

A new state convenience contract makes it cheaper and easier for state agencies, universities, community colleges, schools, and local government agencies to comply with regulations in properly managing spent fluorescent bulbs and other mercury-containing devices. Contract 926B provides two vendor choices, each offering very competitive rates in the handling of fluorescent lights.

For all practical purposes, because fluorescent lights contain mercury, all state agencies and local governments are required to properly recycle them. For more information on the regulatory status of fluorescent lights, see: <http://www.p2pays.org/Fluorescent/regstatus.asp>.

The possible release of mercury into the environment from the disposal of fluorescent bulbs is of serious concern to the state. Therefore, in addition of the above regulations, NC DENR has recommended to the General Assembly that all agencies be directly required to recycle their spent fluorescent lights and to report on their efforts in May 2010.

Fortunately, contract 926B provides agencies with inexpensive options for recycling fluorescent lights. Contract details can be found at: <http://www.doa.state.nc.us/PandC/926b.pdf>. Agencies may directly contact the contract vendors to arrange services. Agencies may also conduct their own procurement process to find a fluorescent light recycling vendor, but it is unlikely they will find more competitive rates. The contract also offers options for recycling many other mercury-containing devices, such as thermostats and ballasts, and agencies are also strongly encouraged to take advantage of those services.