



Clean Lighting Coalition

A GLOBAL COALITION TO ELIMINATE TOXIC LIGHTING THROUGH THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

THE COALITION

In November 2021, the world will have a unique opportunity to accelerate the transition to clean and super-efficient lighting during the **United Nations (UN) Minamata Convention's 4th Conference of the Parties (COP4)**. At COP4, the 131 ratifying countries will vote to decide if mercury-based lighting should continue to be allowed in markets around the world.

The Clean Lighting Coalition (CLiC) aims to leverage expert knowledge and clean lighting stakeholders to **transition global markets to safe, cost-effective, and energy-saving LED lighting** by removing the exemption for fluorescents in the Minamata Convention on Mercury. **Mercury and its compounds are highly toxic** to people and threaten environmental and ecosystem health.

LEDs (light-emitting diodes) can directly replace mercury-based fluorescent bulbs and are gaining market share.

THE LIGHTING EVOLUTION

The rapid pace of LED technology and market development over the last five years has resulted in inexpensive, energy-efficient LED retrofit bulbs that can replace fluorescents in virtually all applications, anywhere in the world.

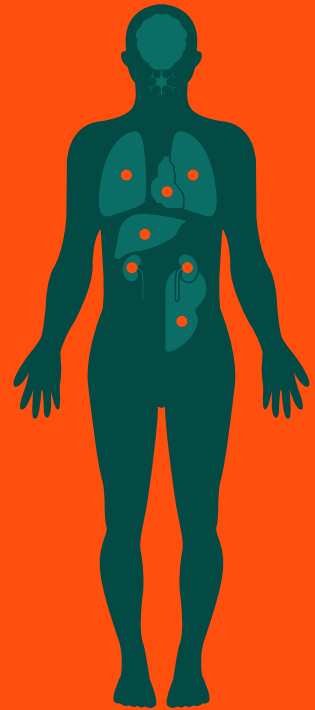
“The technological advancements in LED lighting over the past decade have far surpassed even the most advanced mercury-containing fluorescent bulbs.

My work on blue LEDs enabled innovative bright and energy-saving lighting products to reach markets across the globe. With the proposed amendment to the Minamata Convention and implementation of national-level regulations to phase-out fluorescent lighting by 2025, countries can accelerate the transition to LED lighting technology to benefit people and the planet.”

PROFESSOR SHUJI NAKAMURA, NOBEL PRIZE FOR PHYSICS (2014), INVENTOR OF BLUE LIGHT LED



RISKS OF MERCURY EXPOSURE



Mercury has been recognized as both neurotoxic and immunotoxic and is one of the World Health Organization's top ten most dangerous chemicals to public health.

Mercury and its compounds are released into the air, soil and water when the bulbs break, and during various stages of their manufacture, use, transportation, recycling, and disposal.

Mercury exposure can affect the nervous, digestive and immune systems, as well as the lungs, kidney, skin and eyes. In Europe, roughly one-third of all births (1.8 million babies) are born with methylmercury levels above the safe limit.

THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

The Minamata Convention on Mercury launched in 2013 with the goal to “Make Mercury History” by eliminating the use of mercury in products and processes worldwide. It is named after the city of Minamata, Japan, which experienced widespread mercury poisoning after wastewater from a nearby chemical plant was discharged into the sea.

The Convention entered into force in 2017 following ratification by 50 countries. It has been particularly successful in phase out and phase down of mercury use in a number of products and processes, yet still **includes exemptions for mercury-based fluorescent lighting products, citing insufficient cost-effective alternatives across global markets.**

The LED industry has however invested heavily, and is continuously innovating in development of clean, affordable, zero-mercury lighting making the exemption unnecessary.

Accelerating the transition to zero-mercury lighting will:

- Eliminate 232 tonnes of mercury pollution from the environment, both from the bulbs themselves and from avoided burning of coal in power plants
- Save 3.5 gigatonnes of CO2 emissions from power plants (cumulatively between 2025-2050)





JOIN THE COALITION

Without intervention, a global transition to clean super-efficient LED lighting may take years due to the lobbying efforts of fluorescent lamp suppliers. Consumers will be left with poor quality, inefficient and unsafe lighting products.

SIGNAL YOUR COMMITMENT TO CLEAN, HEALTHY LIGHTING

In mature markets, sales of zero-mercury LED bulbs outpace sales of other technologies 2 to 1 as customers have realized the energy and cost-saving benefits of more energy-efficient, and better-quality LED lighting. As wealthy countries lead the lighting transition, **the rest of the world must not be treated as a dumping ground for toxic products.**

A staged phase out to zero-mercury lighting by 2025 through the **through the Minamata Convention will rapidly expand the global LED market.** LEDs use half as much energy and last 2-3 times longer than fluorescent bulbs.

Unlike mercury-laden fluorescent, LED lightbulbs pose no toxic health risk to our communities

By joining this global call to action, signal your organizations commitment to:

- **Increasing access to clean lighting technology** to protect consumers and the planet from toxic mercury-containing fluorescent bulbs
- **Accelerate the equitable transition** to cleaner, lower-cost lighting
- **Phase-out** the manufacture, sale, distribution, and/or installation of **fluorescent lighting**

CLIC will work with private sector coalition partners to boost their public reputation as leaders in public health, equity, and sustainability with **free publicity in global and national press, as well as advanced LED market insights.**

CONTACT

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THE CLEAN LIGHTING COALITION IS AN INDEPENDENT COALITION OF INDUSTRY, PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITIES, MERCURY EXPERTS, AND NGO PARTNERS. CLIC DOES NOT ENDORSE ANY ONE ORGANIZATION OR GOVERNMENT.

THE PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO THE CONVENTION ON APRIL 30, 2021 BY THE AFRICA REGION CALLS FOR THE PHASE-OUT OF COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHTING BY 2024 AND LINEAR FLUORESCENT LIGHTING BY 2025.