



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

NEWS RELEASE

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DTSC Lauds New Mercury Thermostat Recycling Law

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today lauded collective efforts that assisted in passage of California's new Mercury Thermostat Recycling Law. Assembly Bill 2347, sponsored by Assemblyman Ira Ruskin (D- Palo Alto) was signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger earlier this month after receiving bipartisan support in the legislature, as well as praise from both industry and environmental groups. The new law will reduce the release of mercury in the environment by recycling used thermostats.

"The Department strongly supports efforts to safely and effectively collect and properly dispose old mercury-containing thermostats," said DTSC Director Maureen Gorsen. "Collecting and appropriately managing these thermostats will protect public health and the environment from the effects of mercury, a well known toxin. This new law represents a significant collaboration between state lawmakers, manufacturers, and retailers to establish requirements that appropriately manage old thermostats."

"It also emphasizes the importance of the Governor's Green Chemistry Initiative," Director Gorsen continued. "Removing toxic chemicals from consumer products in their design can avoid products' end-of-life management requirements, and help protect Californian's health and the environment."

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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.