Okaloosa County
News Release

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Kathy Newby, 850.651.7515, knewby@co.okaloosa.fl.us

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Okaloosa County Pledges Support of National Conservation Efforts

Okaloosa County is participating with counties throughout the nation to pledge to 1) the Drive Smarter campaign and 2) the Change the World campaign. Saturday, August 9, 2008, is being proclaimed Okaloosa County Drive Smarter Day. "We are encouraging citizens and employees to conserve energy and save some of their hard-earned dollars through driving smarter and also making their homes and businesses more energy efficient," stated Commissioner John Jannazo. "We hope everyone will join us in a friendly competition with other counties."

Okaloosa County has accepted a challenge from the National Association of Counties (NACo) and is challenging its residents and employees to "change the world" as part of the national *Change the World, Start With ENERGY STAR Campaign*. Want to learn more? Select links below for NACo Change the World and the NACo Drive Smarter campaign pledges. It is just that easy.

The competition will begin **July 1, 2008 and conclude on November 30, 2008**. Counties must collect pledges from employees and residents **by directing them to the interactive website: www.drivesmarterchallenge.org** and www.greencounties.org/changetheworld. NACo will automatically track results of the online pledge collection portion and will periodically send updates to all participating counties.

Three winning counties (one each from a small, medium and large county) from this year's competition will receive 1,000 free compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) from Office Depot. In addition, Office Depot will offer each individual who takes the pledge a 10 percent discount on its new Office Depot Green Brand compact fluorescent light bulbs, valid beginning Aug. 1. Pledge collections will be taken through Nov. 30.

For more information about the NACo's role in the *Change the World, Start With ENERGY STAR or Drive Smarter Campaigns,* contact Kelly Zonderwyk at 202-942-4224 or visit www.greencounties.org/competitions.

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation's 3,066 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public's understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit www.NACo.org.

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Frequently Asked Questions
Information on Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs) and Mercury
May 2008

Why should people use CFLs?

Switching from traditional light bulbs (called incandescent) to CFLs is an effective, simple change everyone in America can make right now. Making this change will help to use less electricity at home and prevent greenhouse gas emissions that lead to global climate change. Lighting accounts for close to 20 percent of the average home's electric bill. ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs use up to 75 percent less energy (electricity) than incandescent light bulbs, last up to 10 times longer, cost little up front, and provide a quick return on investment.

If every home in America replaced just one incandescent light bulb with an ENERGY STAR qualified CFL, in one year it would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes. That would prevent the release of greenhouse gas equal to that of 750,000 cars.

Do CFLs contain mercury?

CFLs contain a very small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing – an average of 4 milligrams – about the amount that would cover the tip of a ballpoint pen. By comparison, older thermometers contain about 500 milligrams of mercury – an amount equal to the mercury in 125 CFLs. Mercury is an essential part of CFLs; it allows the bulb to be an efficient light source. No mercury is released when the bulbs are intact (not broken) or in use.

Most makers of light bulbs have reduced mercury in their fluorescent lighting products. Thanks to technology advances and a commitment from members of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, the average mercury content in CFLs has dropped at least 20 percent in the past year. Some manufacturers have even made further reductions, dropping mercury content to 1.4 – 2.5 milligrams per light bulb.

What are mercury emissions caused by humans?

EPA estimates the U.S. is responsible for the release of 104 metric tons of mercury emissions each year. Most of these emissions come from coal-fired electrical power. Mercury released into the air is the main way that mercury gets into water and bio-accumulates in fish. (Eating fish contaminated with mercury is the main way for humans to be exposed.)

Most mercury vapor inside fluorescent light bulbs becomes bound to the inside of the light bulb as it is used. EPA estimates that the rest of the mercury within a CFL – about 11 percent – is released into air or water when it is sent to a landfill, assuming the light bulb is broken. Therefore, if all 290 million CFLs sold in 2007 were sent to a landfill (versus recycled, as a worst case) – they would add 0.13 metric tons, or 0.1 percent, to U.S. mercury emissions caused by humans.

