

# The Lamp Standard

Take Back the Light's Quarterly Newsletter  
Fall 2011



TAKE BACK THE LIGHT

Dear Lucy,

Welcome to Take Back the Light's (TBTL) Quarterly Newsletter, **The Lamp Standard**.

This newsletter is your source of information for program developments, relevant lamp recycling news, and policy updates.

The TBTL program is a **simple, low-cost, solution** for businesses and organizations of any size to **divert mercury-containing lamps** from the waste stream and recycle them responsibly.

If you and your organization would like to participate in TBTL, please visit our [website](#) or email [sarah@rco.on.ca](mailto:sarah@rco.on.ca) to find out how this successful lamp recycling program can work for you.

As always, **we want to hear from you!** If you have any questions, comments, or would like to share your exciting news, please **reply to this message** with your suggestions.

## In This Issue

[Take Back the Light reaches 3 million lamps!](#)

[Webinar: How to deal with provincial stewardship regulations through an ISP](#)

[New lamp processor standard available](#)

[RCO celebrates Waste Reduction Week](#)

[Opportunity to share your news](#)

[Lamp stewardship option in BC with LightRecycle program](#)

[New lamp producer responsibility regulations in Quebec](#)

[Lamp recycler fined for hazwaste violations](#)

[Vermont adopts lamp producer responsibility law](#)

[New government fact sheets on mercury-containing lamps](#)



Recycling  
Council of  
Ontario

## Participant Spotlight



By joining the Take Back the Light program, Whitby has committed to reducing the amount of waste going to landfills so that we can all share in a cleaner future. Whitby is pleased to be part of the TBTL program.

## Program News

### 3 Million Lamps Recycled Through the Take Back the Light program!



The Recycling Council of Ontario would like to extend a thank you to Take Back the Light (TBTL) participants for responsibly recycling their spent fluorescent lamps through the program. With their help, to date, more than three million lamps have been recycled through TBTL.

TBTL program participants are industry leaders for having taken the progressive step of properly managing their lighting products. Fluorescent lamps contain mercury, a hazardous neurotoxin. Lamps disposed of in a landfill or through incineration result in mercury leaching into the environment and eventually to humans. When spent lamps are processed they are separated and sent to end markets that use glass, metal, mercury and phosphor in their manufacturing processes.

The recycling of three million lamps represents more than 90kg (198 lbs) of mercury captured and diverted from disposal, a significant accomplishment - and this is only the beginning!

### Webinar: Knowing Your Options - Managing Your Stewardship Obligations Through Take Back the Light

The prevalence of 'Extended Producer Responsibility' or 'Product Stewardship' legislation as it relates to lighting products such as mercury containing lamps, is expanding in Canada. Over the past three years provinces including British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec have all passed stewardship regulations affecting lighting products while other provinces already have functioning programs.

Stewardship regulations in Canada defines the 'stewards', those responsible for product end-of-life management, and provides direction on how that responsibility can be managed. As a lighting manufacturer, supplier, distributor or retailer your company may be responsible for providing a recovery and recycling solution for the products your company puts onto the market. Obligated companies should understand their options.

Take Back The Light offers an efficient and cost effective stewardship model, utilizing existing commercial relationships. To learn more RCO invites all lighting manufacturers, suppliers and retailers to participate in our upcoming webinar, being held on November 10th. Invitations to this webinar will be sent out this week.

### New TBTL Lamp Processor Standard Available

The [RCO - Take Back the Light - Program Requirements for Mercury Containing Lamps Recycling Processors](#) provides the the minimum requirements that a mercury containing lamp processor shall comply with in order to be approved by the Recycling Council of Ontario to service its Take Back the Light program.

## TBTL Around Town

In our continuing effort to raise awareness about lamp recycling, RCO and TBTL staff will be attending the following events:

**pmexpo** TORONTO  
The Property Management  
Exposition & Conference  
Nov 30 - Dec 2, 2011  
Metro Toronto Convention Centre  
South Building

SAVE \$25 BY CLICKING  
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Save \$25 on admission to the Toronto Property Management Expo compliments of Take Back the Light!

Click here to register for your free admission to PM Expo 2011.

Be sure to drop by and see us at Booth #1446.

**CB Richard Ellis 2nd Annual Educational Environmental Fair**  
Celebrating the achievements of Garden City Tower

BOMA Earth Award  
BOMA Best Level 3

Thursday, October 20

**Waste Reduction Week at Queen's Park**  
October 17, 12:00-1:30



The criteria in the standard aim to ensure that all lamps generated by participants in the TBTL program are recovered and processed in a way that minimizes negative environmental impacts under strict health and safety procedures, and the maximum amount of each bulb/lamp collected is recovered for reuse in new products.

## RCO Celebrates Waste Reduction Week

People across Canada celebrated Waste Reduction Week (WRW), October 17-23. WRW in Canada is coordinated by a coalition of 13 recycling councils and sister organizations from across Canada.

