

The Clean Air Foundation's SWITCH OUT program is the first in Canada to recover mercury, a highly toxic heavy metal, from switches found in automobiles.

9 TONNES
of mercury switches in cars on the road today

189,000
recovered mercury switches

160 KILOGRAMS
of mercury not released into the environment*

* Just one gram of mercury is enough to contaminate a 20-acre lake

What is Switch Out?

Switch Out is a national program designed to remove and collect mercury-containing convenience lighting and anti-lock braking switches from end-of-life vehicles before they are flattened, shredded, and recycled into new steel. This award-winning program is now receiving funding and support from Canada's steel and automotive industries through the Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association (CVMA) and the Canadian Steel Producers Association (CSPA), and will work in partnership with the Automotive Recyclers of Canada (ARC) and the Canadian Association of Recycling Industries (CARI) to expand to all provinces and territories in Canada. This collaborative effort will assist the steel and automotive industries in meeting the new federal pollution prevention requirements regarding mercury-containing switches.

MERCURY COUNTER

Number of switches collected: 189,125
As of: Apr. 30, 2008
Mercury equivalent: 160 kg
Next collection update: July, 2008



Clean Air Foundation and the Switch Out Program are proud recipients of the Trillium Foundation grant.



Featured Auto Recycler



Standard Auto Wreckers – Scarborough, Ontario

Standard Auto Wreckers in Scarborough, Ontario was founded in 1979 by Ken Gold and maintains the highest standards for the safe operation of their facilities and the protection of the environment. "Our mission has always been to protect our land and keep it from being polluted" says David Gold, co-owner and son of Ken Gold.

Standard has been participating in the Switch Out program since 2003 and has safely recovered over seven kilograms of mercury! In the most recent mercury switch collection sweep in Ontario, Standard Auto Wreckers collected and returned over 3,700 mercury switches - the most switches returned out of all participating auto recyclers in Ontario!

Ken and David were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Clean Air Foundation and the OARA Board of Directors at the OARA tradeshow in March, 2007 for their leadership. Congratulations to the Standard Auto Wreckers team for all your efforts! Keep up the great work!

www.standardautowreckers.com

