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PG&E AND HUMBOLDT WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY TEAM UP TO RECYCLE FLUORESCENT LAMPS

Free Program Provides County Residents with Convenient Access to Recycle Fluorescent Lamps

Eureka, Calif. – In collaboration with the Humboldt Waste Management Authority (HWMA), Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC), Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA), Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) today celebrated the launch of Humboldt County’s “Take-It-Back” partnership. The Take-It-Back Partnership in Humboldt is a pilot program designed to help county residents with the proper recycling of fluorescent bulbs, including four foot fluorescent bulbs and compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs).

“Compact fluorescent bulbs are a quick and cost-effective way for our customers to save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions,” said John Bohman, program manager in Customer Energy Efficiency for PG&E. “We’re pleased to partner with DTSC and HWMA to promote proper disposal of these energy efficient bulbs once they’ve reached the end of their useful lives.”

HWMA Executive Director, Jim Test, commented, “Prior to introducing this program the county had three fluorescent bulb disposal sites, all located in the Eureka/Arcata area. Now, thanks to a grant from PG&E, residents’ options will expand to include twelve disposal sites throughout Humboldt County.”

“DTSC is very happy to welcome Humboldt County to the California Take It Back! (TIB!) Partnership. It is the TIB! Partnership's objective to work with local governments to combine the message of energy efficiency by advocating the use of compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) - and - environmental protection by providing free, local and convenient locations for residents to take the end-of-life CFLs” said Leonard E. Robinson, Federal Liaison, California Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control. “Fluorescents contain a small amount of mercury and need to be responsibly disposed. We are particularly pleased with Humboldt County's unique "mail back program" for end-of-life CFLs. It is the first such program in California.”

Under the program, PG&E will provide \$55,000 for a fluorescent lamp recycling program. The utility will also work with HWMA and the Redwood Coast Energy Authority to promote fluorescent bulb collection opportunities and establish free and convenient collection systems for used residential four foot

fluorescent bulbs and compact fluorescent bulbs (five bulb limit per trip). Beginning this March, HWMA and PG&E will work alongside twelve local retailers to establish proper fluorescent bulb collection methods and procedures, so they can serve as recycling drop-off points. Unique to Humboldt County, a comparison “Mail It Back” pilot program will also be available to designated communities. Under this program, residents can mail back their Fluorescent Bulbs to the proper disposal sites. The pilot program is set to run through the summer of 2009.

The twelve retailers selected for this program include:

Trinidad: 101 True Value Hardware

McKinleyville: ACE Hardware

Arcata: Hensel’s ACE Hardware

Sunny Brae: ACE Hardware

Blue Lake: Skinner Store

Willow Creek: ACE Hardware

Eureka: Pierson Building Center & Shafer ACE Hardware

Ferndale: Nielsen

Fortuna: ACE Hardware

Scotia: True Value Hardware

Redway: True Value Hardware

More information on Humboldt County’s Take It Back program is available by calling HWMA at (707) 268-8030 or on the web at www.redwoodenergy.org.

The California Take-It-Back Partnership is a collaboration of state government; city and county government; businesses; non-profit agencies and non-governmental organizations. Its goal is to provide free; local and convenient ways for California residents to recycle everyday household wastes that can no longer be disposed in the trash.

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