

# GREEN FUTURES

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## Current control

### *Energy-smarter strip lighting*

Your office's fluorescent lighting could be using far more power than it needs – and a special microprocessor-controlled energy saving unit from Fluoresave could deliver savings of around 30%.

That compares favourably with the efficiency gain you'd expect to get by installing one of the newer high frequency fluorescent lighting systems. And the Fluoresave unit, first developed in Australia, is designed to be retro-fitted to an existing conventional system with minimal disruption.

What it does is to take control of the voltage at which the electric current flows to the fluorescent tubes. When they are switched on, strip lights need the full 230 volts from the mains to kick into action, but they can then operate quite happily – and much more economically – with a lot less. The tubes even tend to last longer that way. The 'fit it and forget it' Fluoresave unit, which is capable of controlling multiple lighting circuits, detects the surge in power demand when someone turns on more lights, and flips back and forth as necessary between full mains voltage and power-saving mode.

The company's enthusiastic managing director Michael Dolphin says that the pay-back period for one of his units is typically under two years, but can be as little as eight

months for showrooms and other places where the lights are kept on for long periods. Interestingly, in some parts of the world electricity companies have bought Fluoresave units themselves and rented them out to customers under long-term supply contracts. By adopting this model they not only get better customer loyalty; they can also get valuable carbon credits, for supplying an equivalent service at a lower energy cost.

**Fluoresave, [www.fluoresave.com](http://www.fluoresave.com)**