

# The Lamp Standard

## Take Back the Light

[www.takebackthelight.ca](http://www.takebackthelight.ca)



TAKE BACK THE LIGHT

Quarterly Newsletter

March 2010

Dear Lucy,

Take Back the Light (TBTL) is excited to release the program's first quarterly newsletter. Our purpose is to regularly communicate program developments, relevant lamp recycling news, and policy updates.

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

## In This Issue

[1 Million Lamps Recycled](#)

[About Take Back the Light](#)

[Website Upgrades & Profile Opportunities](#)

[Lamps Recycling Reporting Process](#)

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

[Retailer Joins TBTL](#)

[Update on Canadian EPR Lamp Programs](#)

[Maine Becomes First in the USA](#)

[Washington Governor Signs Lamp Recycling Bill](#)

[Feature Participant](#)

Take Back the Light  
is a program of the



Recycling  
Council of  
Ontario

Feature Participant



**Westburne Ruddy Electric** was TBTL's first supplier participant. Since joining the program they have **recycled more than 123,513 lamps**. This represents a significant contribution to the program's 1-million milestone and a stellar effort to divert mercury from Ontario landfills.

Westburne Ruddy is utilizing its over 50 Ontario locations to provide safe, and convenient lamp take-back locations for their clients. For more information about Westburne Ruddy Electric visit their website at [www.westburne.ca](http://www.westburne.ca).

Join Our Mailing List!

# Program News

## 1 Million Lamps Recycled!



*Take Back The Light* (TBTL) started the new year by surpassing the 1,000,000 lamps recycled milestone!

This first million lamps is an important milestone for TBTL as it clearly signifies the program's success at its primary objective - to divert mercury from disposal. A million lamps recycled equates to approximately 12 kilograms of

mercury that has been safely reclaimed for reuse.

The steady and exponential growth of TBTL, indicates that the program is well on its way to achieving its goal of ten million lamps recycled by 2013.

## About Take Back the Light



TAKE BACK THE LIGHT

TBTL provides a simple solution for businesses and organizations of any size to divert mercury-containing lamps from the waste stream and recycle them responsibly.

TBTL provides a **low-cost opportunity to divert mercury** from our environment. Participants in the program also benefit from unique branding opportunities and ongoing promotion in the Ontario marketplace.

TBTL helps **buyers, sellers** and **retrofiters/contractors**, who generate spent fluorescent lamps, find a customized recycling solution.

TBTL is a program of the [Recycling Council of Ontario](#) (RCO). The 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.

## Website Upgrades & Profile Opportunities



TBTL continuously seeks to improve its website. Recent improvements to the site include a section added for registered contractors and retrofitters.

Registered TBTL participants have the opportunity to be featured on the official site as well as in this newsletter. If you or your participating clients are not currently profiled, contact [sarah@rco.on.ca](mailto:sarah@rco.on.ca).

## 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.

In an effort to unify and formalize the reporting process, several randomly selected program participants will be consulted on how to keep participant reporting simple yet effective. Expect more information on this in the next edition of *The Lamp Standard*.

### Did You Know?

*EVERY* fluorescent lamp contains mercury. Mercury is a necessary component for this type of lamp to function.

### 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 Recognized for your Waste Reduction Efforts



TBTL participants are reducing waste - which might qualify your organization for an **Ontario Waste Minimization Award**.

RCO's annual Ontario Waste Minimization Awards, are held every year during Waste Reduction Week in Canada (October).

Registration for the 2010 awards opens in April.

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.

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

## Retailer Joins TBTL To Offer Take Back to Customers

In accordance with the Waste Diversion Act and the Minister of Environment's Program Request Letter, Canadian Tire Corporation (CTC), with the support of the RCO, is developing TBTL's first retail take back program for residentially generated fluorescent lamps. This program will operate in Ontario only and will launch this summer.

## Industry News

### Update on Canada's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Programs for Fluorescent Lamps



British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec have introduced, or will soon adopt, EPR regulations targeting end-of-life mercury-containing lamps.

While lamps are designated under the Recycling Regulation in British Columbia, lamps in Ontario are designated as Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW). In November 2009, Quebec published a [proposed regulation](#) that targets mercury-containing lamps, among other products, for EPR. Comments on the draft regulation were due by January 24, 2010 and a final regulation is expected soon.

On March 5, 2010, the BC Ministry of the Environment approved the [BC Fluorescent Lamps Stewardship Plan](#). This program will take back fluorescent light bulbs sold for residential use starting July 1, 2010. This is the same date that [Ontario's MHSW program](#) will begin collecting fluorescent lamps from residential and small industrial, commercial and institutional (IC&I) sources (5 kg/month or less).

## Maine Becomes First State to Introduce EPR Legislation for Mercury-Containing Lamps



In June 2009, Maine became the first state in the USA to legislate lamp manufacturers to develop and finance recycling programs for lamps containing mercury. The bill came into effect in September 2009.

The bill calls for manufacturer-financed recycling programs for household mercury-containing lamps, such as the compact fluorescent lamp (CFL). These lamps have a reputation for long service and energy economy - and are increasing in popularity as their energy savings potential gains recognition. Under the legislation, new recycling programs must include convenient collection depots across the state, as well as educational and outreach components.

The requirement applies only to mercury-containing lamps sold for household use. An existing statute covers the recycling of fluorescent bulbs used commercially. Maine is also among other states, including Massachusetts, Vermont, and California, that ban disposal of all mercury-containing lamps in the trash.

*The Act To Provide for the Safe Collection and Recycling of Mercury-containing Lighting* is available [here](#).

In February 2010, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection submitted a report to the State Legislature on how to increase the recycling rate of mercury-containing lamps. The report outlines a strategy **recommending the TBTL model** as a market-driven option to increase recycling rates in the non-residential sector. See the report [here](#).

## Washington Governor Signs Lamp Recycling Bill

In March 2010, the Washington State Legislature passed a bill requiring manufacturers of mercury-containing lamp products to pay an annual fee for a state-wide recycling program for said lamps. On March 19th, Governor Christine Gregoire signed the bill into law, making Washington state the second jurisdiction in the USA to have a mandated, producer funded, recycling program.

The program is expected to start January 2013. The recycling program will consider a number of different collection options, including retail outlets, household hazardous waste collection depots, recycling centers, curbside recycling, and a mail-back program.

Read this [article](#) for more information.

**Sincerely,**

Sarah Mills, Program Manager  
Take Back the Light



**RCO** Recycling Council of Ontario