SWANCC Member Communities

The SWANCC-sponsored recycling program is for residentially-generated spent Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs) from SWANCC-member community households.

- Arlington Heights
- Barrington
- Buffalo Grove
- Elk Grove Village
- Evanston
- Glencoe
- Glenview
- Hoffman Estates
- Inverness
- Kenilworth
- Lincolnwood
- Morton Grove
- Mount Prospect
- Niles
- Palatine
- Park Ridge
- Prospect Heights
- Rolling Meadows
- Skokie
- South Barrington
- Wheeling
- Wilmette
- Winnetka

Visit swancc.org for drop-off locations and information details.

Special Material Programs

Battery Recycling
CFL Bulb Recycling
Document Destruction Events
Electronics Recycling
Holiday Lights Recycling
Mercury Thermometer Recycling
Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Disposal

Resources

Books and Media for Loan
Closing the Loop Brochure
Eco-Cleaning Guide
Eco-Landscaping Guide
Eco-Friendly Marketplace Guide
Elist for Educators
Elist for Residents
Green Pages Directory
Informational Videos
Waste Reduction Solutions Brochure

Only residents that live in a SWANCC member community are eligible to participate in the Agency's programs. Resources can be downloaded at **swancc.org**. Contact SWANCC by emailing **info@swancc.org** or call (847) 724-9205.

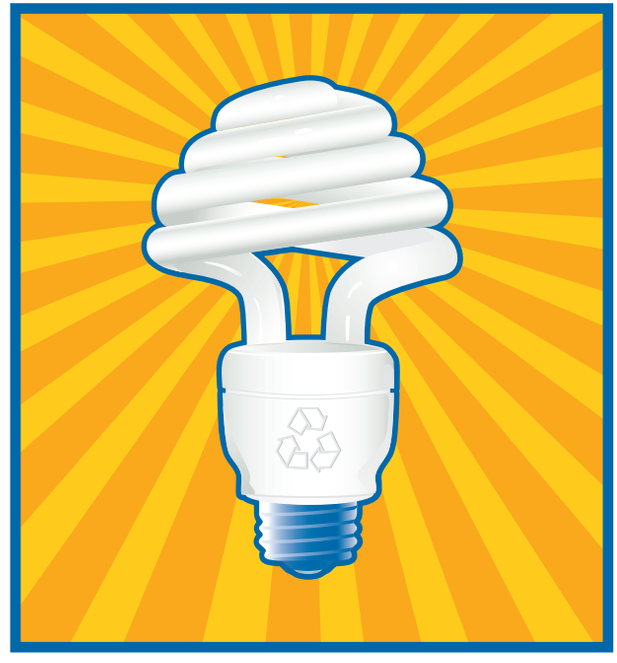
SOLID WASTE AGENCY OF NORTHERN COOK COUNTY

swancc.org

Printed on recycled paper.

Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County

Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) Bulb Recycling Program



swancc.org
(847) 724-9205

Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFL)

BENEFITS OF COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHTBULBS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends the use of CFLs when compared to incandescent bulbs for the following reasons:

- They produce the same amount of light, but use 2/3 less energy and last 10 times longer.

- Each CFL bulb can save you at least $25 in energy costs over the life of the bulb.

- CFLs produce about 70% less heat than standard incandescent bulbs and are cool to the touch.

- CFLs reduce air pollution for a cleaner environment. If every IL household replaced one incandescent bulb with an 18-watt CFL, the results would be equivalent to:
  - ... removing 294,000 tons of carbon emissions from the air;
  - ... planting 39.4 million trees;
  - ... removing over 74,000 vehicles from Illinois roads each year.

This information is taken from the Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

DANGERS OF CFLs

Each CFL contains a small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing – an average of 5 milligrams (roughly equivalent to the tip of a ball-point pen). Mercury poses potential health risks, therefore the CFLs should not be disposed of in the garbage if there is a recycling option.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE IN SWANCC'S CFL PROGRAM?

Only residents that live in a SWANCC member community are eligible to participate. Visit swancc.org for a list of SWANCC-member communities that are providing a drop-off location for CFLs. Some will accept 4 foot fluorescent lamps. Bring spent bulbs in a zip-lock-type baggie for extra protection to a drop-off location during designated hours.

CFL RESOURCES

Information and resources on all sources of mercury can be found at **epa.gov/mercury**.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do CFLs contain mercury?

CFLs contain about 5 milligrams (mg) of mercury sealed within the glass tubing. In comparison, an older oral thermometer contains 700 mg of mercury, 140 times the amount in a CFL.

What should I do with a CFL when it burns out?

Like paint, batteries, thermostats and other hazardous household items, CFLs should be disposed of properly.

To locate ther nearest drop-off location and hours of operation for CFLs in your community, visit swancc.org.

There is currently no substitute for mercury in CFLs; however, manufacturers have taken significant steps to reduce mercury used in their fluorescent lighting products over the past decade.

Should I be concerned about using CFLs in my home?

CFLs are safe to use in your home. No mercury is released when the bulbs are in use and they pose no danger to you or your family when used properly.

CFLs are made of glass tubing and can break if dropped or roughly handled. Be careful when removing the lamp from its packaging, installing it or replacing it. Always screw and unscrew the lamp by its base and never forcefully twist the CFL into a light socket by its tubes.

Used CFLs should be disposed of properly using the guidelines stated above, please visit swancc.org for details.

The following tips are provided by the EPA and can be found at **epa.gov/cflcleanup**.

Tips to Remove and Replace a CFL

- Turn light switch off before removing the bulb
- Unscrew the bulb by holding the plastic or ceramic base, not the glass tubing
- Do not over-tighten bulb when replacing
- Never forcefully twist the glass tubing
- Consider placing a towel underneath area where CFL is being changed
- Do not use CFLs in locations where lamps can be knocked over

Tips to Clean Up a Broken CFL

1. If possible, open a window in the room for ventilation.
2. Sweep up the broken glass fragments and fine particles with a piece of cardboard and a damp paper towel.
3. Contain broken glass, cardboard and paper towel in a zip lock bag, then place in a brown bag marked "broken glass".
4. Place the double bags with above contents in the outside garbage can – do not sweep up or vacuum debris or put it in an inside garbage compactor.

SWANCC ELIST

Do not miss out on upcoming program opportunities and recyling events sponsored by SWANCC. Be on SWANCC's Elist and receive Agency information. Sign up online at swancc.org.

For more information about SWANCC and its many school and community programs and special material collections or events, visit swancc.org, email info@swancc.org or call the Agency at (847) 724-9205.

Learn more about saving energy and recycling by visiting **illinoisenergy.org and energystar.gov**.