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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Ace Hardware stores expand consumer recycling program to include mercury thermostats.

Ace Hardware stores in Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD (a.k.a. A Few Cool Hardware Stores) have teamed up with Covanta Energy to launch a **free mercury thermostat recycling program for consumers** who are replacing or simply looking to get rid of mercury-switch thermostats. They can drop off their old mercury thermostat at any store location at no charge and the store, in turn, ships the mercury materials to Thermostat Recycling Corporation for proper disposal.

Mercury is a heavy metal that presents a health hazard to humans and animals both through immediate contact but also when not disposed of properly and subsequently released into an ecosystem. Mercury has been almost completely removed from the trash, but is still found in some items, such as thermostats.

Thermostats turned in for recycling should be intact (thermostats leaking mercury aren't accepted). Also, stores can only accept mercury thermostats and not any other product that contains mercury.

Drop-off Locations:

Washington, DC

5th Street Ace, 1055 5th Street, NW
Glover Park Hardware, 2251 Wisconsin Ave NW
Logan Hardware, 1416 P St NW
Tenleytown Ace Hardware, 4500 Wisconsin Ave NW

Maryland

Old Takoma Ace Hardware, 7001 Carroll Ave, Takoma Park
Waverly Ace Hardware, 601 Homestead St., Baltimore
Federal Hill Ace Hardware, 1214 Light St., Baltimore

About A Few Cool Hardware Stores

A Few Cool Hardware Stores comprises a group of locally run hardware stores that are part of the Ace Hardware co-operative. With locations in Washington, DC, Baltimore, MD, and most recently Takoma Park, MD, the shops bring essential home-maintenance supplies, expertise and specialty services to communities. Mercury-thermostat recycling is part of the company's larger recycling program that includes batteries, CFLs and fluorescent tube lighting. www.acehardwaredc.com

About Covanta Energy

Covanta Energy is an outspoken advocate of efforts to decrease mercury from the waste stream, eliminating its presence in products and materials, and promoting the safe disposal of necessary mercury products such as thermostats. The company has collected 9,369 thermostats and a total of 764 pounds of mercury over the past 18 months. Covanta Energy operates Energy-from-Waste facilities in Alexandria, VA, and Montgomery County in Maryland. www.covantaholding.com

About Thermostat Recycling Corporation

Thermostat Recycling Corporation is a nonprofit organization that facilitates the collection and proper disposal of mercury-containing thermostats. TRC's mission is to promote the safe collection and proper disposal of mercury-containing thermostats.