

**Request for Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee's  
Consideration**

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Included on Agenda</b><br>(Submitted to Municipal<br>Clerk's Office by Noon<br>Thursday) | <b>Added Item</b><br>(Submitted to<br>Municipal Clerk's<br>Office by Noon<br>Monday) | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Request from the<br/>Floor</b> |
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**Date of Standing Committee Meeting:** April 5, 2018

**Subject:** Safe Disposal of Mercury Containing Lamps (Lightbulbs)

**Motion for Council to Consider:**

That the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report on a strategy for the safe disposal of light bulbs containing mercury and consideration of banning them from landfills.

**Reason:**

Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLs) contain mercury – about 5 milligrams – less than in a watch battery. Environment Canada notes that the mercury contained in a typical thermometer (100x that of a CFL) can contaminate five Olympic-size swimming pools to toxic levels. Most CFLs end up in a landfill. Since the federal ban on inefficient light bulbs (incandescent) came into effect on January 1, 2014, more consumers are replacing them with CFLs.

Health Canada recommends that items containing mercury be treated as hazardous waste. A minute amount of mercury can cause serious damage to the nervous system.

Bill – C238 is now law in Canada. It **calls on the Minister of Environment and Climate Change** to work with provincial and territorial governments, environmental groups and industry to develop and **implement a national strategy** to ensure mercury containing lamps are safely disposed of in an environmentally sound way.

**Outcome Sought:**

A staff report on a strategy for the safe disposal of light bulbs containing mercury and consideration of banning them from landfills.

Councillor Tony Mancini

District 6  
Harbourview – Burnside – Dartmouth East