



## Environmental Shopping & Waste Prevention

continued

### "Recycled" vs. "Recyclable" — What's the Difference!!

Because environmental awareness is so popular, many companies are eager to respond to consumers' requests for "good" products. As a result, many products are stamped with environmental catch-phrases, such as "recyclable," "recycled," "biodegradable," or "ozone-friendly."

Currently, there are no legal definitions for these environmental claims. The result is that consumers are often confused and misled. As a general rule:

- Products are **RECYCLABLE** only if your local recycling program accepts them.

- **RECYCLED** means that an item has been made partially or entirely from recycled materials. Look for the words "**post-consumer**," especially on paper products, in relation to recycled content. This means the item was made from materials that were bought, used, recycled and remanufactured.
- **BIODEGRADABILITY** is relevant only if you plan to put the item in your compost pile. Almost nothing biodegrades in a landfill, where light and air are scarce. Plastics which claim to be biodegradable in reality only break down to small bits of plastic, and are generally unsuitable for recycling.

### WASTE AUDITS Solid Waste Management & Recycling

**WasteNot Solutions** is not a hauler but conducts waste audits and provides long-term, quantifiable savings recommendations. [www.wastenotsolutions.com](http://www.wastenotsolutions.com) 732-936-0200

### Environmental Resources

**E-SCRAP News** - <http://www.resource-recycling.com/esn.html>

A monthly newsletter providing the latest news in the electronic recycling industry, including state legislative initiatives.

**International Association of Electronic Recyclers (IAER)** - [www.iaer.org](http://www.iaer.org)

Trade association of the electronics recycling industry. Contains a comprehensive list of electronic recyclers - both members and non-members, sorted by state.

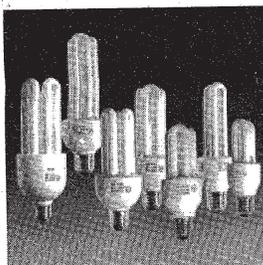
**National Recycling Coalition's Electronic Database** - [www.nrc-recycle.org](http://www.nrc-recycle.org) Database of electronic recyclers, reuse organizations, and municipal programs that accept old electronic equipment.

**Tech Soup** - [www.techsoup.org](http://www.techsoup.org)

A great website with all types of information on non-profits, including computer donation locations.

# RECYCLING

Replace (1) 100 watt bulb with a 30 watt compact fluorescent bulb and cut more than 1,300 lbs. of carbon dioxide pollution over the life of the bulb. Two bulbs will lower household emissions by more than a ton. Visit [www.LightBulbRecycling.com](http://www.LightBulbRecycling.com).



### Fluorescent Lamp Recycling

Spent fluorescent bulbs contain mercury and other potentially harmful components. For information on recycling services, contact:

#### AERC

Mitchell Ave. Allentown, PA  
610-564-8527  
[www.aercrecycling.com](http://www.aercrecycling.com)

#### ADVANCED RECOVERY

Newark, NJ  
973-485-9100

#### BETHLEHEM LAMP RECYCLING

935 Bethlehem Dr., Bethlehem, PA 18017  
610-838-7034  
Fax: 610-838-6333

(Shipping box avail. 4 ft. lamps)  
(spent fluorescent lamps, lights, bulbs, tubes)

#### Lamp Tracker

800-664-1434  
[www.WMLamptracker.com](http://www.WMLamptracker.com)

#### National Bulb Recycling, Inc.

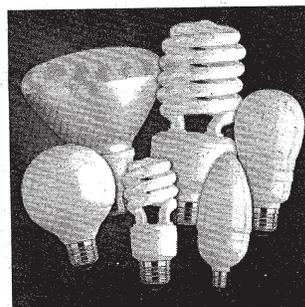
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#### Veolia Environmental Services

1453 Pinewood Street, Rahway, NJ  
800-478-6055



Lowes & Home Depot have drop off for CFL bulbs that have expired. Go to the "Returns" counter



### Bulbs, Breakage & Contamination

If you've ever dropped a tube fluorescent bulb on concrete, you'll recognize the pop and puff of vapor that results. That puff of vapor contains mercury, a toxin and environmental contaminant. A small amount of mercury is also contained in the curlicue tube of a CFL, the energy-efficient bulb that is touted as a great way to go green.

To put your mind at ease, one CFL possesses 100 times less mercury than in an older glass thermometer, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Still, because most of the mercury can be recovered if the bulb is intact, recycling is the responsible way to dispose of burned-out CFLs (and tube fluorescent bulbs, too.)

### If you break a CFL

1. Open a window and leave the room for at least 15 minutes so vapors can disperse.
2. Wearing disposable rubber gloves, carefully scoop up fragments and powder with stiff paper or cardboard. Then wipe the area clean with a damp paper towel or disposable wet wipe and use sticky tape to pick up small pieces and powder. (Don't use a vacuum cleaner for the initial cleanup; that will disperse any remaining mercury vapor in the air and leave particles in the bag.)
3. Place all cleanup materials and gloves in a plastic bag and seal it. Recycle. Or if your state allows it, seal the CFL in two plastic bags and put it in the outside trash. Wash your hands.
4. The first time you vacuum the area where the bulb was broken, remove the vacuum bag when you're done cleaning (or empty and wipe the canister). Put the bag and/or vacuum debris, as well as the cleaning materials, in two sealed plastic bags and put in the outdoor trash for normal disposal.

Try an internet search for 'fluorescent bulb recycling' to get more information on prepaid boxes to mail bulbs direct to recyclers.