

HOME > STORY



SHARE Print article Recommend Post a comment

DAILY NEWS Apr 3, 2013 12:37 PM - 0 comments

Thermostat mercury continues to plague US waters

By: HazMat Staff
2013-04-03

TEXT SIZE

A new study estimates that only eight per cent of mercury thermostats that came out of service in the past decade were recycled.

The April 2013 study by the Multi-State Mercury Products Campaign (MMPC) and the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) is called Turning up the Heat II. It suggests that more than 50 tonnes of mercury have been trashed, damaging the environment and exposing people to the neurotoxin through fish consumption.

"For decades, companies like Honeywell, White-Rodgers and General Electric profited from the sale of mercury thermostats but now are shirking their responsibilities when it comes to preventing pollution," said Michael Bender, director of the Mercury Policy Project, in a statement to media. "In state after state, manufacturers have pushed for collection programs that don't work. It's time to disregard their misinformation and do what's right to protect public health."

Mercury-filled thermostats are a significant source of preventable mercury pollution, the study says. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has estimated that two to three million thermostats come out of service each year in the U.S., amounting to seven to 10 tonnes of mercury annually. Each thermostat contains an average of four grams of mercury.

In 2010, MMPC released the first edition of Turning up the Heat, which evaluated 2008 collection data and found dismal collection rates. Turning Up the Heat II shows that little improvement has been made in the three years since, resulting in tonnes of mercury pollution in the nation's water bodies.

Photos



Larger photo & full caption
File size: 29.7 KB (770px X 768px)
Caption: Mercury-filled thermostats are a significant source of ...

Related Topics

- Environmental Services
- Hazardous Waste
- Toxic Substances
- Water Contamination

MONITOR THESE TOPICS

- Environmental Services
- Hazardous Waste
- Toxic Substances
- Water Contamination

Multimedia Center



2013 Canadian Waste & Recycling Expo

2012 Canadian Waste & Recycling Expo

[More Videos](#)

Magazine

Current Issue



This award-winning quarterly magazine provides you with in-depth analysis of current issues related to environmental performance, emergency response, safety and waste management.

- [» Digital Edition](#)
- [» Print Archives](#)
- [» Subscribe](#)

Make Hay While the Sun Shines

Several editions back I wrote about the various elections that were on the horizon across Canada and the uncertainty that would remain until the dust has settled on those public contests. I may have been a bit optimistic.

Apps for HazMat Management

An app is basically a software program you can download and access directly using your mobile phone or tablet computer. With the explosion of apps in recent years it was only a matter of time before there'd be appropriate ones for...