

CET Lamp Recycling Program

Lamp Recycling Results

CET has worked with many communities throughout western Massachusetts and can document the quantities of lamps that have been recycled through its efforts.

- Recycled over 202,000 feet of straight fluorescent tubes
- Recycled over 6,000 other types of mercury lamps (HID, CFL, U-tube, etc.)
- Helped over 580 businesses in more than 60 communities
- Prevented the release of over 6,500 grams of mercury

We know that significantly more lamps have been recycled, but we were not able to obtain exact numbers from many of the businesses we have worked with.

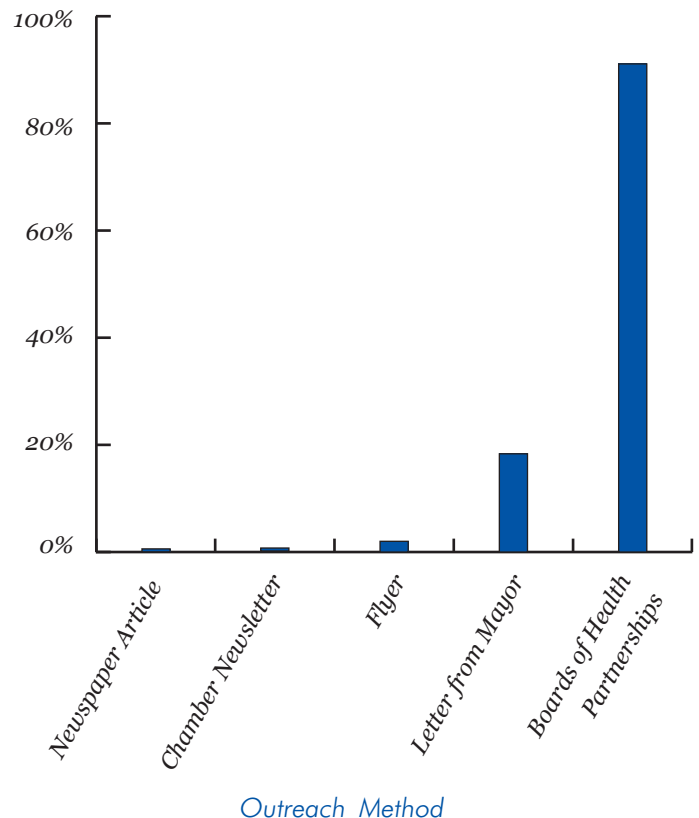
Strategies for Results

Outreach strategies that have been effective for other recyclable materials have not worked for mercury containing lamps. The lack of awareness that so many lamps contain mercury and lack of enforcement of the regulations are consistently cited as barriers to lamp recycling. When traditional strategies produced disappointing results, CET sought out partnerships with local Boards of Health. As the chart shows, the success is obvious.

Lamp recycling education and has been institutionalized with participating communities by working with Health Departments, making this a sustainable program.

- CET trained inspectors to ask, “What do you do with your lamps?” at regular inspections and provided handouts to give to businesses.
- Some Departments created by-laws or incorporated proof of recycling as part of the permit renewal process.
- Mercury’s health impact engages Health Agents. Their role adds regulatory muscle and the personal interaction helps increase business owners’ commitment to recycle.

Percentage of Businesses Recycling Based on Outreach Method



Case Studies

Pride Stations and Stores owns and operates 16 gas and convenience stores in the Pioneer Valley. After contact from one Health Department and technical assistance from CET, they started

The logo for Pride Stations and Stores, featuring the word "Pride" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. A green five-pointed star is positioned above the letter 'i'.

recycling lamps at all their locations. "Our maintenance staff collects spent lamps from all locations and consolidates them for

recycling. We are very happy to recycle like this. We have a similar program for all our used computer equipment," says Joe Lynch of Pride Stations and Stores. Other chain stores have taken similar action.



The Village Commons in South Hadley is a mixed complex of retail, office and residential spaces. The South Hadley Health Department

requires lamp recycling for the restaurants and salons in town. Village Commons manager Jeff Labrecque decided to build a collection area for lamps and opened it up to all his tenants. Now the common areas, offices, retail, and residents have the opportunity to recycle lamps.

In addition, attention to lamp recycling spurred questions about general recycling at the complex and now paper, cardboard, bottles and cans, and metal are all recycled there.

Massachusetts Mercury Law and How CET Can Help

There is a new law regulating all mercury containing products and their disposal in Massachusetts. Disposal of "low-mercury" or "green-tipped" lamps used to be allowed and individual residents were exempt from all lamp recycling requirements. These exemptions no longer exist, so every mercury lamp from every source must now be recycled.

CET has extensive experience working with businesses, institutions, municipalities, and residents to comply with the law and implement mercury lamp recycling programs. CET can help Boards of Health replicate actions of other communities, businesses to start a recycling program, or community organizations to promote lamp recycling.

For More Information

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