Fluorescent lights are energy efficient

Aluminium is the main metal recovered in the recycling process, and can be re-manufactured into commodity items or used in airplanes.

Australians consume 50 to 60 million fluorescent tubes and HID lamps every year.

Only 1% of all consumed fluorescent lights are recycled.

The energy saved from using a fluorescent light rather than an incandescent bulb saves the equivalent greenhouse gases of more than 800,000 cars annually.

It is estimated that 95% of mercury-containing lamps are sent to landfill in Australia.

Up to 15 milligrams of mercury is found in one fluorescent tube.

1. DMA eco-cycle
2. 1800 E-Waste
3. FluoroCycle
4. Department of the Environment and Energy

Compact fluorescent lights use up to 80% less electricity than incandescent light bulbs.

Although fluorescent lights are energy efficient, there are still small amounts of mercury inside every fluorescent bulb.

When the mercury found in fluorescent lights is released into the environment, it poses serious health and environmental risks.
What happens to fluorescent lights?

Collection
Fluorescent lights are collected from homes, businesses and recycling sites and sent to a specialist recycling centre.

Crushing and separating
The globes are crushed, with the materials placed on a processing line to separate metal, glass phosphor and mercury.

Metal recovery
A powerful magnet separates metal components, such as end caps, which are collected and analysed for mercury content. Recovered aluminium is sent to metal manufacturers.

Phosphor and mercury recovery
The mercury filled phosphor powder is placed in a distiller and heated. The mercury turns into a vapour which is then condensed to produce pure metal. The phosphor powder can be used in the manufacture of new fluorescent tubes.

Glass recovery
The glass is passed over a vibrating grid that removes small metal or plastic components. The recovered glass can be re-manufactured into new products such as glass wool for insulation batts.