

# 4 Going Green

OUR JOURNEY HAS JUST BEGUN

E-Mission News From the Banks Hardwoods Environmental Committee • July/August 2008



## Bring Your Bulbs & Batteries

Banks White Pigeon is now recycling fluorescent bulbs and batteries used on site or from home. Recycling is available for not only traditional long-tube fluorescents, but the new style compact fluorescents (CFLs) as well. Recycling of these fixtures is especially important due to the mercury contained within them.



*“Recycling of [fluorescent] fixtures is especially important due to the mercury contained within them.”*

As for batteries, various types are accepted including alkaline, nickel, cadmium, nickel metal hydride, and more, in sizes AA, AAA, C, D, and 9-volt. Unfortunately, we are unable to take larger automotive size batteries but retailers who sell them often offer their own recycling services.

Employees may deposit bulbs and batteries into bins located in the maintenance department during normal business hours. More information is posted in all break rooms, or you may contact Regina or Scott Meyer with questions.

## Broken Fluorescents Require Extra Caution

For all the energy efficiency fluorescent light fixtures bring, they contain mercury, a substance which can be harmful in high doses, and must be handled cautiously.



### If a bulb breaks at home or work:

- Turn off any AC/forced-air heating system or fan, open a window and **leave the area for 15 minutes** to allow vapors to dissipate.
- **Carefully scoop up fragments and powder** using stiff cardboard or paper. Use the sticky side of tape to pick up any additional residue. Wipe the area clean with a damp paper towel.
- **Deposit all waste material in a sealed container** for disposal.
- **Avoid using a vacuum or broom** if possible. Never wash mercury contaminants down a drain or in a washing machine. Dispose of all materials that come into direct contact with mercury including clothing.
- If the break occurred on carpet, vacuum only after above steps and deposit the vacuum bag or vacuum container contents in the sealed container. Wipe the vacuum container if applicable.

For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/mercury](http://www.epa.gov/mercury).

*“No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.”*

### E-Mission Statement

*“As we strive to produce the highest quality lumber and provide the very best service to our customers we will do everything within our means to minimize the harm we do to our environment.”*

### Have a Suggestion?

There are many things we could do to help the environment. If you have any suggestions, please bring them to the committee ([regina@bankshardwoods.com](mailto:regina@bankshardwoods.com)).