

NEWS RELEASE:

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**STATE DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL SELECTS
HOME DEPOT AND PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC FOR VOLUNTARY
STEWARDSHIP AWARDS**

SACRAMENTO – And the “Oscar” goes to...Home Depot and Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) for their environmental performance in the California Take It Back! Partnership’s “Not in My Trash *Can*Paign”. With Sesame Street’s Oscar the Grouch as its mascot, this *Can*Paign is a program that provides free and convenient locations for California consumers to safely recycle end-of-life fluorescent bulbs. The awards will be presented to Home Depot and Pacific Gas & Electric on Sept. 26, during the West Coast Green Conference in San Jose.

“These Voluntary Stewardship Awards acknowledge Home Depot and Pacific Gas & Electric’s commitment to combine the message of energy efficiency through the use of compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) and environmental protection through public education, outreach and collection of end-of-life CFLs,” said Leonard Robinson, DTSC’s Federal Liaison. “PG&E has worked with state, city and county governments to fund and provide education and collection of end-of-life fluorescent lights in their service area. Home Depot stepped up to the plate earlier this year by accepting end-of-life compact fluorescent lights from the public at their 200+ stores in California,” Robinson added.

The Oscar the Grouch “Not in My Trash *Can*Paign” is the fluorescent light segment of the Take It Back Partnership that was created by DTSC in 2006 to encourage free consumer recycling opportunities for electronic devices, batteries and fluorescent lamps. The Partnership is a consortium of state and local government, retail stores, energy utilities, non-profit organizations and academia that provide solutions for the proper recycling of used residential including fluorescent lights, batteries and electronic devices. To be eligible for the Oscar (the Grouch) Award, a company or entity must provide a sustained program for public education, outreach and collection of end-of-life fluorescent lights.

“Because of tremendous advocacy of CFLs by retail stores and utilities, California consumers expected to recycle an estimated 10 to 14 million CFLs by the end of this year (2008), 15 million in 2009, 16 million in 2010, 21 million in 2011 and 30 million in 2012.” Robinson added.

The campaign mirrors one recommendation of the AB 1109 Task Force (“The California Lighting and Efficiency and Toxics Reduction Act of 2007”), authored by California Assemblymember Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) and signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in October 2007.

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FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov. To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

The mission of the Department of Toxic Substances Control is to provide the highest level of safety, and to protect public health and the environment from toxic harm.