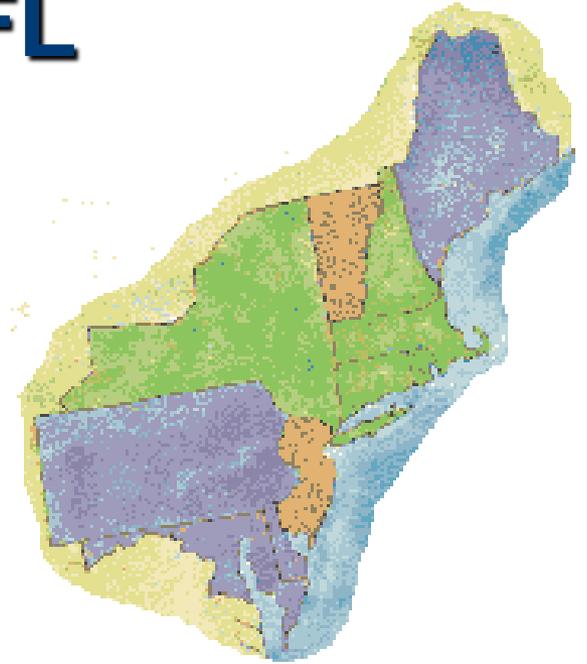


# Current Activities in CFL Recycling/Disposal

*Presented by:*  
**David Lis**



*For the:*

**ENERGY STAR Lighting Partner  
Meeting Session  
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# NEEP Overview

## “Facilitating partnerships to advance energy efficiency”

- Regional non-profit organization since 1996
- Serving New England, New York, Mid-Atlantic

### **Primary Audiences Served:**

- State Policy Makers
- Efficiency Program Administrators

### **Approach:**

- Strategic regional collaboration to overcome barriers to efficiency – public policies and efficiency programs.

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# Why is NEEP interested in the CFL recycling issue?

- CFLs and recycling meet at the intersection of Policy and Efficiency Programming
- Due to success of CFL programs, sheer volume of CFLs presents a disposal issue
- State Offices and efficiency programs concerned with:
  - Mercury pollution
  - Potential consumer backlash
- NEEP's Conclusion- To maintain effectiveness of CFLs as an energy saving measure, recycling/disposal solutions are necessary!

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# Regulatory backdrop

- CFLs currently exempt under federal disposal regulations
- State CFL disposal bans (active/in process)
  - Minnesota
  - Wisconsin
  - California
  - Maine
  - New Hampshire
  - Massachusetts
- Compliance very low

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# Important players

- Municipalities-
  - Most offer recycling, but charge
- State Environmental Offices-
  - Mix of regulations/programs
- Efficiency Programs-
  - Demonstrating support for program development but mandate to use funding exclusively for energy savings is a challenge
- Industry (Retailers/Manufacturers)-
  - Apprehensive in general but recognize the corporate responsibility angle and potential increase in foot traffic

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# Existing Programs

## Addressing CFL Disposal

- Northeast
  - Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts
- Midwest
  - Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin
- West Coast
  - California, Oregon, Washington
- National Retailers
  - The Home Depot, IKEA

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# Program models

- Municipal waste collection
- Retailer-based collection
  - Free to customer
  - Charge to customer
- Mail-based collection

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# Municipal Waste Collection

- Pros
  - Existing infrastructure
- Cons
  - Inconvenient (hours, lack of locations)
  - High cost to consumer/municipality

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# Retailer-based Collection Design (free to customer)

- Examples; Maine, Illinois
- Pros
  - Convenient hours/locations
  - Affordable
  - Drives foot traffic for retailer
- Cons
  - Expensive to supporting state agency/program or retailer.
  - Liability issues for retailer

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# Retailer-based Collection Design (charge to customer)

- Examples; Washington, Minnesota
- Pros
  - Convenient (hours/locations)
  - Self sustaining system
- Cons
  - **Disincentive (cost) to customer**

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# Mail Based Collection Design

- Example; US Postal Service Pilots
- Pros
  - Very Convenient
- Cons
  - Very Expensive

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# Conclusion

- All existing models present some deficiencies
- Retailer-based Collection system has promising track record of success.  
**Sustainability of funding remains key issue.**

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# Recommendations

- In order to improve this model, address deficiencies.
- **Spread Recycling Costs by:**
  - Leveraging existing lighting programs
  - Leveraging existing relationships
  - Engaging regional and national dialogues

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# Proposed Strategy

- Collaborative effort between efficiency program sponsors, state governments and local/regional waste management organizations.
- Pursuing a cooperative strategy leveraging the resources of these parties with those of industry, represents the formula for a sustainable, effective and highly utilized CFL disposal/recycling strategy.

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For full Report;

[www.neep.org/initiatives/9.10.08.cflreport.pdf](http://www.neep.org/initiatives/9.10.08.cflreport.pdf)

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