

The Lamp Standard

Take Back the Light

www.takebackthelight.ca



TAKE BACK THE LIGHT

Quarterly Newsletter

June 2010

Dear Lucy,

Take Back the Light's (TBTL) Quarterly Newsletter, The Lamp Standard, is delivered to you to communicate 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 to find out how this successful lamp recycling program can work for you.

As always, if you have any feedback on the newsletter or exciting news for us to include in the newsletter, please reply to this email with your suggestions.

**Take Back the Light
is a program of the**



Recycling
Council of
Ontario

Feature Participant



Toronto District School Board (TDSB) has been involved in TBTL since the program's formation. In fact, TBTL grew out of a pilot project conducted with TDSB in 2006, as well as a previous pilot project with Grand Erie District School Board in 2005.

The TDSB is the largest school Board in Canada and the fourth largest in North America. They have 560 schools serving over 257,000 elementary, secondary and adults students.

At this time, TDSB has successfully recycled and

In This Issue

[Lamps Recycling Reporting Process](#)

[Promote Your Activities & Events Through TBTL](#)

[Canadian Tire's Fluorescent Lamp Take Back Program Kicks Off](#)

[Stewardship Programs in Ontario & BC for Fluorescent Lamps Begin July 1](#)

[Rising Awareness Over CFLs Mercury Content](#)

[A Wave of LED Bulbs to Replace Incandescent Bulbs](#)

[Feature Participant: Toronto District School Board](#)

[Be Recognized for your Waste Reduction Efforts](#)

Program News

Lamps Recycling Reporting Process

TBTL participants are expected to report to TBTL when they send lamps for recycling. This is a fundamental part of TBTL as it allows us to keep track of the lamps recycled and to ensure the program and its participants are operating in an environmentally sound way. One way to do this is by using the 'Request for Service Form'. If you don't already have a one, please email sarah@rco.on.ca with "Request for Service" in the subject line and she will send one to you right away.

The Request for Service Form is an online form which you can complete right on computer and click the <Submit Form> button to have it automatically sent directly to TBTL.

For more information about reporting your lamps recycled to TBTL or about the Form contact Sarah.

Promote Your Activities & Events Through TBTL

We want to hear more about what your business or organization is doing to be more environmentally responsible in addition to being part of TBTL so that we can promote your efforts and recognize you in our newsletter.

Also, if you are aware of an industry-related event or are hosting an event of interest to the TBTL community, please send TBTL the details and we will promote it on our website and through the newsletter.

Just email sarah@rco.on.ca with the necessary details.

Canadian Tire's Take Back Program for Fluorescent Lamps Kicks Off



Canadian Tire Corporation (CTC) has partnered with RCO to develop their 'take back and recycle' program for fluorescent bulbs and tubes through RCO's TBTL program. The TBTL program offers CTC a 'turn key' option to support the implementation of its program, including an established brand, operating standards, tracking and reporting protocols and processes, as well as experienced staff to administer and manage the program. CTC's 'on the ground' infrastructure allows it to implement the TBTL program quickly and efficiently.

Beginning this summer Canadian Tire stores across Ontario will begin taking back fluorescent lamps generated by residents and small IC&I generators (less than 5kg/month, estimated to be approximately 16 4 ft. tubes or 24 CFLs). The program will primarily target CFLs, but also expect small quantities of linear lamps. The program will be free, and accessible during regularly store hours at any Ontario CT store.

More program details will be available on the TBTL website

diverted 181,478 lamps from landfill. TBTL would like to thank the TDSB for their continued participation and contributions towards our target of over 30 million lamps recycled.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Do You Know?

Breaking a fluorescent lamp releases mercury into the environment and can impact your health! Learn more about best practice clean-up procedures on the TBTL website.

Links & Resources

Register to Take Back the Light

[Recycling Council of Ontario](#)

[Environment Canada](#)

[Ministry of the Environment Ontario](#)

[Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment](#)

Be Nominated for a Waste Minimization Award

once the program officially launches.

Industry News

Stewardship Programs in Ontario & BC for Fluorescent Lamps Begin July 1st



Ontario's Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste (MHSW) program, as well as British Columbia's Fluorescent Lamp Recycling program are set to begin collecting spent fluorescent lamps from residents (and small IC&I generators in Ontario) beginning July 1, 2010. A number of collection

mechanisms will be utilized, such as collection events and municipal hazardous waste depots. These collection locations will be open to residents who wish to recycle their spent fluorescent lamps*, free of charge. *Note a limit on the number of lamps dropped-off at one time will likely be applied.

Stewardship Fees

With both programs beginning in July, this means that the first quarter of stewardship fees for each program will be due soon. Stewardship fees are applicable to producers, brand owners or first importers, in either of these provinces who sell fluorescent lamps to the residential sector (and small IC&I sectors in Ontario) and have decided to fulfill their obligation to responsibly manage their product at its end-of-life through a collective industry program.

