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Province of Ontario Approves Industry-Led Mercury Thermostat Recycling Plan

The Canadian Institute of Plumbing & Heating (CIPH) along with the Heating, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Institute of Canada (HRAI) with Summerhill Impact has expanded the voluntary "Switch the Stat"TM program to meet provincial extended producer responsibility regulations for mercury containing thermostats.

"Switch the Stat"TM recycles all mercury-containing thermostats. The program has been modified into a mandated, responsible, manufacturer-funded program.

The plan calls for putting thermostat recycling bins into the hands of installers, contractors, wholesalers, distributors, and retailers; i.e. anyone who may have contact with old thermostats.

For CIPH members, having a thermostat recycling bin at your location will make it easier to support your local customers and participate in this program.

What this means to you:

- a. There will be no cost to the contractor, wholesaler or distributor to participate;
- b. Display the bin and your customers just have to put the old thermostats in it;
- c. A bin at your location will drive some traffic to you as you provide this service to the contractor;
- d. The responsibility ultimately falls to the thermostat manufacturers - they are funding the program to recycle old thermostats and divert them from landfills.

If you want to become part of the solution, please register for a recycling bin at your location at:
<http://www.summerhillgroup.ca/eng/impact/programs/switch-the-stat-signup.php>

With approval, implementation is expected to begin as early as July 2010. Already from the voluntary program, there are 1300 contractors and over 115 wholesale HVAC/R and plumbing branch locations participating.

There is still opportunity to get involved. CIPH members in the Ontario consist of over 250 plumbing and heating wholesale distribution locations that come into contact with thousands of plumbing & heating contractors, hydronic installers, general contractors, and renovation professionals. Every single one of these professionals removes old thermostats off the wall at the jobsite.

The more locations participating, the more successful the program will be.

The Canadian Institute of Plumbing & Heating is a not-for-profit trade association. Founded in 1933, the Institute is a vibrant organization committed to providing members with the tools for success in today's competitive environment. More than 250 companies are members of this influential Canadian industry association. They are the manufacturers, wholesaler distributors, master distributors, manufacturers' agents and allied companies who manufacture and distribute plumbing, hydronic heating, industrial, waterworks and other mechanical products. CIPH wholesalers operate more than 700 warehouses and showrooms across Canada. Total industry sales exceed \$5 billion annually.



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