

# SWANCC Member Communities

The SWANCC-sponsored recycling program is for residentially-generated spent Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs) from SWANCC-member community households.

Arlington Heights	Mount Prospect
Barrington	Niles
Buffalo Grove	Palatine
Elk Grove Village	Park Ridge
Evanston	Prospect Heights
Glencoe	Rolling Meadows
Glenview	Skokie
Hoffman Estates	South Barrington
Inverness	Wheeling
Kenilworth	Wilmette
Lincolnwood	Winnetka
Morton Grove	

Visit [www.swancc.org](http://www.swancc.org) for drop-off locations and information details.



For information on recycling, special collection events or waste reduction resources such as:

Programs and Resource Materials:

“Alternative Cleaning Methods” Guide

Athletic Shoe Recycling

“Closing the Loop” Brochure

Computer and Electronics Recycling

Eco-Friendly Fashion Show

Eco-Friendly Marketplace

Glenview Transfer Station

“Green Pages” Guide

Household Chemical Waste Collections

Document Destruction Events

Presentations and Workshops

Recycling Drop-off Centers

“Recycling Etc.” Community Newsletter

“Recycling Rangers” Program

Roll-off Rentals

SWANCC Resource Material

“Taking Care of Our Earth” (Pre-K) Presentation

“Waste Reduction Tips” Brochure

Check out SWANCC’s website at [www.swancc.org](http://www.swancc.org), contact SWANCC at [info@swancc.org](mailto:info@swancc.org) or call (847) 724-9205.

**SOLID WASTE AGENCY OF  
NORTHERN COOK COUNTY**

[www.swancc.org](http://www.swancc.org)

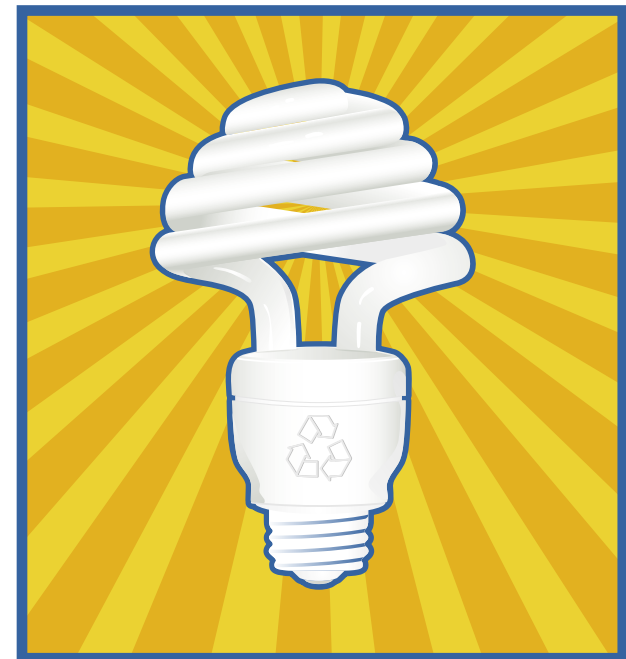


Printed on recycled paper.



**Solid Waste Agency of  
Northern Cook County**

## Compact Fluorescent Lightbulb (CFL) Recycling Program



[www.swancc.org](http://www.swancc.org)  
**(847) 724-9205**

# Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFL)

## BENEFITS OF COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHTBULBS



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends the use of CFLs when compared to incandescent bulbs for the following reasons:

- They produce the same amount of light, but use 2/3 less energy and last 10 times longer.
- Each CFL bulb can save you at least \$25 in energy costs over the life of the bulb.
- CFLs produce about 70% less heat than standard incandescent bulbs and are cool to the touch.
- CFLs reduce air pollution for a cleaner environment. If every IL household replaced one incandescent bulb with an 18-watt CFL, the results would be equivalent to:
  - ... removing 294,000 tons of carbon emissions from the air;
  - ... planting 39.4 million trees;
  - ... removing over 74,000 vehicles from Illinois roads each year.

This information is taken from the Illinois Bureau of Energy and Recycling.

## DANGERS OF CFLS

Each CFL contains a small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing – an average of 5 milligrams (roughly equivalent to the tip of a ball-point pen). Mercury poses potential health risks, therefore the CFLs should not be disposed of in the garbage if there is a recycling option.

## HOW DO I PARTICIPATE IN SWANCC'S CFL PROGRAM?

Visit [www.swancc.org](http://www.swancc.org) for a list of SWANCC-member communities that are providing a drop-off location for CFLs. Some communities may include rechargeable batteries (Ni-Cad & Lithium), button cell, cell phone and 4 foot fluorescent lamps. Bring spent bulbs in a zip-lock-type baggie for extra protection to a drop-off location during designated hours.

## CFL RESOURCES

Information and resources on all sources of mercury can be found at [www.epa.gov/mercury](http://www.epa.gov/mercury).

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Is it true that CFLs contain mercury? Why and how much?

CFLs contain a very small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing - an average of 5 milligrams (roughly equivalent to the tip of a ball-point pen). Mercury is an essential irreplaceable element in CFLs and is what allows the bulb to be an efficient light source. By comparison, older home thermometers contain 500 milligrams of mercury and many manual thermostats contain up to 3000 milligrams. It would take between 100 and 600 CFLs to equal those amounts.

There is currently no substitute for mercury in CFLs; however, manufacturers have taken significant steps to reduce mercury used in their fluorescent lighting products over the past decade.

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

Like paint, batteries, thermostats and other hazardous household items, CFLs should be disposed of properly. To locate their nearest drop-off location and hours of operation for CFLs in your community, visit [www.swancc.org](http://www.swancc.org).

### Should I be concerned about using CFLs in my home?

CFLs are safe to use in your home. No mercury is released when the bulbs are in use and they pose no danger to you or your family when used properly. However, CFLs are made of glass tubing and can break if dropped or roughly handled. Be careful when removing the lamp from its packaging, installing it or replacing it. Always screw and unscrew the lamp by its base and never forcefully twist the CFL into a light socket by its tubes. Used CFLs should be disposed of properly using the guides above.

### What should I do if a CFL breaks?

Because there is such a small amount of mercury in CFLs, your greatest risk if a bulb breaks is getting cut from glass shards.

Research indicates that there is no immediate health risk to you or your family should a bulb break and it is cleaned up properly. You can minimize any risks by following these proper clean-up and disposal guidelines:

- Sweep up – do not vacuum – all of the glass fragments and fine particles.
- Place broken pieces in a sealed plastic bag and wipe the area with a damp paper towel to pick up any stray shards of glass or fine particles. Put the used towel in the plastic bag as well.
- If the weather permits, open windows to allow the room to ventilate.

## SWANCC ELIST

Do not miss out on upcoming program opportunities and recycling events sponsored by SWANCC. Be on SWANCC's "Elist" and receive Agency information. Sign up online at [www.swancc.org](http://www.swancc.org).

For more information about SWANCC and its many school and community programs and special material collections or events, visit [www.swancc.org](http://www.swancc.org) or call the Agency at (847) 724-9205.

