

## Why is Mercury important?

Why should we be concerned about mercury in the environment? Because this widely used liquid metal is a potent neurotoxin and accumulates in living tissue, to be passed along the food chain. Currently, all bodies of water in Wisconsin carry fish consumption advisories for mercury and none have ever been removed from this list. Similar stories across the U.S. have propelled mercury to the top of every resource agency's action list, including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The DNR is working on several critical aspects of the mercury issue, including environmental research, legislative development, and mercury source reduction activities. Mercury source reduction is proving to be the most straightforward solution to this persistent and increasingly serious problem.

People need and want to be part of the solution! For many, a hands-on community program can be the most gratifying way in which to do something positive for the environment.

Excerpted from "Wisconsin Community Mercury Reduction Program" by Randy Case in *Waste-Less News* Volume 10, Issue 2, published by the DNR.