

Power-saving scheme to be trialled in SC

An innovative scheme which could save households \$100 a year in electricity costs is about to be launched by LineTrust South Canterbury.

It involves replacing incandescent lightbulbs with energy efficient compact fluorescent lamps and has the local lines company excited about not only the savings for individuals but the potential for a significant reduction in power demand which will assist load management.

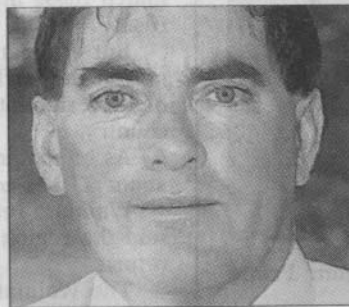
The South Canterbury scheme is a pilot for the rest of the country and will start at the end of this month or early next month, with the rest of the country expected to come on board in mid-2005.

LineTrust has joined up with Christchurch based Energy Mad Ltd and Foodstuffs stores to introduce the Household Efficient Lighting Project (Help) which aims to replace 65,000 incandescent bulbs in households throughout South Canterbury.

Trust chairman Rick Ramsay said yesterday that would be achieved via the sale of an equivalent number of high quality energy efficient compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) through Foodstuffs stores.

Participating stores are New World, Pak'n'Save and Four Square and Mr Ramsay said the scheme was expected to get under way at the end of this month or very early next month, depending on the availability of the light bulbs.

Power consumers would be able to purchase five bulbs for \$10, with a household which converts expected to save \$500



Rick Ramsay

in electricity and replacement bulb costs over the lifespan of the fluorescent lamps, which is five years.

Energy Mad Ltd was established because the directors Tom Mackenzie (whose grandparents live in Timaru) and Chris Mardon were passionate about reducing New Zealand's energy demand by substituting

inefficient lighting with efficient CFLs.

Mr Ramsay said the trust had agreed to support Help and to meet the costs incurred by Energy Mad for the CFL purchase and testing, and some research. They would import 65,000 CFLs from the manufacturer in China and LineTrust would meet all costs associated with their importation.

"The costs of this project are in line with the trust putting aside \$250,000 at its June meeting to assist with energy efficiency and conservation projects.

"It is a very exciting project for South Canterbury. It has financial savings for the consumers, and will result in a significant reduction in power demand which will assist load management in South Canterbury."

The results of the South Canterbury pilot scheme are to be available in December.

Mr Ramsay said the marketing and distribution and the take up of the offer by consumers would be tested during the pilot scheme. The ecobulbs would be 100 watt and have the bayonet fitting.

■ **By Helen Pickering**
Staff Reporter