

LIGHT RECYCLING PROGRAM

The Light Recycling Program was implemented to meet the universal waste regulations issued under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) in 40CFR Part 273. The Agency has concluded that regulating spent hazardous waste lamps as a universal waste will lead to better management of these lamps and will facilitate compliance with hazardous waste requirements.

The Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) Department manages the light recycling program at UNCW. All lights used at UNCW, except incandescent lights, are included in this program. The lights are considered hazardous due to the mercury content and can no longer be disposed of in the landfills. The lights managed under this program are specifically mercury-containing lamps to include:

- **Fluorescent Lamps**
- **Compact Fluorescents**
- **Mercury Vapor Bulbs**
- **Metal Halide Lamps**
- **High Pressure Sodium**

The lights will be sent to a recycling vendor with selection based on environmental compliance with industry standards and insurance levels. The light recycling technology separates mercury-containing lamps into their main components, recovers the mercury, and recycles 100 percent of the end product. They accept all the mercury-containing lamps generated at UNCW.

HOW THE PROGRAM OPERATES AT UNCW

1. Physical Plant, Auxiliary Services, and Housing and Residence Life maintenance personnel are responsible for changing out the lights and, therefore, they will have the responsibility for the management of the program. The maintenance personnel in these departments will store the used lights in the original cardboard containers in their designated storage areas.
2. "Universal Waste" labels are placed on these boxes by the generating department. The labels identify the generating department and the date. EH&S provides the labels to the departments.
3. Physical Plant is the largest generator and they determine the pick-up schedule based on their storage capabilities. Physical Plant personnel will notify EH&S when their storage area is nearing capacity.
4. EH&S schedules a pick-up from the recycler at this time. Two weeks lead time is required.
5. All used lights must be transferred to the warehouse receiving dock prior to pick-up.
6. After the pick-up, EH&S will bill each department for their portion of the recycling costs.

If university employees change their own lights, they must contact their maintenance personnel or EH&S for assistance in sending the lights to the recycling storage area.

EH&S endorses this recycling program and feels that it supports the environmentally conscious mission of the university.