

# **Take Control & Save**

## **Waste Generation and Disposal Plan**

### **Associated Electric Cooperative Inc.**

Environmental Health & Safety Department

Fluorescent, high pressure and low-pressure sodium, HID, mercury vapor, metal halide, incandescent, and other types of lighting wastes are hazardous wastes due to concentrations of mercury and/or lead. Individual households are not regulated by the EPA and may choose to recycle bulbs or discard them through normal means of disposal. If a single bulb listed above including incandescent and compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL) are accepted by a cooperative in exchange for a CFL bulb, that individual bulb is considered a hazardous waste and must be stored and disposed of accordingly.

Collection of bulbs in an exchange program can be costly for the cooperatives for the proper disposal of the bulbs at a recycling or licensed hazardous waste processing facility. It is estimated it will cost approximately twenty cents per bulb for recycling/disposal. The disposal of bulbs by the cooperatives also presents potential future liability under CERCLA should the recycling or hazardous waste possessing facility become a superfund site.

AECI recommends that electric cooperatives do not accept compact fluorescent or incandescent used bulbs. Cooperatives should encourage members to be responsible for the proper disposal of the bulbs. To properly dispose of a compact fluorescent bulb, the bulb should be wrapped in a plastic bag prior to disposal to prevent exposure to mercury should the bulb be broken. Members can dispose of incandescent and compact fluorescent bulbs by placing them into their trash receptacles however, AECI recommends they be recycled. If the cooperative chooses to accept a compact fluorescent bulb, the member should wrap the bulb in a plastic bag prior to dropping it off at the cooperative.