MTA has released its Blue Ribbon Commission Sustainability Report, which will positively impact many future generations of New Yorkers."