



LOW MERCURY FLUORESCENT LAMPS

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INDIAN FLUORESCENT LAMPS ARE A MAJOR SOURCE OF MERCURY POLLUTION

- **One 40W tubelight contains 15-60 mg mercury; average 30mg = daily safe exposure limit for 3000 persons.**
- **This mercury is released within 8 hours after the tube-light caps are removed on footpaths for scrap**



IN USA AND THE E U, TUBELIGHTS WITH OVER 5 MG MERCURY PER LAMP ARE HAZARDOUS WASTE

**Disposal in haz-waste landfills is very costly
So E U uses mostly LOW MERCURY LAMPS.**

**In India, imported low-mercury lamps cost only
10-15% more than 20-40 mg mercury ones.**

**Producers claim that lack of demand is why
they do not make (or import) low-mercury
fluorescents in India, though all know how to.**



SO LET US CREATE DEMAND

Let Low mercury lamps be specified for purchase in all Industrial Estates, big firms and institutions, and all Municipal, State and Central Govt, Public Sector, Railways and Defence.

Let there be lower tax on eco-friendly products or an eco-tax on polluting ones.

Haz-waste landfilling of high-mercury lamps will also be a financial deterrent.



WHICHEVER PRODUCER MOVES TO LOW-MERCURY LAMPS FIRST WILL HAVE AN ADVANTAGE

**EPR =Extended Producer Responsibility
is now an accepted concept.**

**Take-back of lamps as for batteries will
come soon.**

**Companies will need low-cost solutions
to dispose of their taken-back lamps.**



TUBELIGHTS ARE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

If Bangalore's 1 crore population discards just one tubelight a year, that is one crore waste tubelights p.a. in just one metro city.

Periodic collection is now mandated to keep them out of mixed municipal dumps and not puncture very costly SWM vehicles or contaminate all the compostable waste.

Also for BBMPs 4.4 lac streetlights.



AFFORDABLE INDIGENOUS LAMP RECYCLING UNITS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR SAFE RECYCLING :

Lamps are crushed under vacuum, mercury is adsorbed in activated charcoal, followed by dry Or wet removal of phosphor coating to give clean safe glass for bulk consumption in glass wool, glass roofing tiles or pole-top insulators.

Producers must create tie-ups for profitable use of clean lamp glass.



WE NEED COMMUNITY LAMP RECYCLING UNITS

Mobile or skid-mounted fully-enclosed LR Units can move to city Wards or Zones for citizens to deliver quarterly their burnt-out mercury lamps for safe disposal, **which is always a Cost, never a profitable service.**

Consent to Operate these should be pragmatic and not require an expensive fixed location, because mobile Lamp Recycling Units are Preferable to current footpath decapping by waste-pickers, or throwing mercury lamps in municipal trash-containers.



POLLUTION PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN A CURE

Create demand for low-mercury lighting.

The switch to CFLs is already happening.

LEDs are no-mercury and producers should switch to these in bulk to bring down prices and pollution.

LABELLING the mercury content of lamps is a must to help citizens make green choices.