

Mercury

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Canada's Mercury Reduction Challenge and Progress

Canadian Challenge:

- *“Achieve by 2000, a 90% reduction in the release of mercury, or where warranted the use of mercury, in the Great Lakes Basin”*
- **Baseline: 1988**

Progress:

- **Approximately 85% reduction of mercury releases in Ontario**

U.S. Mercury Reduction Challenge and Progress

U.S. Challenge:

- *“Achieve by 2006 a 50% reduction in use and air emissions of mercury nationwide”*
- **Baselines:**
 - ◆ Emissions: 1990
 - ◆ Use: 1995

Progress (best guess):

- Emissions: > 50% reduction (as of 2002)
- Use: > 50% reduction

Thermostats

- Honeywell commits to cease production of mercury-containing thermostats by July 2006: more than 12.5 tons/year
- Approximately 20,000 thermostats recovered in Ontario in 2005 through Direct Energy's service and installation programs; approximately 88,000 in US through industry-sponsored Thermostat Recycling Corporation
- Product Stewardship Institute leading cooperative effort to improve thermostat recycling program effectiveness— including through an Indiana pilot project

Other Mercury-Containing Products

- **Dental Amalgam:** Royal College of Dental Surgeons reports 99% compliance with Ontario regulation requiring installation of dental amalgam separators.
- **Auto switches:** continued state efforts (i.e. Illinois); continued effort to negotiate national program

Chlorine Institute

- ***Ninth (and final) Annual Report*** – Completion of Chlorine Institute Voluntary commitment to reduce mercury use 50 percent by 2005 and report annually to EPA

Schools

- **The Recycling Council of Ontario and the Grand Erie District School Board completed a pilot fluorescent lamp recycling program involving 55 schools. The program will be expanded to other locations in Ontario in 2006**
- **42 Ontario Schools participated in a mercury clean sweep program in March, 2006**

Outlook

- **Coal-fired power plants the biggest source in both U.S. and Ontario**
- **States beginning to develop plans for Clean Air Mercury Rule. Some states, including several in Great Lakes Region are pursuing deeper reductions than the minimum required**
- **Canada-Wide Standard for coal fired plants accepted in principle**

Outlook

- **Continued information sharing – cost effective reduction opportunities – e.g. metal scrap, dental**
- **Support for complimentary efforts, i.e. Development of Great Lakes Product Stewardship Strategy for Mercury**
- **Support for efforts to reduce global releases. Example: CEC/UNEP workshop on Mercury in Products (Merida, Mexico). Participants included representatives from several South and Central American countries.**