



EarthWatch Rhode Island



**Topic: Recycling Your Compact Fluorescent Lamps:
Buy and Recycle Your Lamps at Rocky's**

Date: November 7, 2008

**Location: Rocky's Ace Hardware
1768 Broad Street, Cranston**

Background

Home lighting is one of the easiest places to save energy – and money! Switching from traditional incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) is an effective, simple change everyone in America can make right now. Making this change will help to use less energy at home and prevent greenhouse gas emissions that lead to global climate change.

Lighting accounts for close to 20 percent of the average home's electric bill. Energy Star CFLs use up to 75 percent less electricity than incandescent light bulbs, last up to 10 times longer, cost little up front, and provide a quick return on investment. If every home in America replaced just one incandescent light bulb with an Energy Star CFL, in one year it would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes. That would prevent the release of greenhouse gas emissions equal to that of about 800,000 cars.

CFLs contain a very small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing, which allows the bulbs to be an energy efficient light source. No mercury is released when the bulbs are intact or in use, so they pose no danger to you or your family when used properly. Manufacturers have taken significant steps to reduce mercury used in their fluorescent lighting products over the past decade. Today's average CFL contains less than 5 milligrams of mercury sealed within the glass tubing. This is less than 1/100th of the amount in a mercury fever thermometer. There is currently no substitute for mercury in CFLs.

DEM recommends recycling all fluorescent bulbs, including the compact energy-efficient types. The Department has been working in partnership with National Grid, Energy Star Lighting, Maxlite, and Rocky's Ace Hardware Stores to make using and recycling CFLs easy for all of us, and is launching a new recycling program at Rocky's that offers consumers a safe and easy way to properly dispose of compact fluorescent bulbs at end of life.

Rocky's Ace Hardware has a long-term corporate commitment to selling a variety of energy efficient CFLs. The new CFL collection program at Rocky's Cranston and Middletown stores demonstrates Rocky's ongoing commitment to the community to manage the recycling of these items. National Grid provides rebates to Rocky's to allow them to sell Maxlite bulbs at reduced prices.

Interviews:

Beverly Migliore, Supervising Environmental Scientist in DEM's Division of Technical and Customer Assistance, talked about the partnership between DEM, National Grid, Rocky's Ace Hardware and Maxlite and the environmental and energy-savings benefits of using compact fluorescent lamps over incandescent lighting.

Tony DaSilva of Rocky's Ace Hardware provided an overview of how the CFL in-store recycling program works and talked about Rocky's corporate commitment to offering energy efficient lamps and easy recycling options for their customers.

More Information for Consumers:

Additional Information about compact fluorescent light bulbs, bulb recycling and cleanup is available on DEM's website, www.DEM.ri.gov, by clicking on Topics from the homepage, then Mercury.