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## Pingree Grove lights up with CFLs

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By **ERIC SAXTON** For The Courier-News

PINGREE GROVE — Residents made their village one of only 10 in Illinois to receive the Citizens Utility Board's Bright Future award.

Citizens Utility Board members Patrick Deignan and Celia Christensen presented the village with 250 compact fluorescent light bulbs at its board meeting Monday night. They were among 10,000 light bulbs CUB is distributing through its Get Green community giveaway, which is aimed at raising energy efficiency awareness.

"We had people all over the state take it, and we were really happy to see so many people across Illinois take our pledge," Deignan said. "It really shows that everyone can benefit from energy efficiency, and we're very proud of Pingree Grove residents."

Pingree Grove earned the award by having one of the 10 highest percentages of total pledges in the 2008 calendar year. In total, 18,000 Illinois residents pledged on the Get Green portion of the CUB Web site, promising to use at least one compact fluorescent light bulb in their household.

Village Manager Scott Hartman said that there has been a big push from the village board to become greener since development began to pick up in 2004.

"It's not only grown into the organizational level, but at our residential level as well," Hartman said. "We're very proud of our residents for making this happen."

In addition to receiving the Bright Future award, the village has installed a wastewater treatment plant to serve the new Cambridge Lakes development, the village's new police station is LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified, a stormwater management system is in place in the village's heritage district is, and it is one of few municipalities in Illinois that use Magic Minus Zero, an eco-friendly option for snow control.

"Were very proud of the approach and philosophy that has been created here, and would like to continue it into the future," Hartman said.

Right now, the village is preliminary thinking about giving the CFL's away to residents at community events.

"It should be fun," Hartman said.

The Get Green campaign is continuing for the 2009 calendar year, and Illinois residents can pledge on CUB's web site by clicking on the Get Green tab.

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