

## **Allen County SWMD: Public/Private Partnership for Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb Collection**

The Allen County Solid Waste Management District (SWMD) has partnered with local community businesses to collect residential fluorescent light bulbs since 1999. Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) contain mercury and should be managed and disposed of properly. In June of 2010 they decided to participate in the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) National Partnership for Environmental Priorities (NPEP) program with a goal of collecting 250 lbs. of CFLs within a 12 month period. That goal was surpassed by collecting 271.5 lbs. Therefore, the Allen County SWMD received an NPEP award from the U.S. EPA for its public/private mercury collection program and promoting responsible chemical management.

The Allen County SWMD continues to be innovative in its pursuit of public/private partnerships for collection of certain types of household hazardous waste. In particular they focus on mercury-containing items, including CFLs. Four (4) different partners with eight (8) locations collect residential fluorescent bulbs, and the Allen County SWMD directly handles the business fluorescent bulb program. Since 2010 the Allen County SWMD has collected and properly recycled an average of almost 205,000 feet (or 39 miles) of fluorescent bulbs and 7,800 CFLs annually. Between January and June of 2013, they have collected 700 lbs. of mercury and/or mercury-containing items.

