

# Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, Inc.



## CFL Recycling Program Overview March 20, 2008

### **CFL Recycling Program Mechanisms**

#### *Retailer based mechanisms*

- 1) 'Coupons' provided to customers by efficiency program(s) to offset some or all of the recycling cost charged by a retailer. Requires implementing coupon circulation method.
- 2) 'Free to customer' where retailer pays for recycling cost with possible financial assistance from efficiency programs. This is financially/liability-wise burdensome for most retailers. For example IKEA, with 35 locations nationwide, accepts CFLs for free.
- 3) 'Free to customer with purchase of new CFL' where retailer pays recycling cost. This may be difficult to enforce on the customer service level.
- 4) 'End-of-life fee' Recycling cost is passed onto customer. This could make CFLs less cost competitive with incandescent bulbs.
- 5) 'Advanced recovery fee' where a small fee is tacked onto the cost of the CFL. This fee is placed in a 'recycling fund' that funds retailer for recycling cost.
- 6) 'Single-day collection events' happen in every state and/or at popular retailers such as Wal-Mart. Events are few and far between which forces people to store used CFLs between events and make special trips.

#### *Non-retailer based mechanisms*

- 7) 'Transfer station collections' could be made available at every municipal transfer station. This requires people to store used CFLs and make a special trip.
- 8) "Non-retailer drop-off" such as USPS which mails used CFLs to a recycling facility.
- 9) "Mail collection" via recycling service where customers pay for packaging and recycling cost and mail used CFLs directly to recycling facility.

### **Current CFL Recycling Programs/Pilots**

#### 1. Maine

As of June 1, 2007, Efficiency Maine, in cooperation with Graybar Electric and Veolia Environmental Services, has been educating and delivering recycling buckets to participating stores. All stores in the program accept CFL's for free and are trained in accordance with requirements by the Maine DEP.

[http://www.energymaine.com/residential\\_programs\\_esrl\\_rl.htm](http://www.energymaine.com/residential_programs_esrl_rl.htm)

#### 2. Massachusetts

New legislation requires that manufacturers of mercury-added products sold in Massachusetts create a convenient and accessible method for recycling or returning to the manufacturer those products upon end-of-life. The mechanism must demonstrate a 30% recycling rate by December 31, 2008, ramping up to a 70% rate by December 31, 2011.

### 3. New Hampshire

PSNH has teamed with True Value Hardware, NH Small Business Development Center, and the NH Department of Environmental Services to create a free CFL recycling program through many of the True Value hardware stores around the state.

<http://www.des.state.nh.us/factsheets/co/co-19.htm>

### 4. Vermont

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, through the Mercury Education and Reduction Campaign, has teamed with Ace, Do-it-Best, and True Value Hardware stores to offer free CFL recycling.

<http://www.mercvt.org/dispose/lamprecycleproject.htm>

### 5. Wisconsin

The Focus on Energy Program coordinates with Cedarburg Light and Water Utility and True Value Hardware Stores to provide customers free CFL recycling. Stoughton Utilities offers a \$1 coupon towards the purchase of a new CFL to customers who return up to 10 dead CFLs to two participating hardware stores. River Falls Municipal Utility provides free CFL recycling through its utility office drop off. Also, retailers participating in Dane County offer CFL recycling for a small fee.

[http://www.focusonenergy.com/Residential/Lighting/cfl\\_recycling.aspx](http://www.focusonenergy.com/Residential/Lighting/cfl_recycling.aspx)

[http://www.countyofdane.com/pwht/recycle/lamps\\_bulbs.aspx](http://www.countyofdane.com/pwht/recycle/lamps_bulbs.aspx)

### 6. Utah

Salt Lake Valley offers CFL recycling through county library drop-off locations. The bulbs are transported in provided containers to a recycling center at the Salt Lake County landfill by the SLV Health Department.

<http://www.slvhealth.org/eh/html/cfl.html>

### 7. Illinois

ComEd partners with IEPA, Ace Hardware to offer pilot CFL recycling program.

[http://www.exeloncorp.com/ComedCare\\_Main/ComedCare/act/RecycleCFL/](http://www.exeloncorp.com/ComedCare_Main/ComedCare/act/RecycleCFL/)

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) is sponsoring a CFL recycling program.

[http://www.prospect-heights.il.us/message\\_detail.cfm?message\\_id=116](http://www.prospect-heights.il.us/message_detail.cfm?message_id=116)

### 8. Indiana

State grants and waste districts split costs of transportation and recycling while Sears retail stores provide drop-off locations.

South Central Indiana REMC along with three area libraries has set up drop off centers for CFL recycling.

<http://www.sciremc.com/news/newsdetail.aspx?itemID=8>

### 9. California

Santa Clara County's Recycling Partners Program offers free CFL recycling through local retailers. Also, the San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority's Take Back Program offers free CFL recycling at nearly all local retailer locations that sell CFLs. <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/HHW/Grants/Profiles/SantaClaraCo.htm>

#### 10. Minnesota

Xcel Energy's Bulb Recycling program has been running since 1993. This program covers the cost of recycling to residential and commercial customers of up to 10 bulbs per year at county recycling centers. Xcel reimburses the recycling facility for their services which is about \$0.50-\$0.55 per bulb. Collection centers also include participating hardware stores. Some retailers accept bulbs for recycling at a cost of \$0.50-\$2.00 to the customer. Xcel Energy provides \$0.50 coupons to customers to offset part of the cost.

#### 11. Washington/Oregon

The Northwest Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) Recycling Project with sponsors that include Bonneville Power Administration, Clark Public Utility District, Eugene Water and Electric Board, Metro Regional Government, Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, PacifiCorp, and Portland General Electric, commissioned the Zero Waste Alliance (ZWA) to facilitate a multi-stakeholder group process to design a pilot project to recycle CFLs in Oregon and/or Washington. The resulting pilots are in effect in Lane County, OR and Puget Sound, WA. The Lane County CFL recycling program pilot, including marketing, is paid for by the county's five utility companies. Thirteen locally owned retail stores offer the collection service free to customers. The current cost is about \$0.30 per CFL. Puget Sound's program is similar. Also, participating retailers in King County, WA accept CFLs to be recycled through Take it Back Network recyclers for a fee.

[http://www.zerowaste.org/cfl/cfl\\_index.htm](http://www.zerowaste.org/cfl/cfl_index.htm)

<http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/takeitback/fluorescent/index.asp>

<http://www.iwma.com/directory-aj/fluorescent%20tubes%20and%20bulbs.html>

*CFL recycling information and location websites:*

[www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org)

[www.epa.gov/bulbrecycling](http://www.epa.gov/bulbrecycling)

[www.lamprecycle.org](http://www.lamprecycle.org)

[www.recycleabulb.com](http://www.recycleabulb.com)