

# Recycling Fluorescent Lights: A Disposal Solution for Small Businesses in Londonderry



#### Why they need to be recycled:

Many businesses light their buildings with fluorescent lamps (FLs)

- But mercury in them makes them hazardous waste
- Mercury can damage our central nervous system and organs
- NH has a state-wide fish consumption advisory due to mercury
- And NH law forbids FL disposal in our landfills (2008)
- \* \* 100% of lamp components—glass, metal—are recyclable \* \*

NH generates **2.6 MILLION** spent FL lamps annually. But less than 15% are estimated to be recycled.

### Easy options for Londonderry small businesses:

A. Bring fluorescent tubes and bulbs to the Londonderry Drop Off Center Saturdays, 8am – 4pm, from May to November

- Located on West Road near the Hudson town line
- Maximum of 10 lamps per week
- A small nominal fee will be charged:

\$.50 per bulb (CFL) or \$.25 per foot (tube)

- **B.** Compact **FLs** (bulbs) can be dropped off at Home Depot or Lowe's daily at no charge. Cyr Lumber in Windham takes all FLs.
- **C.** Contact a FL recycling vendor to get a recycling kit in which to pack and mail the lamps for recycling : ---->

Prepared by the Londonderry Public Works Dept. and Londonderry's Solid Waste and Environment Committee

#### Breakage Cleanup

- 1. Ventilate room: close internal doors & vents, open windows and exterior doors and vacate room for 15 min.
- 2. With disposable gloves and cardboard, pick up glass and residue. Also use tweezers and masking or duct tape.
- 3. Wipe area clean with a damp paper towel or wipe.
- 4. Place materials in a glass jar with metal lid and store safely until the next Household Hazardous Waste collection day.
- 5. Wash hands and leave windows open as long as practical.
- 6. DO NOT VACUUM.

For more information, see the websites below.

#### For more information:

Londonderry DPW

Bob Kerry, Environmental Engineer 432-1100 x137 <u>rkerry@londonderrynh.org</u> <u>www.londonderrynh.org</u>

NH Dept. of Env'l Services
 Stephanie D'Agostino, Env'l Prog Mgr
 271-6398

FL recycling vendors

- Universal Recycling Technologies 603-422-7711 www.urtrecycles.com Dover NH

- Complete Recycling Solutions
www.crsrecycle.com Fall River, MA





508-402-7700



## Lighting Alternatives for Small Businesses in Londonderry



#### **A Primer on Lamp Options**

- Incandescents cheap to buy but inefficient; use a lot of energy to run; expensive to operate; contribute to power plant emissions
- Halogens marginally better than incandescents
- Fluorescents (FLs) 4 to 5X more efficient and long-lived, but must be recycled due to mercury. Much cheaper to use.
- CFLs Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs are designed to replace incandescent bulbs
- LEDs the future of lighting. Significantly higher purchase price, but cheaper to use in the long run and the price keeps dropping. And no mercury.

Cost Comparison: 60 watt bulbs			
Performance Qualities	Incand	CFL	LED
Purchase Price	\$0.41	\$0.99	\$9.97
Power used (watts)	60	14	9.5
Lifespan (hours)	1,000	10,000	25,000
Bulb lifetime (years @6 hrs/day)	0.5	4.6	>11
Energy cost over 20 yrs (\$.13/kWh)	\$342	\$80	\$54
Total cost over 20 yrs	\$360	\$85	\$74

Prepared by the Londonderry Public Works Dept. and Londonderry's Solid Waste and Environment Committee

#### Why use Fluorescent Lights (FLs):

- Regular Incandescent lights drive power plant pollution
- FLs cost a little more to buy, but they:
  - Use a fraction of the energy of incandescent lights
  - Last 8 15X longer
  - Cost substantially less to operate
  - Save 5X their purchase price in electricity expenses

#### Advantages of LED lighting

- · Very cheap to use and last for decades
- Lights up immediately
- · Resists shock; doesn't break like other lights
- No mercury
- Stands up better to frequent switching on/off
- Available in varieties of colors & sizes
- "Cool light" radiates little infra-red heat; avoids damage
- Used for treating pain, promoting healing, traffic safety, improving agriculture, boosting sales
- · Can help people to focus, to relax, or to energize
- · Can be connected, like computers and phone networks
- · Can be programmed based on time, sound, even weather
- · Fails by dimming over time