

# **THE COMPACT FLUORESCENT LAMP (CFL) RECYCLING PROJECT CHARTER**

## **Background**

Increased electricity costs have driven the use of CFLs and utilities have encouraged purchase of millions of CFLs by residential customers through coupons and giveaway programs to offset the higher up-front costs of the bulbs. CFLs used by households provide several primary benefits. They reduce energy costs, increase energy efficiency, and last longer than standard incandescent bulbs.

At the same time we acknowledge these benefits, we also recognize that CFLs do contain small amounts of mercury and may cause unintended negative consequences to human health and/or the environment depending on the method of disposal. Because of these toxic properties, it is important that CFLs be kept in a “closed loop” within our society’s industrial systems and not be released to the environment.

The CFL Stakeholders Group has been formed to support the evaluation and development of programs for recycling CFLs to ensure responsible management for environmental protection

## **Purpose of the CFL Recycling Project**

- To provide a multi stakeholder process for planning a state/region wide CFL recycling program model
- To evaluate alternative CFL recycling models
- To encourage the safe use of energy efficient products
- To increase economic activity from CFL recycling
- To reduce amounts of one of the sources of Hg to landfills
- To protect the environment for human and ecosystem health

## **Objectives of the CFL Stakeholders Group**

- Agree upon the concepts and goals of the pilot project and larger recycling program
- Determine the optimum form for one or more pilot recycling programs
- Establish scope of administration for the pilot project
- Select CFL collection and recycling location(s) and participants for the pilot project
- Determine public input and education needed
- Develop marketing approach/strategy
- Develop program metrics for tracking and reporting
- Determine budget and revenue needed to support the pilot project
- Discuss future actions for a larger program after conclusion of pilot project

## **Proposed General Guidelines for Meetings**

- The facilitator (Zero Waste Alliance) is a neutral and independent participant of the meetings
- When we have face-to-face meetings, each stakeholder will make it a priority to be there in person
- If members miss a meeting, they agree to live with any decision(s) that have been made by the rest of the stakeholders
- We will make every attempt to start and end our meetings on time
- We will practice “active listening” – listening for understanding without judgment – so that people feel free to voice their opinions in an honest and candid manner
- We will use flipcharts and handouts during our meetings to communicate and record information, particularly key decisions and action items, and we will distribute meeting notes electronically as soon as possible after each meeting that highlight those decisions and action items
- We will use process(es) to stay focused on the task at hand, but we will remain flexible so that we can adapt and make changes to the meeting plan as the need arises

## **Consensus Process**

Consensus means more than merely broad agreement. True consensus is less concerned about generating agreement than generating wise solutions that take into account all the relevant needs and perspectives. Once we have taken into account the full picture, agreement usually follows naturally – and it's not a reluctant, conditional agreement. We may agree that a choice best meets the objectives even if it is not our preferred outcome. If necessary, we will consider greater than 80% agreement to be a consensus.

## **Sponsors and Conveners**

This CFL Recycling System planning project is sponsored by the following organizations:

- Bonneville Power Administration
- Clark Public Utility District
- Eugene Water and Electric Board
- Metro
- Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- PacifiCorp
- Portland General Electric

The Zero Waste Alliance (ZWA) is the convener and facilitator of this process. The ZWA is dedicated to creating a more sustainable future through zero waste strategies and green chemistry. It is a program of the International Sustainable Development Foundation, a Portland, Oregon based, nonprofit organization.