Initial set of actions for the Canada-wide Standard for Mercury-Containing Lamps

Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment

1. Coordinate the task of reporting on progress in a timely fashion and in a manner that reflects the intent under the Sub-agreement on Canada-wide Environmental Standards for an open and transparent process.

All Jurisdictions

1. Review and reduce where possible government barriers to the recovery and recycling of mercury from mercury-containing lamps most notably where hazardous waste management requirements are currently applicable.
2. Encourage small incinerator owners required to reduce the input of mercury to incinerators to consider, as a priority, recovery and recycling of mercury-containing lamps in cooperation with their local municipal waste managers. Also, communities using municipal incinerators should be a priority for lamp recovery and recycling to remove these products from the incinerator waste stream.
3. Jurisdictions will promote the use of lamps containing the lower levels of mercury, described under "Numeric targets and Timeframes" for this CWS, in government buildings. This may include an assessment of procurement policies and development of purchasing protocols which promote energy efficient lighting systems in government buildings.
4. Assess and promote mercury-containing lamp recovery and recycling programs in government buildings in order to minimize the amount of mercury entering the waste stream.

Alberta

1. On February 6, 2001, the Government of Alberta launched a voluntary fluorescent bulb and computer recycling program for the public sector (municipal, university, school, and hospital sectors). This is being undertaken with a variety of stakeholder partners (Capital Region Waste Minimization Advisory Committee, Northern Care, the City of Calgary, Alberta Environment, Recycling Council of Alberta, Alberta Plastics Recycling Association).

British Columbia

1. Investigate options to promote partnerships to develop fluorescent tube recycling opportunities within the Province.

Canada

1. Environment Canada will take a leadership role to regularly review and report to Canadians on progress made by the lamp manufacturers to reduce the amounts of mercury used in lamps sold in Canada. Since 1990 North American lamp manufacturers have substantially reduced the mercury used for fluorescent lamps, and the major North American manufacturers, through the Electro-Federation of Canada, provided a written statement in June 2000 to the Committee of Ministers committing to meet the Canada-wide Standard.

2. Under the "Federal Building Initiative" and in support of "Greening of Government" and "Leadership Challenge" programs, the government of Canada will promote the inclusion of a mercury-containing lamp recovery and recycling program in conjunction with other energy efficiency programs with the co-benefit of reducing both mercury and greenhouse gas emissions simultaneously to the environment.
3. Broader development of lamp recycling infrastructure will also benefit the environment. Environment Canada will cooperate with interested jurisdictions to promote, through economies of scale, the development of a lamp recycling infrastructure whereby service-providers will be encouraged to establish facilities for recovering the mercury in lamps from population centres of greater than 50,000 people, and in smaller centres where deemed appropriate by the parties involved.
4. In conjunction with other federal departments, Environment Canada will promote improved “efficiency” standards for lighting systems sold in Canada, promote/strengthen education/incentive programs for the replacement of existing lighting with these systems, and cooperate in the creation of equipment and process guidelines for recovery and recycling of mercury from fluorescent lamps.

Manitoba

1. Will release for consultation, a discussion paper and regulation which will propose a product stewardship program for mercury containing products including lamps. Those marketing affected products would be offered the initial opportunity to manage a stewardship program.

New Brunswick

1. Develop a policy for the procurement of low-mercury fluorescent lamps for government buildings.
2. Investigate the feasibility of the recycling of mercury-containing lamps in New Brunswick.

Newfoundland

1. Newfoundland will work with its Interdepartmental Recycling Committee to address mercury-containing lamps from government buildings.

Northwest Territories

1. Require institutional users to dispose of their lamps properly under the existing Disposal Guideline for Fluorescent Lamps and new Guideline for the Management of Waste Institutional, Commercial and Industrial Chemicals.
2. Work with municipalities to expand collection of lamps from non-institutional users.

Nova Scotia

1. Nova Scotia has completed an inventory that generated an estimate of the number of tubes available for recycling on an annual basis.
2. Has provided a mechanism to divert lamps from Nova Scotia's only municipal incinerator.
3. Continue to work to develop an option for recovery and proper disposal.

Nunavut

1. Work towards the development of a Guideline for the disposal of fluorescent lamps.
2. Require institutional users to dispose of their lamps properly under a new "Disposal Guideline for Fluorescent Lamps".
3. Work with municipalities to expand collection of lamps from non-institutional users.

Ontario

1. Work with lamp recycling and disposal industry, along with municipalities, to ensure they follow the current waste management regulations.
2. Work with the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional sector in Ontario, particularly building managers, to consider how to accelerate energy efficient lighting retrofits and also to ensure recycling or proper disposal of waste lamp.
3. Work with the new "Waste Diversion Organization" to consider lamp recycling available to homeowners through the Household Hazardous Waste centers at local landfills.

Prince Edward Island

1. Continue to work with the Island Waste Management Corporation on source separation and recycling of waste to reduce the input of mercury to the municipal solid waste incinerator.

Saskatchewan

1. Examine options and promote partnerships to develop fluorescent lamp waste management and recycling opportunities within Saskatchewan.

Yukon

1. Develop government purchasing policy for low-mercury fluorescent lamps.
2. Develop policy for recycling of fluorescent lamps in government buildings.
3. Investigate partnerships for territory-wide collection of mercury-containing lamps.