

Great Lakes Binational Toxic Strategy
MERCURY WORKGROUP MEETING
December 6, 2006



Cara Sweeny



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

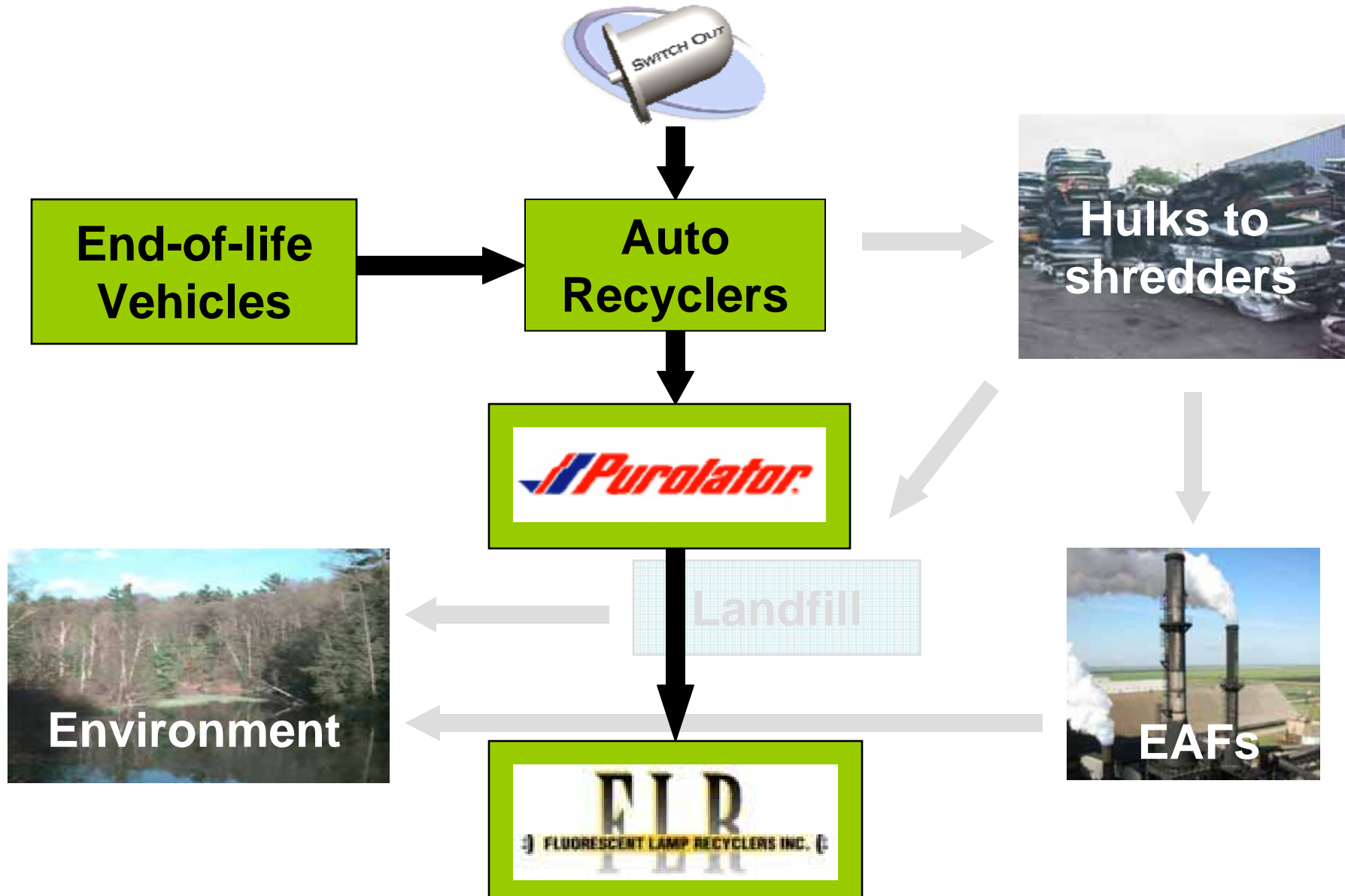
THE ONTARIO
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FOUNDATION



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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. Florescent 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 130,703 automotive convenience lighting switches collected
- Approximately 111 kg (245 lbs.) of Hg collected (assuming 0.85 g/switch)
- 455 participating auto recyclers (voluntary) across Canada
- 40% of automobiles sent for recycling in Canada each year go through *Switch Out* participating auto recyclers
- Clean Air Foundation has built strong partnerships with industry and government
- Program has generated significant increase in awareness among auto recycling industry



Moving Forward in 2007

- Federal Government of Canada produced a notice of intent: release draft P2 (Pollution Prevention announcement) for Hg
- P2 will mandate Canadian steel and auto manufacturers to submit a plan for reducing Hg releases to environment
- Work towards creating a procurement policy for steel manufacturers
- Government mandate paves the way for sustained program/collection funding through industry participation
- Ultimate fate of Hg after collection is still undecided
- Clean Air Foundation would like to work with Federal Government to develop a national strategy for the fate of Hg from Hg containing products
- The Switch Out infrastructure has proven its effectiveness and could easily be expanded nationally, and to other Hg-containing products
- 2006 summer pilot in Ontario: set-back mercury containing thermostat collection by contractors



Switch Out: Contact Us

Cara Sweeny, Switch Out Program Manager

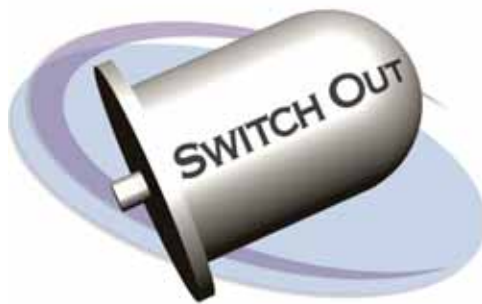
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