

# 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: > 45% reduction
- Use: > 50% reduction

## **Products / Devices**

- **Thermostat Recycling Corporation recovered more than 80,000 thermostats in 2004**
- **156 million fluorescent lamps collected through the Association of Lighting and Mercury Recyclers.**
- **Electro-federation Canada reported that the average mercury content in lamps was reduced by 73.5% between 1990 and 2003**

## **Healthcare and Dental**

- **Hospitals for Healthy Environment (H2E) enlists 165 new partners**
- **Royal College of Dental Surgeons reports 99% compliance with Ontario regulation requiring installation of dental amalgam separators.**

## Chlorine Institute

- ***Eighth Annual Report*** – 88% capacity adjusted reduction in mercury consumption between 1995 and 2004

## **Municipal Sector**

- **Association Of Municipal Recycling Coordinators hosts workshop for 135 municipal participants on municipal actions to reduce mercury**
- **Canada-Ontario guidance document prepared and distributed to municipalities in Ontario**

## **Regulations and Standards**

- **Clean Air Mercury Rule finalized by U.S. EPA**
- **Canada-Wide Standard for coal fired plants accepted in principle**



## **Next Steps**

- **Completion of mercury management assessment**
- **Continued information sharing – cost effective reduction opportunities – e.g. metal scrap, dental**
- **Begin to focus more on ways to impact global releases**
- **Workgroup meeting – focus on quantifying sources including global emission sources**