

Letters to the Editor

Support efforts for safe mercury collection

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Did you know that old mercury thermostat on your wall contains three times the amount it takes to pollute a 20-acre lake for a year? Although Connecticut was the first state to ban the sale of many mercury products, proper thermostat disposal lags way behind.

Mercury is highly neurotoxic; even tiny exposures can cause learning disorders in children. At any age, it affects the central nervous system, kidneys, and liver, causes impaired vision and hearing, paralysis, insomnia, and psychiatric issues.

The Thermostat Recycling Corporation was supposed to keep old thermostats from going into landfills. Sadly, only about 5 percent of these thermostats are recycled properly. Most end up in landfills where they are often burned or broken open, releasing toxic mercury into our air and water.

This year the state legislature has introduced Senate Bill 93 an act concerning a mercury thermostat collection and financial incentive program, intended to rein old thermostats in. Other states impose a \$5 incentive for the return of each thermostat to a proper recycling center.

Tell your legislators you support a strong bill to tell manufacturers they need to recycle those dangerous thermostats they were so eager to sell us in the first place.