

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# Great Lakes Binational Toxic Strategy MERCURY WORKGROUP MEETING

Implementation of Mercury Switch Recovery in Canada  
December 12, 2007



Megan Bennett



A program  
of the

**cleanair**  
FOUNDATION



# The Clean Air Foundation

*A national not-for-profit organization dedicated to developing, implementing and managing public engagement programs and other strategic approaches that lead to measurable emissions reductions to improve air quality and protect the climate.*





# Switch Out: Introduction



*Switch Out* launched in Ontario in 2001, in Alberta in 2003, in British Columbia in 2004, in the Maritimes and Quebec in 2006.

- Canada's first program for recovering automotive *convenience lighting* mercury switches
- Voluntary program engaging auto recyclers to pull convenience lighting switches prior to sending scrap for recycling
- Clean Air Foundation established program infrastructure: communication materials, education/training, transportation/storage
- Awarded honourable mention from CCME Pollution Prevention awards in Innovations and received Recycling Council of Ontario's 2001 Waste Minimization Award

## Program Funders:



Environnement  
Canada

Environment  
Canada

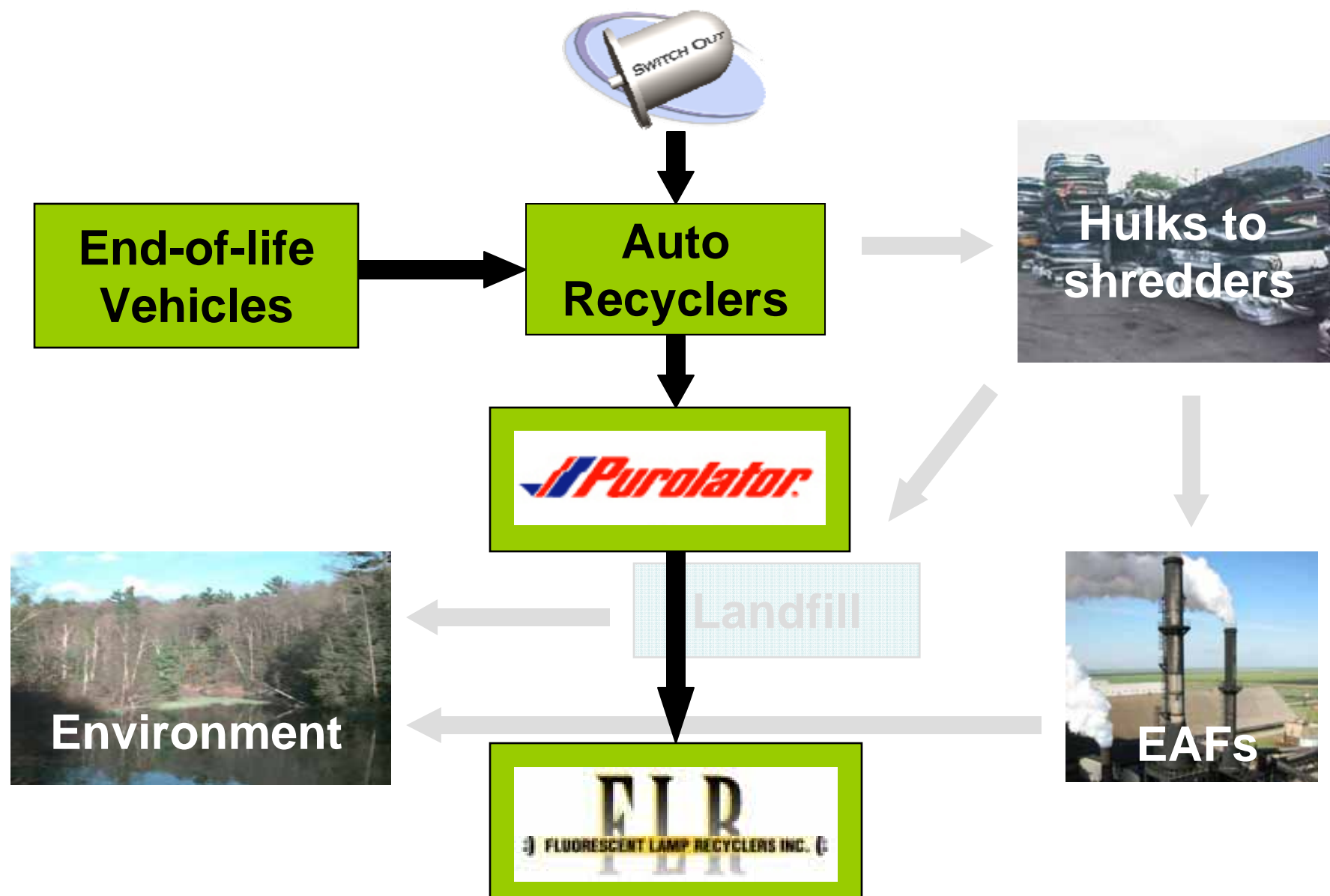
THE ONTARIO  
TRILLIUM  
FOUNDATION



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DE L'ONTARIO



# The *Switch Out* Hg flow





# How *Switch Out* works



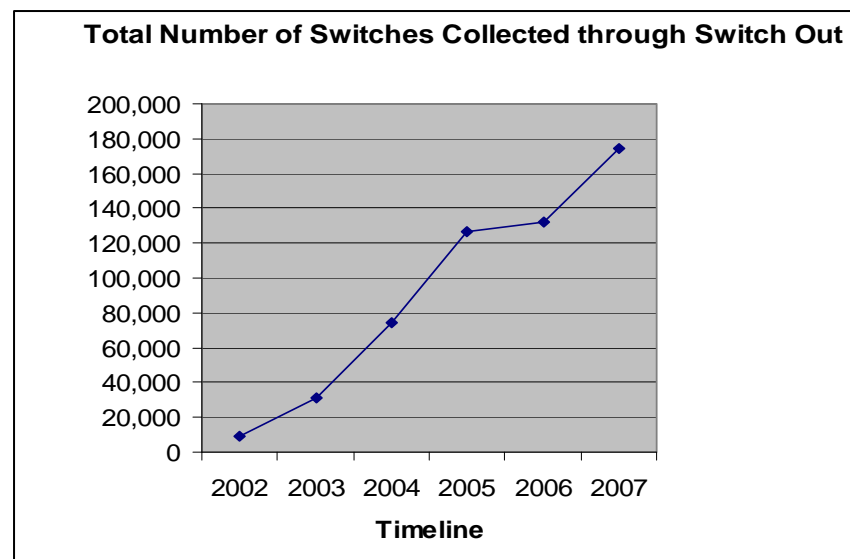
1. Clean Air Foundation established partnerships with provincial auto recycling associations
2. Clean Air Foundation and/or provincial auto recycling associations distribute collection kits to participating auto recyclers
3. Once the container is full the recycler contacts their local Switch Out program coordinator for a new container and waybill
