

COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS

FOR HOUSEHOLDS



Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFL'S) are alternatives to traditional incandescent light bulbs. They use 66% less energy - that reduces the amount of emissions that come from fossil fuel burning power plants! CFL's can also save you money since they use less energy, the average 70-watt equivalent can save \$20.02 a year!

Who should be concerned with CFL recycling?

Both households and businesses should be concerned. CFL's contain low levels of mercury, a toxic metal, that can cause damage to vital organs in the body so proper disposal and recycling is important.

Though **Households** are exempt from Hazardous Waste Regulations in NYS, they are still strongly urged to dispose of these hazardous materials in a safe way, including fluorescent light bulbs.

If a CFL breaks in your home, immediately open windows to allow for vapor to dissipate and sweep the fragments (do not vacuum!) into a plastic bag for disposal. Make sure to wipe the area with a disposable paper towel to remove all glass fragments. Broken light bulbs can be recycled as well.

How can CFL's be recycled?

TCSWMD has a year-round drop-off container in the Recycling and Solid Waste Center (RSWC) area for CFL's. Residents can deposit CFL's on an as needed basis.

All fluorescent tubes and light bulbs received by the county's Hazardous Waste Contractor, *Clean Harbors Environmental*, are packaged and shipped to Chicago where the mercury is safely removed and recycled and the diverted glass and metal are recycled separately.



For Further assistance call 273-6632.



**Tompkins County Solid Waste
Management Division**
122 Commercial Ave.
ITHACA, NY 14850

www.recycletompkins.org