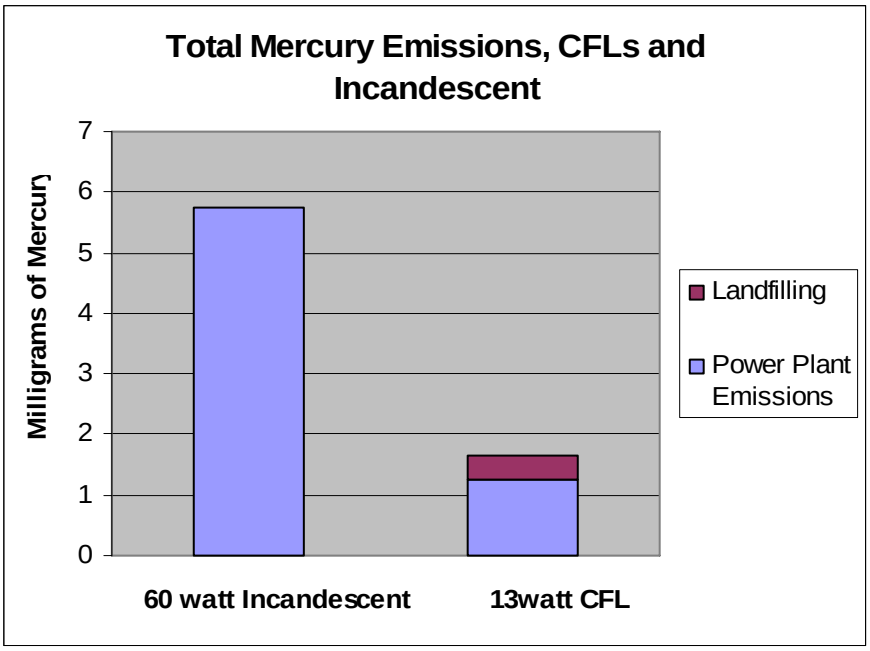
How do CFLs result in less mercury in the environment compared to traditional light bulbs?

Electricity use is the main source of mercury emissions in the U.S. CFLs use less electricity than incandescent lights, meaning CFLs reduce the amount of mercury into the environment. As shown in the table below, a 13-watt, 8,000-rated-hour-life CFL (60-watt equivalent; a common light bulb type) will save 376 kWh over its lifetime, thus avoiding 4.5 mg of mercury. If the bulb goes to a landfill, overall emissions savings would drop a little, to 4.1 mg. EPA recommends that CFLs are recycled where possible, to maximize mercury savings.

Table 1

Light Bulb Type	Watts	Hours of Use	kWh Use	National Average Mercury Emissions	Mercury from Electricity Use	Mercury From Land filling	Total Mercury
CFL	13	8,000	104	0.012	1.2	0.4	1.6
Incandescent	60	8,000	480	0.012	5.8	0	5.8

Figure 1



Because CFLs also help to reduce greenhouse gasses, other pollutants associated with electricity production, and landfill waste (because the bulbs last longer), they are clearly the environmental winner when compared to traditional incandescent light bulbs.

What precautions should I take when using CFLs in my home?

CFLs are made of glass and can break if dropped or roughly handled. Be careful when removing the bulb from its packaging, installing it, or replacing it. Always screw and unscrew the light bulb by its base (not the glass), and never forcefully twist the CFL into a light socket. If a CFL breaks in your home, follow the clean-up recommendations below. Used CFLs should be disposed of properly (see below).

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

EPA recommends that consumers take advantage of available local recycling options for compact fluorescent light bulbs. EPA is working with CFL manufacturers and major U.S. retailers to expand recycling and disposal options. Consumers can contact their local municipal solid waste agency directly, or go to www.epa.gov/bulbrecycling or www.earth911.org to identify local recycling options.

If your state or local environmental regulatory agency permits you to put used or broken CFLs in the garbage, seal the bulb in two plastic bags and put it into the outside trash, or other protected outside location, for the next normal trash collection. Never send a fluorescent light bulb or any other mercury-containing product to an incinerator.

If your ENERGY STAR qualified CFL product burns out before it should, look at the CFL base to find the manufacturer's name. Visit the manufacturer's web site to find the customer service contact information to inquire about a refund or replacement. Manufacturers producing ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs are required to offer at least a two-year limited warranty (covering manufacturer defects) for CFLs used at home. In the future, save your receipts to document the date of purchase.

How should I clean up a broken fluorescent bulb?

Because CFLs contain a small amount of mercury, EPA recommends the following clean-up and disposal guidelines:

1. Before Clean-up: Air Out the Room

- Have people and pets leave the room, and don't let anyone walk through the breakage area on their way out.
- Open a window and leave the room for 15 minutes or more.
- Shut off the central forced-air heating/air conditioning system, if you have one.

2. Clean-Up Steps for Hard Surfaces

- Carefully scoop up glass fragments and powder using stiff paper or cardboard and place them in a glass jar with metal lid (such as a canning jar) or in a sealed plastic bag.
- Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any remaining small glass pieces and powder.
- Wipe the area clean with damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes. Place towels in the glass jar or plastic bag.
- Do not use a vacuum or broom to clean up the broken bulb on hard surfaces.

