



# Department of Environmental Protection

100 Cambridge Street Suite 900 Boston, MA 02114 • 617-292-5500

Maura T. Healey  
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll  
Lieutenant Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper  
Secretary

Bonnie Heiple  
Commissioner

**Date:** December 20, 2023

**To:** Clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives and Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

**From:** Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

**Subject:** Thermostat Recycling Corporation (TRC) 2022 Mercury Thermostat Report

**Filed:** Pursuant to 2014 revisions to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 21H, Section 6J1/2 (g)

*"The department shall collect and maintain data on the collection and recycling programs established in subsection (d), including the number of mercury-added thermostats collected and recycled and the number of wholesalers, retailers, qualified contractors, and local government authorities participating in the program. On or before September 30 of each year, the department shall prepare an annual report detailing the data collected under this subsection during the prior calendar year and shall file copies of those reports with the clerks of the senate and house of representatives and the co-chairs of the joint committee on environment, natural resources, and agriculture."*

**And Subsection (e) of Section 6J1/2:**

*"each thermostat manufacturer that has distributed, offered for final sale, or sold at final sale, any mercury-added thermostat within the Commonwealth, shall individually or collectively, submit an annual report to the Department, that includes the following information:*

- The number of mercury-added thermostats collected and recycled by the manufacturer under this section during the previous calendar year;*
- The estimated total amount of mercury contained in the thermostat components collected by the manufacturer under this section in the previous calendar year;*
- An evaluation of the effectiveness of the manufacturer's collection program;*
- An accounting of the administrative costs incurred while administering the collection and recycling program; and*
- A list of all locations to which collection containers have been provided, including any locations which received containers during the year, and the date on which each location received a collection container."*

Attached is the 2022 annual report of the Mercury Thermostat Corporation (TRC). A copy of this report is also posted on TRC's website and linked to the Department's website at <https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-mercury-information#-industry-reporting-&-compliance-> under "Thermostat Recycling Corp.: [Mercury Recycling Corp. Annual State Reports \(including Massachusetts\)](#)".

TRC is a non-profit organization whose goal is to keep mercury in thermostats out of the waste stream. The organization facilitates and manages the collection and proper disposal of mercury-containing thermostats. The organization is currently comprised of 28 manufacturers that support the program.

The report includes an update of the thermostat collection and recycling data collected by TRC, an accounting of the program expenses, outreach strategies developed, and an overview of other states' collection and recycling programs. Also included in the report were methods for improving the program in Massachusetts.

Below are some highlights of the program in 2022:

- The program collected 57.1 pounds of mercury in Massachusetts
  - The 57.1 lbs. of mercury collected in Massachusetts in 2022 reflected an 32% increase when compared to the 43.2 lbs. collected in 2021.
  - Since 2000, the annual quantity of mercury collected in Massachusetts has been an average of 38.3 lbs.
- The program collected 8,333 whole thermostats in 2022
  - This was an 49% increase from 2021 collections.
  - Since 2000, the annual average number of thermostats collected is 4,777.
- In addition to 8,333 whole thermostats, 11 loose switches were collected, bringing the total number of "thermostat equivalents" returned in 2022 to 8,343.
- The number of whole thermostats collected per collection container or bin in 2022 was 74 thermostats, an increase from 45 collected in 2021.
- In 2022, bin returns increased, checking in with 112 bins. The counties with the most bins and thermostats returned in 2022 were Middlesex County (25 bins, 2,493 thermostats), Norfolk County (28 bins, 2,001 thermostats), and Hampden County (15 bins, 1,473 thermostats).
- In 2022, 23% of the partner locations returned at least one bin.
- In Massachusetts, most thermostats collected were through contractors (58.8%) with many of the remaining thermostats collected by wholesalers (37.5%).
- A total of 111 'Miss You' calls were placed in 2022 and 40 site visits completed.
- In 2022, the top 10 partners of total numbers of bins and thermostats returned were:
  - Home Works Energy Inc (13 bins, 3,388 thermostats)
  - Covanta – SEMASS (18 bins, 753 thermostats)
  - Bell Simons (10 bins, 701 thermostats)
  - Scanlon Associates (4 bins, 667 thermostats)
  - F.W. Webb (10 bins, 578 thermostats)
  - Rise Engineering (4 bins, 416 thermostats)
  - American Installations (2 bins, 299 thermostats)
  - S.G. Torrice Co. (3 bins, 207 thermostats)
  - Sid Harvey (2 bins, 185 thermostats)
  - Homeserve USA Energy Services (1 bin, 141 thermostats)

All the collection locations are listed in the report's appendices at <https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-mercury-information#-industry-reporting-&-compliance-> under "Thermostat Recycling Corp.: [Mercury](#)

[Recycling Corp. Annual State Reports \(including Massachusetts\)](https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-mercury-information#-handling-mercury-safely-)". These collection locations are also listed on MassDEP's website as part of a broader mercury products collection point listing at <https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-mercury-information#-handling-mercury-safely->.

The program reported \$36,908 in expenses in 2022, an increase of 26% from 2021.

The 2022 education and outreach program involved direct marketing, including phone calls to collection locations, reminder postcards, emails, social and other media outreach, and site visits. In 2022, TRC also refined its approach on how to engage the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) industry, the building/facility management industry, property management industry, Household Hazardous Waste industry, the Utilities and Waste Management and Remediation sectors.

For calendar year 2023, TRC plans to focus on:

- continuing to fulfill state statutory requirements, agreements, and other arrangements for regulatory compliance,
- targeting mercury thermostat collections at Utilities, the HVAC industries, and other key sectors, and,
- education and awareness tactics geared toward homeowners and HVAC industry professionals.

Attachment (1)