

Temple Israel Environmental Task Force
Green Tip Sheet, April 2008
The 4 R's of Environmental Awareness
RETHINK/REDUCE/REUSE/RECYCLE

RETHINK/RECYCLE – Proper Disposal of CFL Bulbs

Recently, your Environmental Task Force recommended that you replace incandescent bulbs with long lasting CFL bulbs. Since then we have been asked about the proper way to dispose of these bulbs.

CFL bulbs contain a small amount of mercury, a toxic material. If you throw out used CFL bulbs with your other trash, the bulbs will end up in the city landfill. Over time, the mercury may diffuse out of the landfill possibly contaminating our precious ground water. So **DO NOT** put these bulbs into your trash!!

Safe possibilities exist. For people living in the Memphis area, the city has recently opened a hazardous waste site. This site properly disposes of all types of hazardous waste including florescent bulbs (CFLs are florescent!). [Click here](#) for more information about types of waste accepted, hours of operation, and the site location.

Another safe and perhaps better option is to recycle these bulbs. Commercial recycling kits are available. You purchase the kit, fill it with CFL bulbs and send it off (usually prepaid) to a recycling center. [Click here](#) to see an example of such a kit available online (this is not an endorsement of this product by your ETF!). If you do an online search for "cfl bulb recycling", you will find many more alternatives.

So help our environment by using CFL bulbs, and then choose to recycle or properly dispose of all of your florescent bulbs!

Remember Confucious says:

[A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step!](#)

Your Temple Environmental Task Force
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For more information, [email Linda](#).