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NEWS RELEASE: Easier Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb Disposal Is On the Way!

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News Release

CHARLOTTE, Mich. — The Eaton County Department of Resource Recovery is pleased to announce that Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs) will be easier for Eaton County residents to dispose of thanks to a partnership with local recycling centers.

CFLs are more energy-efficient and last up to ten times longer than traditional incandescent light bulbs, and they produce less CO² gas from entering the atmosphere. The US Environmental Protection Agency has stated that if every home in America replaced just one incandescent light bulb with an Energy Star CFL, it would save enough energy to light more than 3million homes and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of more than 800,000 cars in one year!

Each CFL contains mercury, enough to cover the very tip of a ball-point pen. The EPA has deemed that enough mercury for CFLs to be considered Household Hazardous Waste.

The Department of Resource Recovery asked our county Recycling Centers to store CFLs brought to their site by residents until the next Household Hazardous Waste Collection event. So far, the Charlotte Area Recycling Authority and the Delta Charter Township Recycling Center have agreed to support this new endeavor. Updates will be announced in local newspapers.

Simply place the spent bulb into its original packaging to help keep it from breaking.

No mercury is released into the atmosphere when a CFL is used. But if a bulb is broken, open a window, use rubber gloves and using a piece of cardboard, carefully scoop up fragments and powder and place in a sealed bag. Place the first plastic bag into a second plastic bag and carefully deposit in an outdoors trash container. Wash your hands. Do not vacuum! If a bulb is broken on carpeting, use duck tape to pick up as much of the broken bulb as possible, double-bag it and place in an outdoor trash container for disposal.

For the latest information on efforts to assist Eaton County residents with household

hazardous waste issues, waste reduction, recycling and reuse options, contact the Department of Resource Recovery at (517)543-3686.