



## N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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Contact: Chris Frazier  
Phone: (919) 715-6515

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### NEW WEB SITE HELPS ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING OF FLUORESCENT LIGHTS

RALEIGH – The N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources has launched a new Web site designed to shed light on options for both commercial and consumer users on the management and recycling of fluorescent lamps.

The Web site, found at <http://www.p2pays.org/Fluorescent/index.asp>, provides information on the regulatory status of fluorescents, recycling options and guidance on other related issues.

“Using energy efficient lighting, including compact fluorescent lights, is one way that North Carolinians can help improve the state’s environment,” said Scott Mouw, the state recycling director with the N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance. “This new Web site provides a single, easily accessible source of information on issues such as consumer recycling options for discarded fluorescent lamps, as well as educating commercial users of fluorescents about their regulatory obligations with these products.”

Tube or linear fluorescent lights are in widespread use in commercial, industrial and institutional settings in North Carolina, and CFL use is expanding rapidly in both the commercial and residential sectors. A study submitted to the state’s General Assembly in March showed that from 2005-2007, CFLs jumped from 5 percent to 20 percent market share. The study estimated that 120 million fluorescents are in current use in North Carolina and 15 million lamps are ready to be discarded each year.

However, since both tube lamps and CFLs contain a small amount of mercury, recycling fluorescent lights is the best way to minimize the release of mercury from the lamps to the environment. Despite their mercury content, energy-efficient fluorescent lights help achieve a greater net reduction in mercury by reducing the mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants.

For more information on the Web site and recycling options, please call Mouw at (919) 715-6512. For regulatory questions on fluorescent lights, please call Lebeed Kady with the N.C. Division of Waste Management at (919) 508-8546.

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Office of Public Affairs  
Phone: (919) 715-4112  
1601 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1601

Diana Kees, Communications Director  
FAX (919) 715-5181  
[diana.kees@ncmail.net](mailto:diana.kees@ncmail.net)