



COUNTY OF HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Compact Fluorescent Lightbulb (CFL) Recycling and Disposal Information

Mercury in CFLs

Each CFL contains a small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing – an average of 5 milligrams (roughly equivalent to the size of the tip of a ball point pen). Mercury poses health risks and CFLs should not be disposed of in your regular trash.



Recycling Options

The County of Hawai'i has several options for recycling CFL lightbulbs:

- 💡 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events – Hilo on the 3rd Saturday in June and the 1st Saturday in December, Kona on the 1st Saturday in June and the 2nd Saturday in December. Also, Waimea & Pāhoa annually in March.
- 💡 Home Depot provides **free** CFL recycling drop-off by the Customer Service Area.

Should a CFL lightbulb break, follow clean up guidelines provide by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – available online at <http://www.epa.gov/hg/spills/#fluorescent>.

Consumers should encourage retailers who sell CFL lightbulbs to offer recycling programs. For more information about this and other County of Hawai'i Solid Waste and Recycling programs visit www.hawaiizerowaste.org.

Benefits of Energy Efficient Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights

Switching from traditional light bulbs or fluorescents to LEDs is a cost effective way to reduce energy usage and save money (estimated in Hawai'i County to be \$135 per year with regular usage¹). They may cost slightly more up-front but will save you tons over their longer lifetime. The U.S. EPA recommends the use of LEDs, when compared to incandescent bulbs, for the following reasons:

- 💡 LEDs produce the same amount of light using up to 90% percent less energy
- 💡 LEDs last up to 20 years
- 💡 LEDs produce less heat, are cool to the touch and saves on air conditioning costs.
- 💡 LED's reduced energy usage reduces air pollution for a cleaner environment



Mahalo for Recycling and doing your part to help protect the 'āina!

¹ Hawai'i Energy – Lighting Facts
US EPA Learn About LED Lights info
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