

# COUNTY OF KANE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

From: Jennifer Jarland  
Kane County Recycling Program Coordinator

## **Kane County to Offer a Fluorescent Tube Recycling Drop-off Pilot**

The newest program managed by Kane County Recycles will offer residents of Kane County a place to drop-off their fluorescent tubes for free in Geneva. This is for residentially generated tubes only, so businesses may not use this program. Businesses, please see the bottom section for more information.

### **Why do we need this program?**

Fluorescent tube lights contain trace amounts of mercury, so the USEPA recommends that they be responsibly disposed of through a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program, but the problem is that recycling options in this area are somewhat limited.

Currently Kane County residents may take fluorescent tubes free of charge to the HHW facility in Naperville and some Kane County residents eligible for the HHW pick-up may use that program. Additionally, Batteries Plus stores in Elgin and Geneva will take them for a fee, and only two other hardware stores in Kane County will take them from customers who are buying new tubes. See the [Kane County Recycles website](http://www.kane-county-recycles.org) for more details.

Due to this lack of convenient drop-off locations, residents frequently call the Kane County Recycles office to request more conveniently located options.

In response to this need, Kane County began offering fluorescent tube recycling at the annual recycling extravaganza events, starting in 2013. Since then an average of 1500 4-foot fluorescent tubes and assorted other fluorescent bulbs were collected for safe disposal at each of three annual events. But once a year doesn't fulfill the year-round need to dispose of the tubes.

### **2015 Kane County Solid Waste Management and Resource Recovery Plan Recommendation**

The 2015 Kane County Solid Waste Management and Resource Recovery Plan affirms that there is a need for more locations and recommends that Kane County explore the feasibility of permanent drop-off locations.

Therefore the Kane County Division of Environmental and Water Resources will explore the feasibility of partnering with select local hardware stores to act as drop-off points for a county program by conducting a pilot program at one central location. This will enable the County to assess the costs associated with such a program and determine if it is feasible to maintain one or more permanent drop-off locations. The pilot will run for six months and across two seasons, from December 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016, at Geneva Ace Hardware at 617

West State Street, Geneva, IL 60134. The tubes will be delivered to [Fluorecycle](#) in Ingleside, Illinois for recycling.

**Who pays?**

As mentioned, the pilot will be free for residents. The pilot will be paid for with Grand Victoria Riverboat Grant funds annually awarded to Kane County Recycles programs under the Kane County Division of Environmental and Water Resources. Additionally, Fluorecycle has offered to take the first three months of material free of charge.

The goal of the pilot is to assess whether the grant funds available in the Recycling Program budget will be able to support one or more permanent drop-off locations. It may be determined that the program can continue with a small customer fee, or it may continue to be free.

**Please participate in recycling!**

Please participate in the pilot program by bringing your fluorescent tubes to Ace Hardware in Geneva from December 2015 through May of 2016. For more information on recycling, please visit the Kane County Recycles website: [www.countyofkane.org/recycling](http://www.countyofkane.org/recycling). Please note that the tubes must be unbroken.

**Businesses must by law recycle their fluorescent tubes.**

In 1997 fluorescent lamps were designated by law as universal waste, a category of hazardous wastes, because of their mercury content, thereby banning them from landfill disposal. Residential material is exempt from this law, but businesses must contract for disposal services. Here are some companies that can assist small and large businesses with their responsible fluorescent tube disposal needs:

[Everlights](#)                    877-934-9873

[Fluorecycle](#)                    815-363-4411

Questions: Kane County Recycling Coordinator, Jennifer Jarland, 630-208-3841, [recycle@countyofkane.org](mailto:recycle@countyofkane.org)