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**Product Stewardship Institute**

**THE PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP INSTITUTE APPLAUDS THE HOME DEPOT<sup>®</sup>  
NATIONAL CFL RECYCLING INITIATIVE**

**National Retail Take-Back Provides Convenient Recycling Opportunity**

**BOSTON, June 25, 2008** – The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) praised The Home Depot<sup>®</sup>, the world's largest home improvement retailer, for this week's launch of a national in-store, consumer compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) recycling program. The program includes all 1,973 The Home Depot locations and is the first such program initiated and publicly promoted nationwide by a U.S.-based retailer.

“Retailers play a key role in providing consumers with a convenient way to safely recycle CFLs and other products whose improper disposal can harm the environment,” said Scott Cassel, PSI's Executive Director. “We are pleased that The Home Depot has taken this important step to join the national effort to improve the environment by recycling CFL bulbs in-store.”

Switching from traditional light bulbs to CFLs is an easy change consumers can make to reduce energy use at home. According to the EPA, if every American switched one incandescent bulb to a CFL, it would save over \$600 million in annual energy costs and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions from 800,000 cars. However, fluorescent lamps do contain mercury, a naturally occurring toxin that can affect the nervous system. Although no mercury is released when these products are in use or intact, when disposed of in the trash, crushed, incinerated, or otherwise broken, they can cause mercury to be released into the environment. Creating safe and easy ways to recycle these products is necessary in order for consumers to feel comfortable about adopting the new energy-efficient bulbs.

With more than 75 percent of households located within 10 miles of a Home Depot store, collection at retailers is one of the safest and most convenient ways to ensure proper disposal. At each The Home Depot store, customers can simply bring in expired, unbroken CFL bulbs and give them to the store associate behind the returns desk. The bulbs will then be recycled responsibly by an environmental management company. The Home Depot Canada launched a similar CFL recycling program in November, 2007. Other local retailers have also been collecting fluorescent lamps for recycling.

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“Ace Hardware has worked with PSI to create a take-back recycling program for fluorescent lamps and mercury thermostats at more than 25 stores in Montana, Utah, and South Dakota, in addition to their other take-back efforts in Vermont, Illinois, and Colorado,” said Sierra Fletcher, PSI Project Manager. “The response to the program has been extremely positive, and we look forward to initiating additional take-back and environmentally-conscious programs in other Ace stores.”

PSI is also convening a national dialogue that seeks to develop a comprehensive solution for fluorescent lamp product responsibility. The goal is to negotiate acceptable and accountable roles for key stakeholders involved in the product lifecycle, including retailers, manufacturers, and government officials. For more information on fluorescent lamp recycling or other product stewardship initiatives, please visit [www.productstewardship.us/FluorescentLighting](http://www.productstewardship.us/FluorescentLighting).