

King County

Administrative Policies and Procedures

Executive Orders, Policies and Procedures

Title: Mercury-Containing Lamp Recycling

Document Code No.: PUT 7-3 (AEP)

Department/Issuing Agency: Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Effective Date: April 24, 2003

Approved: /s/ Ron Sims

Type of Action: New

Key Words: Fluorescent, Lamp, Mercury

1.0 SUBJECT TITLE: Mercury-Containing Lamp Recycling

2.0 PURPOSE: The Mercury-Containing Lamp Recycling Policy establishes Executive Policy to comply with federal, state and local disposal rules regarding mercury-containing lamps generated by King County agencies. The policy requires all County facilities to recycle mercury-containing lamps, such as fluorescents, as required by federal and state law.

3.0 ORGANIZATIONS AFFECTED: Applicable to all Executive Departments and Offices.

4.0 REFERENCES:

4.1 U.S. EPA: Hazardous Waste Management System; Modification of the Hazardous Waste Program; Hazardous Waste Lamps; Final Rule - July 6, 1999
40 CFR Part 273.

4.2 Washington Department of Ecology Universal Waste Rule for Dangerous Waste Lamps - WAC 173-303-573.

4.3 King County's Waste Acceptance Rules PUT 7.1.4.

4.4 King County's Environmental Purchasing Policy - CON 7-1-2 AEP.

4.5 "Mercury in King County," The Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County, November 2002.

5.0 DEFINITIONS

5.1 "**Lamp**" refers to any mercury-containing lighting device listed under the Universal Waste Rule, including straight fluorescent tubes of any length, compact fluorescent lamps, U-tubes, circular tubes, high-intensity discharge lamps, high-pressure sodium lamps, metal halide and mercury vapor lamps. It also includes "low-mercury" lamps, "green tips" or lamps containing mercury with binding additives.

5.2 "**Recycle**" means to arrange pick-up, drop-off or mail-in of intact lamps with a qualified recycler, or a qualified hauler who works with a recycler, so the lamps can be separated into their component materials (glass, metal, phosphor powder and mercury) for reuse or recycling.

5.3 "**Generator**" refers to any County office or facility that uses mercury-containing lamps and generates burned-out lamps, whether or not the office or facility owns the property or leases from a third party.

5.4 "**The rule**" refers to the Universal Waste Rule for Dangerous Waste Lamps adopted by the Washington Department of Ecology in 2000.

5.5 "**LHWMP**" refers to the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County, a cooperative effort by local government, including the King County Water and Land Resources Division, King County Solid Waste Division, Public Health – Seattle & King County, Seattle Public Utilities and the Suburban Cities Association.

5.6 "**Qualified lamp recycler**" refers to lamp recycling firms and their licensed transporters that comply with all federal, state, and local laws and county and city ordinances. See Appendix A.

6.0 POLICIES:

All King County departments, offices and agencies shall establish procedures to ensure that mercury-containing lamps from their facilities are collected, stored and recycled safely in keeping with the Washington State Universal Waste Rule for Dangerous Waste Lamps WAC 173-303-573. King County departments, offices and agencies shall dispose of all spent mercury-containing lamps from all facilities owned, managed or occupied by King County by sending them to a qualified lamp recycler. Spent lamps from County facilities shall not go into the garbage, dumpster or trash compactor.

7.0 PROCEDURES:

Action By: All Executive Departments and Offices

Action:

7.1 Establish systems to collect, handle and store all quantities of mercury-containing lamps for recycling.

7.2 Arrange recycling services with a qualified lamp recycler, establishing contracts as needed to ensure service.

7.3 Establish recycling contracts according to standard purchasing policies and procedures, found [here](#) (under Finance, Procurement and Contract Services).

Note: At the time of adoption of this policy, recycling 2,000 four-foot tubes cost an estimated \$400 - \$480 plus hauling charges.

7.4 Obtain from the lamp recycler evidence of final recycling or destruction of all lamp waste, including a Certificate of Recycling.

7.5 For King County offices leasing from a third party, facility staff shall work with property management to establish systems to collect, handle and store all quantities of mercury-containing lamps for recycling and arrange recycling services with a qualified recycler, obtaining the recycling firm's proof of recycling from the property manager or owner.

Action By: King County Procurement and Contract Services Section

Action:

7.6 In response to requests from King County facilities, maintain access to a competitive contract with a qualified lamp recycling firm, which will pick up and recycle a broad range of lamp models.

Note: At the time of adoption of this policy, the King County Procurement and Contract Services Section held access to a contract with Ecolights Northwest (Seattle) to recycle lamp waste; future contracts may be with different vendors.

Action By: King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Water and Land Resources Division, Hazardous Waste Section.

Action:

7.7 Upon request, provide free technical assistance and site visits to King County facilities and their property managers requesting help setting up lamp recycling systems.

7.8 Provide educational resources to educate County agencies and their property managers about the Lamp Recycling rule.

Note: Facilities and property managers can call the LHWMP Business Waste Line at 206-296-3976. For a comprehensive list of lamp recyclers and guidance on the rule, [please click here](#)

8.0 RESPONSIBILITIES:

8.1 All Executive Departments and Offices: Comply with federal, state and local rules regarding mercury-containing lamp disposal and establish safe systems to collect, handle, store and recycle mercury-containing lamps in a cost-effective manner. Train staff to implement systems. Contract with a qualified lamp recycler to pick up or receive spent lamps.

8.2 Division Managers, All Departments and Offices: Notify all appropriate personnel and facility managers within your division about the Lamp Recycling rule and this Executive Policy.

8.3 King County Procurement and Contract Services Section: In response to requests by King County agencies, maintain access to a competitive contract with a qualified lamp recycling company.

8.4 King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks/Water and Land Resources Division, Hazardous Waste Section: Provide technical assistance, upon request, to King County offices establishing lamp recycling systems or working with third-party property managers to do so. Provide educational resources to educate County agencies about the Lamp Recycling rule.

9.0 APPENDICES:

[Appendix "A" - Qualified Lamp Recyclers for King County Facilities](#)

Updated: April 25, 2003