

Statewide Thermostat Recycling Initiative Begins In Oklahoma

Covanta, Locke Supply and Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality team-up for thermostat recycling program

TULSA, Okla., April 6, 2015 /PRNewswire/ -- Covanta Tulsa, Locke Supply and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) have partnered to provide a convenient way to responsibly recycle mercury containing thermostats in Oklahoma. Citizens and contractors will now be able to deliver intact old thermostats to any Locke Supply location for recycling free of charge.

"Preventing toxics like mercury from entering the waste stream plays a critical role in protecting our environment and water supply. Once in the waste stream, these thermostats may break and release mercury into the environment. This program will make a difference by protecting our environment and all Oklahomans from potential exposure to mercury," said Patrick Riley, Environmental Programs Manager, ODEQ Land Protection Division.

Mercury is a heavy metal that can represent a threat to human health and the environment when released into the environment. An average wall thermostat contains four grams of mercury, which is the equivalent of 800 compact fluorescent lights. Covanta, Locke Supply and ODEQ are committed to protecting the state's land, air and water. This program will provide a safe way to prevent mercury from polluting the environment

"Covanta Tulsa is a proud organizer and sponsor of the thermostat recycling program for the State and we are looking forward to the positive impact this program will have in the community," said Matt Newman, business manager at Covanta Tulsa Renewable Energy, LLC. "The Thermostat Recycling Initiative educates Oklahoma communities on the dangers of mercury while also providing a responsible way to recycle. This program is a prime example of collaboration between public and private organizations."

Locke Supply Director of HVAC Sales & Branch Operations Kyle Cline added, "Locke Supply proudly serves Oklahoma and we look forward to helping with the Thermostat Recycling Initiative. We are committed to providing outstanding customer service and are pleased to participate in a program that is available to the State's citizens and our customers. With Locke Supply locations available across Oklahoma, participants will find the locations of the thermostat recycling containers very convenient and accessible. "

Contractors and homeowners can deliver the out-of-use thermostats to any Locke Supply location across the state. The thermostat recycling containers are sent to the Thermostat Recycling Corporation (TRC). Participants can also contact their local Heating, Ventilation, & Air Conditioning (HVAC) contractor to responsibly recycle the thermostat(s). The [program](#) only collects mercury-containing thermostats. For additional items such as battery, mercury thermometers, fluorescent light bulbs, and other devices containing mercury, participants can contact the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, Land Protection Division at (405)-702-5100.

About Covanta Tulsa

Covanta Tulsa Renewable Energy, LLC, owns and operates Oklahoma's only Energy-from-Waste (EfW) facility, processing over 300,000 tons of municipal solid waste per year to generate up to 240,000 pounds-per-hour of steam. The steam is used to generate clean, renewable electricity and is delivered to an adjacent refinery, offsetting their need for fossil fuels to generate steam on-site. The facility also recovers thousands of tons of metals per year for recycling. For more information, visit www.covanta.com.

About Locke Supply:

Locke Supply is a growing Plumbing, Electrical, Heating & Cooling, employee owned distributor located in Oklahoma City, OK on a 45 acre complex supplying over 160 stores in a 5 state trade area to better serve you. The Locke Supply concept of taking the merchandise to the customer's territory with very competitive pricing has allowed Locke Supply to grow in areas never before considered profitable. Locke Supply maintains only the highest standards in quality of merchandise and people. Locke Supply Locations: www.lockesupply.com/locations.php

Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality Mercury Information: www.deq.state.ok.us/factsheets/land/whatismercury.pdf

Thermostat Recycling Corporation: www.thermostat-recycle.org/

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