



**For Immediate Release:**

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**NEW LAW EFFECTIVE TODAY WILL PROVIDE FREE  
MERCURY THERMOSTAT RECYCLING & HELP PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH**

***More Collection Locations Will Help Californians  
Recycle Toxic Thermostats***

**Sacramento, California (July 1, 2009)** – A new law designed to protect public health and reduce taxpayer costs through the collection of mercury thermostats is effective today. The Mercury Thermostat Collection Act of 2008 (AB 2347, Ruskin) increases the number of thermostat collection locations and makes recycling more convenient. The law requires heating and air conditioning wholesalers with physical locations in California to collect thermostats from the public and contractors. Retailers are also encouraged to participate.

Co-sponsored by the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) and Sierra Club California, AB 2347 is California's first full producer responsibility legislation and makes California only the third state to pass such a law in an effort to protect public health.

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin. On average, mercury thermostats contain about three grams of mercury. Each year in the U.S., as many as 630,000 infants are born with mercury levels associated with IQ loss, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

“We want contractors and the public to know that this new law is in effect to protect the public from mercury exposure,” says Heidi Sanborn, CPSC Executive Director. “Having the producers fund and manage the collection system reduces public costs to manage the product at the end-of-life and is in line with the overall framework for an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system adopted by the California Integrated Waste Management Board in 2008.”

Sanborn praised the efforts of Honeywell International Inc., as part of the Thermostat Recycling Corporation (TRC), and the California Retailers Association for supporting the recycling legislation.

CPSC is an organization of local governments and other partners, formed to support development of EPR policy and its implementation. EPR is a policy whereby product manufacturers are responsible for the life cycle of their products. CPSC's mission is to shift California's product waste management system from one focused on government-funded and ratepayer-financed waste diversion to one that relies on

producer responsibility in order to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design that promote environmental sustainability.

Information about free thermostat recycling in California can be found at <http://www.calpsc.org/products/thermostats.html> For more information about CPSC, call Heidi Sanborn at 916-402-3911, or go to [www. CalPSC.org](http://www.CalPSC.org).

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