

Compact Fluorescent Lamp Recycling Project Principles

The participants of the Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) Recycling Project are a group of organizations that include electric utilities, private businesses, government agencies, industry associations, consulting firms, recyclers and non-profit groups. The participants are committed to developing a pilot project in Oregon to test CFL collection and recycling methods with the intent that it will lead to a sustained recycling system. This is intended to be a public process that is open to additional groups that wish to join. The participants of this group agree to the following objectives to guide the design and implementation of such a system:

Project Principles:

- **Environmental Protection:** Primary goal is to avoid mercury buildup in the environment associated with the use of CFLs. A specific project goal is to avoid mercury emission during the collection, transportation and recycling of the CFLs.
- **Easy Access:** The recycling system should allow the public to easily recycle their CFLs by providing the most convenient recycling opportunities possible
- **Low Cost:** The costs of the recycling system, such as collection, transportation and recycling, should be minimized.
- **Fair Cost Allocation:** The costs of the recycling system should be allocated fairly so as to minimize impacts to manufacturers, retailers, waste handlers, state and local government and other involved in the collection, transportation and recycling of CFLs.
- **Compliance:** The recycling program must provide for compliance with all applicable regulations, such as RCRA, CERCLA, state solid waste regulations and the Universal Waste Rule.
- **Education:** Education and public outreach are vital components of a successful CFL recycle program. They should point out that CFLs are safe in the home and provide an overall environmental benefit, but if not handled and recycled properly can create environmental and human health impacts.
- **Replicable:** To the extent possible, the program will be designed so that after its implementation in Oregon, it can be easily replicated in other areas, especially in the Western United States.
- **Expandable:** CFLs are only one of several sources of potential mercury emissions. To the extent possible, this program should be expandable so that it may later include the collection and recycling of other mercury bearing items, including increased recycling levels for fluorescent light tubes.
- **Recycling System:** The participants are committed to developing a pilot project to test CFL collection and recycling methods with the intent that it will lead to a sustained recycling system.
- **Sustainable:** the group as a whole should design the system so that it can sustain itself without ongoing involvement.