



SB 1512
February 23, 2012
Emily Ackland, Environmental Policy Manager

The Association of Oregon Counties supports SB 1512 relating to lighting that contains mercury.

Counties have historically been identified as "wastesheds" and have been greatly responsible for solid waste programs. This includes being responsible for meeting state recycling and material recovery goals, ensuring the safe and environmentally responsible disposal of non-recycled and hazardous materials, as well as providing education encouraging the reduction of waste and separation of recyclable materials.

Counties have identified lighting that contains mercury as a priority material in Oregon for two main reasons: mercury is a hazardous substance and because incandescent light bulbs are being replaced by compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL's) at a high rate. Counties are seeing an increase in CFL's at their transfer stations and unfortunately, in their disposal sites.

Most counties currently collect mercury-containing lighting at their transfer stations, household hazardous waste facility, or at household hazardous waste collection events. Although it varies by county a rough average expenditure on the program is between \$20,000 - \$40,000 annually (see Marion County numbers on the reverse). This amount is likely to go up due to an increase in demand by consumers. Counties are also responsible for pollution that comes out of landfills, both as stormwater runoff and as leachate; the water that collects contaminants as it passes through the landfill material. Preventing mercury from entering leachate is a concern for counties; one that could be addressed by keeping mercury containing products out of landfills, reducing the amount of mercury in products, and by educating the public so that they know how to dispose of these products properly.

Counties appreciate the efforts of the state put forth in this bill to address lighting that contains mercury. The Association of Oregon Counties supports SB1512.

Marion County Mercury Lighting Collection Costs

| Year | Lbs. of Lamps Recycled | Recycling Fees: | Advertising |
|------|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 2000 | 1,000 | \$485.48 | |
| 2001 | 4,200 | \$2,429.84 | |
| 2002 | 7,000 | \$3,944.47 | |
| 2003 | 2,965 | \$1,708.88 | |
| 2004 | 3,160 | \$1,600.14 | |
| 2005 | 4,570 | \$2,465.47 | |
| 2006 | 5,619 | \$2,715.08 | \$2,886.20 |
| 2007 | 7,844 | \$2,763.03 | \$7,012.50 |
| 2008 | 9,523 | \$4,784.40 | \$12,734.75 |
| 2009 | 18,318 | \$4,498.70 | \$12,018.66 |
| 2010 | 23,577 | \$10,201.94 | \$7,309.75 |
| 2011 | 29,521 | \$11,622.75 | \$13,932.46 |