Those who would like to independently manage their obligated material(s) must develop their own stewardship program and seek official exemption from the provincial Ministry of the Environment in BC's case, and Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) in Ontario's case. See WDO's instructions on the [stewardship program approval process](#).

For more information on Ontario's MHSW program or 2010 Steward Fees, [click here](#) to stay up to date. For more information on BC's program or 2010 Steward Fees [click here](#).

Rising Awareness Over CFLs' Mercury Content



After all of the excitement over CFLs, more recently there has been increasing awareness over their mercury content. It is important for consumers to understand that while the CFL uses significantly less energy than an incandescent bulb (75% less energy) and can last ten times longer, the CFL does contain

mercury, which is a toxic element. As a result the CFL should be recycled, and if broken the area should be carefully cleaned. To read more about the "[Good, Bad and Ugly about CFLs](#)" read Terri Bennett's article in the Chicago Tribune.

Below are Health Canada's instructions to clean-up a broken mercury-containing bulb, for further information [click here](#). Also, see the EPA's [step-by-step clean-up instructions](#).

1) Leave the room

- Remove people and pets from the room and keep them out of the room during the clean-up process.
- Avoid stepping on any broken glass.



TBTL participants are responsibly managing their waste fluorescent lamps and in many cases, also involved in reducing their energy consumption through fluorescent lamping retrofits. This makes your business or organization a great candidate for an **Ontario Waste Minimization Award**.

RCO's annual Ontario Waste Minimization Awards, are held every year during Waste Reduction Week in Canada (October). Since the 1980's the annual awards have capped the celebration of Waste Reduction Week in Canada by honouring achievements in environmental sustainability and waste reduction innovations.

Registration for the 2010 awards is open. Register your organization or clients to gain recognition for your waste reduction efforts. **The deadline to file your application is July 31st, 2010.** The Gala date is October 21st, 2010 at the Atlantis Pavilions, Ontario Place.

For more information visit the [RCO website](#) or contact: events@rco.on.ca

2) Ventilation

- Ventilate the room for at least 15 minutes prior to starting clean-up by opening windows and doors to the outdoors. This will ensure that mercury vapour levels are reduced before you start cleaning.

3) Clean-up Directions for Hard and Carpeted Surfaces

- Do not use a vacuum to clean up the initial breakage, as it will spread the mercury vapour and dust throughout the area and may contaminate the vacuum.
- Wear disposable gloves, if available, to avoid direct contact with mercury and to prevent cuts.
- Scoop or sweep up the broken pieces and debris with two pieces of stiff paper or cardboard. Do not use a broom.
- Use sticky tape, such as duct tape or masking tape, to pick up any remaining fine glass or powder.
- Wipe the area with a damp paper towel, cloth or disposable wet wipe to remove any residual particles.
- Place the broken glass and clean-up materials in a glass container with a tight fitting lid to further minimize the release of mercury vapour.

4) Carpeting - Steps to Take After the Initial Clean-up

- If the rug is removable, take it outside, shake and air it out for as long as is practical.
- The first time you vacuum on installed carpet after the clean-up, shut the door to the room or close off the area as much as possible and ventilate the room in which the lamp was broken by opening the windows and doors to the outside. When the vacuuming is done, remove the bag, wipe the vacuum with a damp paper towel, cloth or disposable wet wipe, and then place the vacuum bag and paper towel in a sealed plastic bag outside. In the case of a canister vacuum, wipe the canister out with a wet paper towel and dispose of the towel as outlined above. Continue to ventilate the room for 15 minutes once the vacuuming is completed.

5) Disposal

- Immediately place waste material outside of the building in a protected area away from children.
- Dispose of the waste at a household hazardous waste location as soon as possible. Check with local, provincial, or territorial authorities about the requirements for recycling and for the location of household hazardous waste depots or pick-up.
- Do not dispose of the waste in your household trash. For further information on disposal, please contact TBTL or the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

6) Washing

- Wash your hands after storing and disposing of waste.

A Wave of LED Bulbs to Replace Incandescents

The popular incandescent light bulb is "officially under attack from the LED lighting technology" stated Martin LaMonica from GreenTech.

In April, General Electric (GE) introduced an Energy Smart LED bulb that puts out roughly the same output of lumens as a 40-watt bulb, while consuming only 9-watts and can last for 17 years. It is expected to cost \$40-50.

In May, Royal Phillips introduced its own 60-watt LED replacement for incandescent bulbs. Following suit, Osram Sylvania introduced a 75-watt LED bulb to replace the common incandescent light bulb. This bulb consumes 12-watts, gives off 810 lumens and can last 25,000 hours, 12 times as long as traditional light sources.

For more information, read Martin LaMonica's article [here](#).

Sincerely,

Sarah Mills, Program Manager
Take Back the Light



Recycling Council of Ontario