



Clean Air Foundation Receives Prestigious Environmental Health Award

TORONTO – June 3, 2008 – The Clean Air Foundation has been awarded the silver Environmental Health Award for its highly successful mercury collection programs — *Switch Out* and *Switch the 'Stat*. The honor was presented to the organization last night at the Canadian Environment Awards, which recognizes individuals and groups of Canadians who have made outstanding contributions to the protection, restoration and preservation of the Canadian environment.

“This award is a testament to the dedication of our team and partners,” said Ersilia Serafini, Executive Director of the Clean Air Foundation. “We are committed to building on the success of both programs and delivering even greater results as we expand the *Switch the 'Stat* program beyond Ontario and take the *Switch Out* program national this year.”

The Environmental Health Award is part of the Community Awards category. These awards are given to organizations that provide Canadians with sustainable choices and the savvy to make responsible environmental decisions. Each winner puts Canadians’ right to a healthy environment first. Clean Air Foundation has been presented with Community Awards twice before — once in 2005 for its *Mow Down Pollution* program and again in 2007 for its *Car Heaven* program.

Switch Out currently operates in Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces, and this year will expand to all provinces and territories across Canada. As a result of funding from Canada’s steel and automotive industries, the program will now allow for the expansion of the existing infrastructure to collect, remove and manage mercury-containing switches from retired vehicles, as well as produce educational materials for recyclers across the country.

Switch Out is the first program in Canada to address the use of mercury in vehicles and mercury emissions from vehicle recycling. The program works to recover mercury from vehicles before they are recycled to prevent its release into the environment. Since 2001, the program has collected more than 189,000 switches from end-of-life vehicles, saving 160 kilograms of mercury from being leaked into the environment.

Created in April 2006, *Switch the 'Stat* encourages the installation of energy-efficient programmable thermostats and responsibly recovers older mercury-containing thermostats. To date, this program has collected more than 10,600 switches from thermostats, thereby recovering more than 27 kilograms of mercury.

Since 2001, *Switch Out* and *Switch the 'Stat* have recovered almost 200,000 mercury-containing switches and ensured that more than 185 kilograms of mercury have not been released into the environment.

About Clean Air Foundation:

The Clean Air Foundation is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to developing, implementing and managing public engagement programs and strategic approaches leading to measurable emissions reductions, air quality improvement and climate protection. The Foundation manages seven public engagement programs — Car Heaven™, Mow Down Pollution™, Keep Cool™, Go Solar, Switch the 'Stat, Switch Out and Cool Shops™.

For more information please contact:

Stephanie Nadalin, Optimum Public Relations, 416-306-6561, stephanie.nadalin@cossette.com