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Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority and Covanta Lancaster, Inc. Join Forces to Offer a Mercury Bounty April 19 – May 1

Lancaster, PA (August 19, 2011)

From April 19th to May 1st, during regular customer hours, Lancaster County residents can deliver mercury thermostats and/or thermometers from their homes to the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility at 1299 Harrisburg Pike in Lancaster and receive a \$5 gift card to Lowe's and a digital thermometer. LCSWMA and Covanta Lancaster, Inc., the operator of the Lancaster County Resource Recovery Facility, purchased the gift cards to encourage the proper handling and disposal of these mercury-containing devices. 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. Only thermometers containing mercury should be brought to the HHW facility.

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.

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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