4. The recycler places the old container in the shipping box, attaches the waybill and calls Purolator
5. Purolator ships the switches to the provincial collection point
6. Fluorescent Lamp Recyclers (FLR) collects and retorts the convenience lighting switches and provides onsite long term storage of Hg
  - FLR: located in Ontario, is the only approved Hg retort and storage facility in Canada





# Switch Out Program Results

- Approximately 174,000 automotive convenience lighting switches collected
  - Approximately 148 kg (326 lbs.) of Hg collected (assuming 0.85 g/switch)
  - Over 455 participating auto recyclers (voluntary) across Canada
  - CAF continues to work with government and key industry stakeholders including the vehicle manufacturers and steel producers.
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- The Clean Air Foundation anticipates that a national mercury switch recovery program funded by industry will begin in early 2008 through the existing Switch Out program infrastructure and building on the ELVS model.







# Moving Forward in 2008



- Expand Switch Out across all Canadian provinces and territories
- Build upon existing partnerships with industry and government to develop a national mercury switch recovery program– will phase in the collection of ABS sensors as well
- Clean Air Foundation will be participating in stakeholder consultations with Environment Canada on Canada's Risk Management Measures for Mercury-containing Products
- The Switch Out infrastructure has proven its effectiveness and will be used to expand the Clean Air Foundation's *Switch the 'Stat* – a set-back mercury containing thermostat collection program- nationally in 2008





# *Switch Out: Contact Us*

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