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Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority and Covanta Lancaster, Inc. Join Forces to Offer a Mercury Bounty in April

Lancaster, PA (March 25, 2009)

Throughout April 2009, during regular customer hours, Lancaster County residents can deliver mercury thermostats and/or thermometers from their homes to the Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) in Bainbridge or the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility in Lancaster and receive a \$5 gift card to Lowe's and a digital thermometer. Covanta Lancaster, Inc., the operator of the RRF, purchased the gift cards to encourage the proper handling and disposal of these mercury-containing devices. According to the U.S. Department of Energy installing a new programmable mercury-free digital thermostat can help cut a home's energy cost by 15%. The Authority has been providing digital thermometers in exchange for mercury thermometers and thermostats for several years.

A mercury thermometer can be easily identified by the presence of a silver bulb. (One exception to this is the new fever thermometers containing gallium, indium and tin that also contain a silver bulb but are clearly marked mercury-free.) If the bulb is red, blue, purple, green or any other color, it is not a mercury thermometer.

Mercury is a heavy metal that represents a health threat when released into the environment. An average thermostat contains 4 grams of mercury and an average fever thermometer can contain between 0.5 to 3 grams of mercury. Most compact fluorescent bulbs contain only 0.005 grams of mercury. It takes 800 compact fluorescent bulbs to equal the mercury in one thermostat.

From April 1 to April 30, 2009 mercury thermometers and thermostats will be accepted from residents at the RRF scalehouse from 6:30 am to 4 pm and on Saturdays from 7 am to 11 am. **Absolutely no other household hazardous waste material will be accepted at the RRF.**

In addition to mercury thermometers and thermostats, the HHW regularly accepts elemental mercury, fluorescent bulbs (including compact bulbs), computers, televisions, cell phones, batteries, paints, cleaners and more. Go to www.lcswma.org for a list of all the materials accepted at the HHW. The drive-through HHW facility is open Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4 pm and on Saturdays from 8 am to 12 pm.

This program is for residential households only. Businesses can find information on the proper handling of mercury-containing devices at www.depweb.state.pa.us.

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About Covanta Lancaster, Inc.

Covanta Lancaster, Inc. operates the Lancaster County Resource Recovery Facility, located on the banks of the Susquehanna River, began commercial operation in May 1991. The facility processes 1,200 tons-per-day of solid waste, which generates 35.7 megawatts of renewable energy. The energy is sold to Metropolitan Edison. The facility is a "zero discharge" facility, which means that all the wastewater generated on-site is treated and reused in the waste management process. The facility also uses secondary sewage treatment effluent from a nearby treatment plant for all of its process water. As part of the facility, there is also a public drop-off center where residents can bring non-hazardous household items for disposal. For further information on Covanta Lancaster, Inc., please visit the website www.covantaholding.com.

About Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority

LCSWMA is recognized throughout North America as a leader in the field of solid waste management. LCSWMA operates an integrated solid waste management system which primarily serves Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The system handles approximately 575,000 tons of waste per year and consists of:

- A new 2,200 tons per day transfer station
- A new drive-through permanent household hazardous waste facility
- A 36 megawatt, 1,200 tons per day mass burn waste-to-energy (WTE) facility
- A 2,000 tons per day sanitary landfill
- A 3.2 megawatt landfill gas-to-energy plant (LFGTE) - owned and operated by PPL
- A county-wide recycling program that has achieved a 37% recycling rate



The LCSWMA LFGTE and WTE facilities generate enough renewable energy from waste to power 1 out of 6 homes in Lancaster County. For further information on the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority, please visit the website www.lcswma.org.