

**PRESS RELEASE**

**NOVEMBER 12, 2003**

**MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
411 NORTH 5<sup>TH</sup> ST  
SHELTON, WA 98584  
(360) 427-9670 EXT. 419**

TO: KMAS, KRXY, MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

RE: Watt a Great Idea!

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Mason County Utilities and Waste Management announces a new pilot recycling program for fluorescent lamps. The Solid Waste Facility at 510 Eels Hill Road will now be accepting fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent bulbs from households only, free of charge.

Why recycle fluorescent bulbs? The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that we dispose of more than two fluorescent bulbs per person per year in the United States. That means that in Washington and Oregon alone, we throw away between 15 million and 20 million lamps per year! Each lamp contains 15-20 milligrams of mercury (with some high-density lamps containing as much as 250 milligrams). During the handling many of these bulbs break, releasing mercury vapor to the garbage handler and the environment. By simply recycling used mercury-containing lamps, we can reduce a significant source of mercury contamination in our environment.

Each component of the fluorescent lamps will be recycled by a processor – glass, any metal, and the mercury will be used on new lamps.

Homeowners please keep your fluorescent bulbs separate from your garbage and be sure to transport them safely to the Solid Waste Facility. No broken bulbs will be accepted. No other drop box stations in Mason County will be accepting the fluorescent lamps.

Fluorescent lamps that will be accepted: 4ft. and 8ft. straight tubes, U-tubes and circular bulbs, and compact fluorescent bulbs, and PCB Ballast.

For additional information, please call the Mason County Solid Waste Facility-360-427-5271. This program is partially funded with grant funds from the Washington State Department of Ecology.

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