

Information for . . .

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

This information is for government agencies within the state such as

- Environmental agencies
- Health departments
- Public Works agencies
- Solid Waste Management bureaus
- Building, inspection, licensing and permitting authorities

Local government employees throughout the country can contribute to the effort to increase mercury lamp recycling. Businesses and the public often contact local government first with questions about how to manage waste materials. Citizens may call and ask, *“I know I shouldn’t throw my _____ away, but what can I do?”* Throughout the country there are more and more “green business” programs in which public authorities provide assistance to local businesses for storm water management, refuse recycling, energy usage and efficiency, contingency planning, and so forth. Many agencies have Cooperative Agreements or Memoranda of Understanding with state regulators for implementation and/or enforcement of environmental policies and receive funding for these activities.

What local agencies can do to increase lamp recycling

Local governments can offer and advertise Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) programs for mercury lamps for individuals and small businesses, also known as Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQGs). You can also set up other collection points, use local contractors or HW firms who manage HHWs to make recycling more available to businesses.

Local agencies that do building inspections can add lamps to the checklist of compliance items. Start by asking the question: “What are you doing with your used mercury-added lamps?” Then, give them the information they need to set up a recycling program.

Solid waste franchise agencies can encourage or require solid waste contractors to set up active diversion programs, by providing lamp containers for shipment to recyclers. There is a strong need to provide diversion options for solid waste customers. Containers are available for anyone from any lamp recycling company.

You can also encourage participation in “green building” programs, energy efficiency programs, lighting retrofits, Rebuild America, EPA’s Energy Star program and the U.S. Green Building Council. Local governments can encourage energy efficient lighting in general and at the same time think about and encourage the recycling of the lamps that are replaced in buildings.

We encourage you to promote lamp-recycling programs -- and to set up recycling programs for the spent mercury-containing lamps in your own facilities.

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