Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County

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

SWANCC Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) Bulb Recycling Program FAQs

Why is SWANCC sponsoring a CFL/Fluorescent Bulb Recycling Program?
Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) bulbs are energy efficient and are cool to the touch, but contain a small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing, an average of five milligrams (approximately the size of the tip of a ball point pen). It is environmentally prudent to recycle CFLs rather than throw them in the garbage.

Who is allowed to participate?
Residents from any SWANCC community can participate and only residentially-generated materials will be accepted – which means any fluorescent light bulb that comes from a household. Please check IDs for proof of residency. **Do Not Accept fluorescent lights from municipalities, businesses, schools and institutions.** Visit SWANCC's *Green Pages Reuse and Recycling Directory* at swancc.org for contractors to assist with commercial recycling needs.

What type of bulbs are accepted in SWANCC's Program?
Any CFL bulb that contains mercury is accepted. They come in many shapes and sizes. Communities have the option to accept 4' and 8' fluorescent lights as well. Program details are posted at swancc.org. Spent incandescent bulbs can be thrown away in the garbage – as they do not contain any mercury.

Some communities are taking 4 and 8 foot fluorescent lights as well. Do not store lamps outdoors. Visit SWANCC's website at swancc.org for participating communities.

What happens if a CFL breaks?
If a CFL should break on the ground – at home or in the office, simply wet a paper towel, wipe up the breakage, put contents in a sealed plastic bag and throw away in the garbage. When a CFL is burned-out, the trace amount of mercury is reduced and should not cause alarm. See SWANCC's *CFL Recycling Brochure* for additional information.

How will the materials get picked up?
SWANCC staff will work with each community's program coordinator to work out a monthly or bi-monthly pick-up schedule. If for some reason a special pick-up is needed, contact **Mike Witkowski at mwitkowski@everlights.com or (773) 734-9873, extension 203**. For program questions, box needs, lighting questions, contact your salesperson Jack Dime at mdime@everlights.com or (773) 734-9873.

Contact Information:

Mike Witkowski, Everlights
mwitkowski@everlights.com
Office: (773) 734-9873, ext. 203
Website: everlights.com

Mary Allen, SWANCC
mary@swancc.org
Office: (847) 724-9205, ext. 204
Cell: (847) 452-5082
Website: swancc.org