

# *National Waste Reporting 2013*

## **FACTSHEET– SAFE DISPOSAL OF MERCURY-CONTAINING LAMPS**

### **FLUOROCYCLE**

FluoroCycle is a national voluntary product stewardship scheme to reduce the amount of mercury-containing waste being disposed of to landfill by increasing the recycling of mercury-containing lamps from the commercial and public lighting sectors. These sectors account for a large majority of all lighting waste. The scheme commenced operations on 21 July 2010.

Currently most mercury-containing lamps are disposed of in Australian landfill. Mercury in landfill converts to the toxic methylmercury and can spread through air, water and soil into the wider environment.

FluoroCycle gives public recognition to businesses and organisations which commit to recycle their waste lamps (Commercial Users) or to promote the scheme (Facilitators). Commercial Users contract with existing waste collection and recycling companies to handle their waste lamps. As at 22 October 2013, there were 200 Signatories to FluoroCycle including 70 'Commercial Users' and 130 'Facilitators'.

At first FluoroCycle was a partnership between government and industry, delivered jointly by Lighting Council Australia and the Australian Government on behalf of environment ministers. The Australian Government provided funding to engage Lighting Council Australia to manage the day to day operations of the scheme for the three years to mid-2013.

Lighting Council Australia took over governance and funding of FluoroCycle from July 2013 and has applied for accreditation of FluoroCycle as a voluntary stewardship scheme under the *Product Stewardship Act 2011*.

More information on FluoroCycle is available at [www.fluorocycle.org.au](http://www.fluorocycle.org.au).