3. Clean-up Steps for Carpeting or Rug

- Carefully pick up glass fragments and place them in a glass jar with metal lid (such as a canning jar) or in a sealed plastic bag.
- Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any remaining small glass fragments and powder.
- If vacuuming is needed after all visible materials are removed, vacuum the area where the bulb was broken.
- Remove the vacuum bag (or empty and wipe the canister), and put the bag or vacuum debris in a sealed plastic bag.

4. Clean-up Steps for Clothing, Bedding, etc.

- If clothing or bedding materials come in direct contact with broken glass or mercury-containing powder from inside the bulb that may stick to the fabric, the clothing or bedding should be thrown away. Do not wash such clothing or bedding because mercury fragments in the clothing may contaminate the machine and/or pollute sewage.
- You can, however, wash clothing or other materials that have been exposed to the mercury vapor from a broken CFL, such as the clothing you are wearing when you cleaned up the broken CFL, as long as that clothing has not come into direct contact with the materials from the broken bulb.
- If shoes come into direct contact with broken glass or mercury-containing powder from the bulb, wipe them off with damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes. Place the towels or wipes in a glass jar or plastic bag for disposal.

5. Disposal of Clean-up Materials

- Immediately place all clean-up materials outdoors in a trash container or protected area for the next normal trash pickup.
- Wash your hands after disposing of the jars or plastic bags containing clean-up materials.
- Check with your local or state government about disposal requirements in your specific area. Some states do not allow such trash disposal. Instead, they require that broken and unbroken mercury-containing bulbs be taken to a local recycling center.

6. Future Cleaning of Carpeting or Rug: Air out the Room During and After Vacuuming

- The next several times you vacuum, shut off the central forced-air heating/air conditioning system and open a window before vacuuming.
- Keep the central heating/air conditioning system shut off and the window open for at least 15 minutes after vacuuming is completed.

What is mercury?

Mercury is an element (Hg on the periodic table) found naturally in the environment. Mercury emissions in the air can come from both natural and man-made sources. Coal-fired power plants are the largest man-made source because mercury that naturally exists in coal is released into the air when coal is burned to make electricity. Coal-fired power generation accounts for roughly 40 percent of the mercury emissions in the U.S.

The use of CFLs reduces power demand, which helps reduce mercury emissions from power plants.

For more information on all sources of mercury, visit http://www.epa.gov/mercury
For more information about compact fluorescent bulbs, visit http://www.energystar.gov/cfls

EPA is continually reviewing its clean-up and disposal recommendations for CFLs to ensure that the Agency presents the most up-to-date information for consumers and businesses.

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ENERGY STAR® QUALIFIED COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS *FAST FACTS*

Why to use ENERGY STAR Qualified CFLs:

- All CFLs are not created equal. To earn the government's ENERGY STAR mark, a CFL must meet strict energy efficiency standards set by the US Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Energy, as well as quality and lifetime guidelines.
- Last 6 to 10 times longer than standard incandescent bulbs
- Use 75% less energy than ordinary bulbs
- Save about $30 or more in energy costs over each bulb's lifetime; change five bulbs to ENERGY STAR qualified options and save more than $150!
- Fit in almost any fixture, for indoors and outdoors
- Convenient in hard-to-reach and high-use fixtures because of their long life
- Generate 75 percent less heat, cutting home cooling costs
- Provide the same amount of light (lumens) as standard incandescent bulbs, but use fewer watts (energy)
- Backed by a minimum 2-year manufacturer warranty
- Can prevent more than 400 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions each over their lifetime

Where to use:

- To get the most energy savings, replace bulbs where lights are on the most, such as your family and living room, kitchen, dining room, and porch.
- Remember, CFLs work better in open fixtures that allow air flow.

How to choose:

- Matching the right type of CFL to the right kind of fixture helps ensure that it will perform properly and last longer. Read the packaging to be sure that the type you choose works for the fixture you have in mind. For example:
  - For recessed fixtures, it is better to use a 'reflector' CFL instead of a standard type.
  - If a light fixture is connected to a dimmer or three-way switch, select CFLs that are labeled as appropriate for a dimmer or three-way switch.
- To get the right amount of light, choose an ENERGY STAR qualified light bulb that offers the same light output, or lumen rating, as the light you are replacing. The higher the lumen rating, the greater the light output.
- Choose the color that works best for you. For example, while most CFLs are created with warm colors (2700 to 3000 degrees Kelvin) for most rooms in your home, you might choose a cooler color (3500 to 6500 degrees Kelvin) for task lighting.

Close the loop – dispose of your CFL responsibly!

- Because CFLs contain a small amount of mercury, EPA recommends that you take advantage of local recycling options, if available in your area. To learn more about CFLs and mercury, including how to clean up a broken CFL and find proper disposal options, go to *www.energystar.gov/CFLsandMercury*.