

FluoroCycle scheme officially launched

What is FluoroCycle?

FluoroCycle is a Federal Government scheme that aims to increase the recycling of lamps that contain mercury and reduce the amount of mercury entering the environment.

To achieve this, FluoroCycle provides a national, voluntary scheme which businesses, government agencies and other organisations can join as signatories. The scheme gives public recognition to signatories for their commitment to recycling.

What are the target groups?

FluoroCycle targets commercial and public lighting which accounts for approximately 90 percent of all lighting waste. Commercial and public lighting includes:

- streets, roads and parks
- commercial and government buildings such as office blocks and shopping malls
- industrial operations such as mines, industrial facilities and warehouses, and;
- institutions such as universities, hospitals, schools and sports venues.

A national scheme for recycling of household lamps

containing mercury, eg compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), may be considered in the future.

Why does Australia need the FluoroCycle scheme?

In Australia, an estimated 95 per cent of lamps that contain mercury end up in landfill each year. They are the largest single category of consumer products that contain mercury, and their disposal contributes to Australia's total annual emissions of mercury.

FluoroCycle addresses this situation and, on 21 July

2010, the Minister for Environment Protection Heritage and the Arts, the

Hon Peter Garrett, AM MP, announced that the scheme had started operating.

Who can sign up to the scheme?

Signatories to the scheme are businesses and organisations that make a commitment to adhere to the FluoroCycle Guidelines 2010. There are two groups of Signatories - 'Commercial Users'



Find out more about the FluoroCycle Scheme on their website - www.fluorocycle.org.au.



Hon. Peter Garrett launched FluoroCycle at the ENVIRO conference on July 21, 2010.

and 'Facilitators'.

A Signatory can be both a Commercial User and a Facilitator. There is no fee for joining the scheme.

How do I apply to be a Fluorocycle Signatory?

As a first step, you need to familiarise yourself with the FluoroCycle Guidelines 2010, the Signatory Guide to FluoroCycle Branding and the Signatory Manual.

The application form is available on the FluoroCycle website and in the FluoroCycle Guidelines 2010. You can apply online or by email or mail.

The FluoroCycle scheme's website is now available at (www.fluorocycle.org.au)

Alternatively, you can request the publications and application forms by sending an email to administrator@fluorocycle.org.au.

The real cost of lamp recycling

Mercury containing lamps are becoming less expensive to recycle.

However, the process still costs significantly more than the recycled content is worth, so users must pay a small fee to have them recycled.

How small? Over the life cycle of a fluorescent lamp, the cost to recycle today is roughly 1% of the cost of ownership, as the bulk of ownership dollars are spent to cover energy costs.

The estimated breakdown of total ownership costs is as follows:

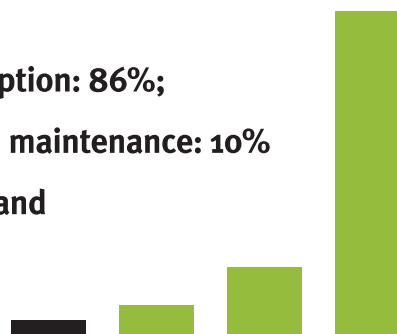


Cost of energy consumption: 86%;

Cost of installation and maintenance: 10%

Cost of materials: 3%; and

Cost of recycling: 1%



Source: <http://www.lamprecycling.com>

Lamp Recyclers is working with the electrical industry to introduce new initiatives that further reduce the cost of lamp recycling.

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Find out more on our website:
www.lamprecyclers.com.au

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