

America Recycles Day 2018

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Recycle All Kinds of Light Bulbs **November 11 and 15**

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For the fourth year, we are participating in America Recycles Day, a nationwide initiative by Keep America Beautiful. Recycle all kinds of residential bulbs: florescent tubes, compact fluorescents (CFLs), incandescent, and Halogen on America Recycles Day, November 15, in our church parking lot near the office entrance, 2-4 p.m., and for your convenience, the Sunday before, November 11, 9 a.m.-noon, same place.

To protect human health, many municipalities require recycling mercury containing light bulbs. The EPA estimates that 600 million fluorescent lights are disposed of annually, with over 80 percent ending up in landfills where they release mercury into the environment. Because mercury persists in the environment, you must not throw away CFLs or fluorescent bulbs with your regular garbage.

Carefully bag each CFL in a sealed zip-lock bag, one per bag. We have plenty of good used zip-lock bags on hand that you can use to bag your CFLs at home; pick them up the Sunday before, November 4.

Transport incandescent and Halogen bulbs loose in sturdy container, like a bucket or box.

Transport florescent tubes in the box the new ones came in (you can take your box back home) or carefully wrap them in newspaper or other protective material. Take care not to break as all fluorescent bulbs contain small amounts of vaporized mercury which is hazardous to human health and to our environment. For safety, Go Green Team volunteers will collect your bulbs from your car; please do not unload them yourself.

One CFL contains about 4 mg of vaporized mercury, one 4-foot florescent tube contains about 12 mg. Mercury is now a world-wide contaminant.

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Processes in the environment convert it into methylmercury which bioaccumulates up the food chain. Years ago, this prompted the Missouri Department of Health and Human Services to issue a statewide advisory on eating top level predator fish species (such as largemouth bass) greater than 12 inches long from Missouri lakes and ponds.

When mercury is released from a broken bulb, it evaporates, becoming an invisible, odorless, toxic vapor that can cause serious health injury and may be lethal when people breathe and inhale it into their lungs. It is better to recycle the valuable (and toxic) mercury from bulbs than to bury it in our landfills.

Imagine the “good” land buried under our mountains of trash—including toxins such as mercury, lethal to creation—lamenting to God, as written in Jeremiah 12:10-11: “Foreign, scavenging shepherds will loot and trample my fields, turn my beautiful, well-cared-for fields into vacant lots of tin cans and thistles. They leave them littered with junk—a ruined land, a land in lament.” The whole countryside is a wasteland, and no one will really care.” –The Message Bible

Fees: \$1/tube, all other bulbs/free. We cannot accept broken bulbs. For safety, we cannot store bulbs in the church at any other time, so please do not drop them off except on these days.



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NOVEMBER 15

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