



Lamp Recycling Outreach Program

Brought to you by these industry organizations:

ALMR, The Association of Lighting and Mercury Recyclers, is a non-profit organization representing members of the mercury recycling industry, and serving as an educational and informational resource to government, business and the public. ALMR members currently recycle about 80% of the mercury lamps that are diverted from the municipal waste stream.

NEMA, the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, is the leading trade association in the United States representing electric product manufacturers. Founded in 1926 and headquartered near Washington, D.C., its 400 member companies manufacture products used in all walks of life, including the generation, transmission and distribution, control, and end-use of electricity.

SWANA, The Solid Waste Association of North America, has been the leading professional association in the solid waste industry for 40 years. SWANA's mission is, "to advance the practice of environmentally and economically sound management of municipal solid waste."

SWANA serves over 6,800 members, and thousands more solid waste professionals with technical conferences, certifications, publications and a large offering of technical training courses.



Lamp Recycling. The Responsible Thing to Do.

"Lamp Recycling. The Responsible Thing To Do."© This slogan has been adopted by NEMA, SWANA and the ALMR to use with the national outreach and education/campaign launched earlier this year as part of a **Cooperative Agreement Project for the Development of a Lamp Recycling Outreach Program** funded by the U. S. EPA.

Recycling of Mercury-Containing Lamps

Used mercury-containing lighting is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency under the Universal Waste Rule¹, and in some states regulations are more stringent than the UWR. Most people are not aware that energy efficient lighting contains mercury and that it should be handled properly at the end of life. About 20% of spent lighting is recycled in the U.S. and 80% is still going to the municipal solid waste stream. NEMA, SWANA and the ALMR are assisting the EPA to increase the recycling rate. The objective is to get enough information to the right people so both mandatory and voluntary recycling increases from 20% to 40% within two years after the project is implemented. The recycling goal will be increased to 50%-60% within four years. The ultimate goal is a sustainable lamp recycling rate of between 70 - 80% in seven years. To

achieve the objective it is necessary for people's behavior to change; in other words, to increase compliance by changing the current disposal patterns for mercury-containing lamps.

NEMA members are also implementing a nationwide mercury lamp labeling program to ensure that consumers receive consistent and clear information on the proper disposal of spent fluorescent lamps with each product they purchase. This label includes manufacturers' 800 numbers and the lamprecycle.org website for policy and recycling information.

¹ The Universal Waste Rule (UWR) (40 CFR Part 273) See Federal Register July 6, 1999, Volume 64 Number 128, pp 36465-36490)

A Major Opportunity

Once people realize how easy it is to get lamps recycled, more and more contractors can improve their bottom line by offering this service. EPA estimates there are about 400 million lamps per year that are not being recycled, but should be recycled.



Lamp Recycling
Outreach Program
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(EPA)



Are you a disposal decision maker?



Commercial and industrial users of mercury-containing lamps are those who can most influence “disposal decision making.” These groups include building owners and commercial property managers, industrial facilities, government institutions, electrical, lighting maintenance and demolition contractors. Influence on decisions will also come from the solid waste industry, local governments, electrical distributors, Energy Star buildings and Rebuild America partners. Outreach targets include:

- State environmental agencies for solid and hazardous wastes, public health, environmental management, public works, water quality, other local agencies in all 50 states (est. 45,000 local government agencies) and territories.
- Franchise agencies and franchise solid waste contractors.
- Users of lamps, including businesses, building owners and owner’s associations (BOMAs), commercial property companies, government buildings, academic institutions (est. 200,000 businesses).
- Lighting contractors, relamping contractors, energy efficiency contractors, specifiers, maintenance contractors and others who would be “handlers” under the UWR.
- National associations of governments and businesses for solid, hazardous wastes and recycling, plant maintenance and engineering.



What can you do?

Federal and state rules allow lamp generators and contractors to collect and accumulate lamps for recycling without a regulatory burden. This can be a business opportunity for contractors. For example:

Small Quantity Handler- (SQHUW)- a generator or third party (contractor) who accumulates <5,000 kg at a time, and stores them up to one year. No EPA registration is required. Training and information on handling mercury lamps and emergency procedures is required. Proper marking and labeling is required.

Large Quantity Handler- (LQHUW)- a generator or third party who accumulates >5,000 kg at a time, up to one year. EPA or state registration and ID# is required. Training and information on handling mercury lamps and emergency procedures is required. Proper marking and labeling is required.



Whole lamps are exempt from the Hazardous Waste manifest requirements and a Bill of Lading (BOL) with a common carrier, instead of a certified hazardous waste hauler, is allowed for shipment if they are sent for recycling. No analytical testing or reporting of whole lamps is needed for recycling. Intentionally breaking lamps is defined as “treatment” and treatment of lamps, e.g. drum-top crushing, requires compliance with RCRA Subtitle C at an authorized facility. Therefore, contractors may not crush or treat lamps.

Contractors may charge a fee to collect lamps. They can also make arrangements with any authorized recycler and may be eligible for volume discounts. Recyclers will provide a recycling certificate to the contractor, who can pass it along to the generator.

For more information, visit www.lamprecycle.org or www.almr.org