

The Lamp Standard

Take Back the Light's Quarterly Newsletter
Spring 2011



Dear ,

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](http://www.tbtl.ca) or email 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.

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Program News

We've done IT!
Over 2 million lamps recycled

In case you haven't heard, we've done it! We have recycled



Recycling
Council of
Ontario

Participant Spot Light



The City of Brockville was the first municipality to join Take Back the Light. We commend them for their leadership in lamp recycling and look forward to growing with them in their goal of being a green community.

Upcoming Events

Springfest 2011

Wed, April 6th

Find us at the Metro
Convention Centre

Booth 217

An exclusive event to help reduce costs and improve buildings for building owners, property managers, facility managers and others responsible for building maintenance and facility operations.

over 2 million lamps thanks to you and your efforts in ensuring we keep lamps out of our landfills. We look forward to our continued work in attaining the next 2 million lamps!

To read our press release, please [click here](#).

Guess where you can find us now...

A small habit that makes a big difference

Yellow Pages Group is committed to minimizing and, where possible, eliminating the impact its operations have on the environment. The paper used for our directories is made from recycled fibre and wood chips.

Our directories are fully recyclable. Make sure to recycle yours when you receive the new one.



Take Back the Light: the first full-service fluorescent lamp recycling program for businesses and institutions in Ontario.

Why sign up?

1. It's good for the environment: Keeping lamps out of landfills helps protect people, fish and wildlife from exposure to toxic mercury
2. It's affordable: Great recycling rates
3. It's simple: Just sign-up using our easy on-line process

At the Recycling Council of Ontario (RCO) we care about consumption, waste generation, reduction and diversion, and recycling. We are a not-for-profit, membership-based organization.

www.rco.on.ca 1-888-501-9637



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EPR by-law workshop and RCO AGM

Join the Recycling Council of Ontario for [Think Global -- Act Local: Producer Responsibility in Ontario Communities](#) at the Direct Energy Centre on April 14th.

The RCO has invited a cross-section of high-level speakers to this one-day workshop to facilitate dialogue on the current and future role of municipalities as it relates to Ontario's zero waste goal.

Presenters include:

Hon. John Wilkinson, Ontario Minister of the Environment

Peter Hume, Chair of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

George Reimer, Waste Diversion Coordinator, City of Ottawa

Bill Worrell, Mgr Integrated Waste Management Authority, San Luis Obispo, CA

Kevin Drew, Residential and Special Projects Zero Waste Coordinator, Department of Environment, City of San Francisco

Toby Barrett, Environmental Critic for the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party

Canadian Environmental Conference & Tradeshow

May 16th-18th
Booth 1224

An annual event, CANECT is Canada's leading environmental management and compliance training forum, attracting some 400 conference registrants and speakers and thousands of additional tradeshow attendees. RCO Executive Director Jo-Anne St. Godard will also be speaking at this event on the May 16th about the regulation of waste.

Green Employers 2011 conference

May 30th
at the
MaRS Collaboration Centre

The only conference that features the combined experiences and insights of the winners of Canada's Greenest Employers competition.

Quick Links

[Register Now](#)

[Why Take Back the Light](#)

[More On Us](#)

New face at TBTL

Congratulations to TBTL Coordinator Jodi Frye who gave birth to a healthy baby boy this month! In the meantime, Sheila McKnight will be taking over Jodi's part-time responsibilities.

Sheila brings four years of environmental program coordination experience to TBTL. You can reach her at 416-657-2797 x.6 or sheila@rco.on.ca.

Work with us! Sponsorship opportunities now available



The Recycling Council of Ontario is pleased to announce that our Online **Sponsorship Opportunities Report 2011** is now available. [Click here](#) to download the report

Find out more about how to work with RCO towards our common waste diversion goals!

RCO creating new standard for TBTL bulb processors

In order to ensure that the maximum amount of mercury is recovered from lamps recycled through the TBTL program, RCO is creating a set of standards which TBTL processors must uphold.

The maximum amount of each lamp must be recycled, but the standards also take into account factors such as health and safety, and the secondary or end markets where the reclaimed materials are sent.

Although provincial and federal regulations need to be considered for the recycling of mercury containing products, there are currently no recognized industry standards for Ontario. RCO commissioned Bureau de Normalisation du Quebec to develop this standard which is not consensus-based, specifically for the TBTL program.

The second draft of the standards will be circulated to stakeholders within the next several weeks.

Easier way to schedule bulb pick-ups

TBTL has been making functional improvements to the program for the last few months. The latest improvement affects the entry, management and flow of TBTL program data.

A feature of TBTL is our ability to track and verify the number of fluorescent

bulbs recycled by each program participant. As the program has grown, the need to improve the efficiency of the data management process has increased also.

We are now beta testing the new web-enabled database and expect to officially launch it in mid-April. A key feature of the database is that it will allow participants to schedule bulb pick-ups right online and entry fields such as contact name and address will automatically populate to make form completion easier.

Another notice will be sent out to all program participants when the database is officially launched.

Industry News

Fluorescent bulb disposal plan in the air

The Canadian government's new energy-efficiency rules for light bulbs are fast approaching implementation, but no national standards exist to deal with the toxic waste they are expected to create. The federal government admits the patchwork of regulations for disposing of compact fluorescent bulbs, or CFLs, is one of the unintended consequences of rushing in the new energy-efficiency regulations.

[Continue reading at CBC News](#)

Officials limit mercury in fluorescent lamps



The federal government will move to limit the amount of mercury in compact fluorescent light bulbs, widely marketed as green-friendly, energy-efficient alternatives to incandescent bulbs.

The proposed rules would decrease the amount of mercury in fluorescent bulbs and require manufacturers to ensure that consumers are disposing of old bulbs safely, Environment Canada said Tuesday, just a day after the government announced its intention to ban altogether mercury glass thermometers, thermostats and other products that contain the toxic metal.

New product regulations will limit manufacturers to 3.5 milligrams of mercury in each fluorescent lamp, a "significant" reduction from current levels which average 8 mg, but may contain up to 25 mg per bulb.

[Continue reading at Postmedia News](#)

Oregon introduces mercury lamp recycling bill

Senator Dingfelder has introduced a mercury lamp recycling bill in the Oregon Legislature. [SB 529](#) requires producers of lighting containing mercury to establish product stewardship programs to take back, and safely recycle, these lamps. The bill had a public hearings in February.

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