



## **Northwest Product Stewardship Council**

February 1, 2007

Mr. H. Lee Scott, Jr.  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.  
Bentonville, AR 72716-8611

Dear Mr. Scott:

On behalf of the Northwest Product Stewardship Council (NWPSC), I would like to express our support for Wal-Mart's goal to sell 100 million compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) during 2007. The NWPSC is a coalition of local, state and federal governmental entities working together to integrate the principles of product stewardship into the policy and economic structures of the Pacific Northwest ([www.productstewardship.net](http://www.productstewardship.net)).

CFLs save energy and reduce the amount of energy that needs to be produced by power plants. However, they also contain mercury, which is a persistent, bioaccumulative toxin that needs to be properly recycled. Because they contain mercury, CFLs and other mercury-containing products are banned from disposal in the garbage and at transfer stations in many Pacific Northwest counties.

These bans intensify the need for creative recycling solutions that involve the participation of manufacturers, retailers, suppliers, local and state government and consumers. We strongly encourage Wal-Mart, in partnership with lamp manufacturers, distributors and local and state government to implement a convenient and cost-effective recycling program in all of your stores to insure the proper recycling of these lamps at the end of their useful life.

The NWPSC has experience establishing successful take back programs ([www.takeitbacknetwork.org](http://www.takeitbacknetwork.org)) for products such as electronic devices and fluorescent bulbs and tubes. We have worked with Staples to set up a take back program that provides their customers with a convenient way to recycle their computers and peripherals. Surveys conducted last year show that customers like the convenience available through such in-store programs. We have also worked with Seattle Lighting Fixture Company and various hardware stores to set up take back programs for fluorescent bulbs and straight tubes.

The NWPSC would like to offer our assistance to help you set up a fluorescent lamp recycling system that will keep your customers coming back to your stores to recycle spent bulbs and purchase new ones. The NWPSC can also help to publicize the take back program at Wal-Mart stores in Washington and Oregon and will promote Wal-Mart's commitment to keeping our environment clean and healthy.

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Our colleagues at the California Product Stewardship Council and the British Columbia Product Stewardship Council are also writing to you to request assistance with this issue. Wal-Mart, in partnership with the lamp manufacturers has the opportunity to create a convenient take-back program at the point of sale rather than placing the cost of managing these products on local governments.

We request that you use your considerable influence with the manufacturers to design and implement a corporate wide program for recycling fluorescent lamps, including CFLs and straight tubes. The NWPSC would be happy to help Wal-Mart with the implementation and publicity of this service.

Please contact me by phone at 206-296-4363 or by email at [Lauren.Cole@metrokc.gov](mailto:Lauren.Cole@metrokc.gov), with questions or for further discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren H. Cole". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Lauren H. Cole  
Mercury Subcommittee Lead  
Northwest Product Stewardship Council