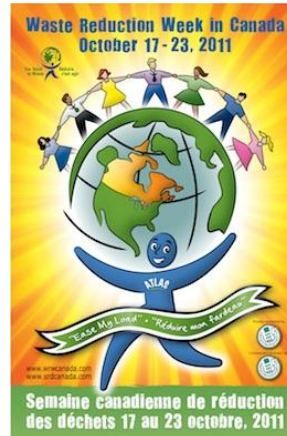
RCO programs celebrated with major events:

**The Ontario Waste Minimization Awards Gala Dinner was held October 19th**

**200,000 Ontario students participated in the Waste-Free Lunch Challenge**

**The new highly anticipated 3RCertified program launched its website**

**Take Back the Light hit 3 million lamps recycled**



WRW in Canada is sponsored by The Canadian Wireless Telecommunication Association who runs the [Recycle My Cell](#) program.

The WRW theme, "Too Good To Waste" is about conveying an appreciation for the richness and beauty of our diverse world and the importance of working toward ecological sustainability by conserving resources and curbing wasteful practices.

## Share your News...

Does your organization have a new product, program, or event that you want to share with the Take Back the Light community? We would like to include notices from TBTL participants in the Lamp Standard to help spread your news to over 500 people in the lighting, environment and building management sectors. Just send your photos and 200 words and under write-up to [sheila@rco.on.ca](mailto:sheila@rco.on.ca) for the item to be included in the upcoming season's newsletter, free of charge.



## Industry News

### Lamp Producers in BC will have New Option for Stewardship

[LightRecycle](#) is British Columbia's residential fluorescent lamp recycling program. It's run by Product Care, a not-for-profit industry association that manages a product stewardship program for household hazardous and special waste.

## Quick Links

[Register Now](#)

## Why Take Back the Light

[How do you clean up broken compact fluorescent bulbs \(CFLs\) and other fluorescent lamps?](#)

[More on us](#)



With over 160 return-to-retain locations, the current LightRecycle residential-use lamp program, which will have completed two years of operation as of July 1, 2012, is estimated to cover 60% of all CFL sales, but only 5% of all tube sales.

Starting next year however, the LightRecycle program will expand to accept lamps from the commercial sector, if the proposed stewardship plan is accepted by government. Producers can create their own independent plan to achieve compliance with B.C. new recycling regulation or they can choose to be part of the LightRecycle program. The regulation requires stewards to have a stewardship plan by July 2012.

## Mercury Lamps Now Subject to Extended Producer Responsibility Regulation in Quebec

On June 29, 2011, the Quebec government released their "Recovery and Reclamation of Products by Enterprises" regulation, under the Environmental Quality Act.



This is an important announcement for the steps that Quebec has taken to identify 'producers' as the key party responsible for recovering and/or reclaiming the products that they have brought to market. The new regulation will go a long way towards ensuring that effective producer responsibility will be applied and enforced to any brand products outlined in the regulation in the province of Quebec.

In addition to mercury-containing lamps, other brand materials included in the regulation include: electronics, batteries, paint and paint containers, oils, coolants, antifreeze, their filters and containers, and other similar products. Reg. 597 has flexibility written in to the document to allow for more materials to be added over time.

[Continue reading](#)

## Lamp Recycler Fined for Hazwaste Violations

Waste Management LampTracker Inc. has agreed to pay a \$118,800 civil penalty to settle a series of federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) violations of its hazardous waste permit at its permitted Kaiser, Mo., facility, as well as a nearby unpermitted materials staging area.



Waste Management LampTracker, which collects and recycles universal waste lamps, mercury-containing equipment and batteries at its Kaiser facility, was inspected by the EPA in August 2010. The EPA also inspected an unpermitted materials staging area near the company's Kaiser facility.

After the inspection, EPA's regional office issued a notice of violation to the company, citing multiple issues with inadequate waste container management, inadequate facility management and failures to comply with universal waste requirements.

[Continue reading at Recycling Today](#)

## Vermont Adopts Lamp Producer Responsibility Law

Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin signed into law a bill requiring manufacturers of mercury-containing lamps to establish and finance a

recycling program for spent bulbs from residents and small businesses. Vermont became the third state in the country to establish such an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program.

The Governor said the new law is an important environmental measure, key in helping protect Vermont's waterways and natural environment from the problems associated with mercury pollution. Under the new law, recycling costs will be paid by the manufacturer, consistent with other product stewardship legislation enacted in Vermont and around the country.



[Continue reading](#) American Recycler

## New Government Fact Sheets on Mercury-Containing Lamps

This summer Natural Resources Canada released new easy to understand "[fact sheets](#)" on mercury-containing lamps.

Topics include:

- how to handle and store lamps in a commercial setting
- use of drum top crushers
- lamp collection options for households and small businesses
- as well as a list of Canadian lamp recyclers.

## About RCO

The Recycling Council of Ontario (RCO) is a not-for-profit, membership-based organization involved in policy, education and project work around the issues of consumption, waste generation, reduction and diversion, and recycling.

The RCO believes that society must minimize its impact on the environment by eliminating waste. To that end, our mission is to inform and educate all members of society about the generation of waste, the avoidance of waste, the more efficient use of resources and the benefits and/or consequences of these activities.

**Sincerely,**

*Sarah Mills,*  
Program Manager

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