



Long Time Administrator Exits Program

On September 30, 2025, Product Care Recycling (PCA), the stewardship organization that has operated the LightRecycle Washington program for ten years, officially notified Ecology that they would cease administration of the program at the end of the year. The program's uncertain financial future was cited as the primary reason for PCA's decision.

LightRecycle is funded by an environmental handling charge (EHC) applied to each retail sale of a mercury-containing light. With the dramatic decline in the sale of those lights, the program's funding is unsustainable. Further, revenue from the EHC will stop when the complete sales ban for these lights goes into effect in 2029. PCA's financial analysis predicts the EHC revenue will no longer be sufficient to support the program in early 2026.

The law requires producers to fully fund the program beginning in January 2029. It also requires producers, through the product stewardship organization, to make up any funding gap should the EHC be insufficient ([RCW 70A.505.030](#)). But with PCA's exit, there needs to be a new stewardship organization to operate the program and collect funds from producers.

Ecology Actions

Ecology has taken action to ease this upcoming change to the LightRecycle Washington program, including:

- Mediating several meetings with PCA and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) to discuss the future of the program;
- Encouraging NEMA to identify a new stewardship organization so producers could remain in compliance;
- Contacting sister agencies in Vermont and Maine and connecting with the Mercury Lamp Recyclers Association (MLRA), the stewardship organization operating the programs there;
- Facilitating the exchange of information between PCA and MLRA; and
- Informing producers via email of their obligations under the law and facilitating a meeting between producers and MLRA to encourage partnership.

What Comes Next?

MLRA has not committed to taking over administration of the LightRecycle Washington program. Ecology cannot force agreement between producer responsibility organizations and producers, though the agency has undertaken the steps outlined above to encourage cooperation.

Mercury lights producers may be out of compliance with the law beginning January 2026 if a new stewardship organization is not identified, and they may face enforcement action.

Ecology remains dedicated to finding a path forward. The program is not ending and the law, [Chapter 70A.505 RCW](#), remains in effect. Until a new stewardship organization is identified by producers, we recommend the following actions:

- **Collectors:** PCA is committed to conducting a final pick-up in January of 2026. Be sure to schedule that pickup.
- **Remitters (entities that pay the EHC to Product Care):** Continue to remit the EHC to Product Care as you normally would for sales through December 31st, 2025. Beginning January 1, 2026, continue to charge the EHC per [RCW 70A.505.050\(3\)](#). Keep detailed records of any EHC collected until new remittance procedures are established, at which time remittance can be paid.
- **Consumers:** This is a challenging time for the LightRecycle program. Collection sites are facing unprecedented challenges. We appreciate your understanding as future program details are worked out.

Questions?

For more information, please email the team: mercurylights@ecy.wa.gov