Why is it Important to Recycle Batteries and Lights?

In the environment, these lights and batteries can release the heavy metals they may contain such as Mercury, Lead, and Cadmium. By recycling these batteries, or at least disposing of them properly, these harmful metals will not be released into the environment where they could potentially become dangerous to the public's health.

By recycling these products, other materials in the bulbs and batteries can be used for new products, leading to a more sustainable community.

We can take care of your batteries both rechargeable and not, but if you don't want to lug a big bag or box full of old rechargeable batteries to campus, the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation can locate a site for drop off near you:

http://www.call2recycle.org/locator/

For more information please visit us at http://www.csus.edu/aba/EHS/index.html

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

California State University, Sacramento
6000 J St.
Sacramento, CA 95819
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E-mail: hitomib@csus.edu

Please Recycle me!

Universal Waste Recycling: Batteries and Lights

SACRAMENTO STATE
Environmental Health and Safety

What Are Universal Wastes?

Universal wastes are hazardous wastes that are widely produced by households and many different types of businesses.

These include:

- Batteries
- Cell phones
- Electronic waste and devices
- Fluorescent lamps
- Mercury wastes
- And non-empty aerosol cans

The University has a campus wide Universal waste management program that facilitates compliance with campus policy and applicable federal, state, and local environmental regulations.

Two types of universal wastes that are picked up by Sacramento State include Batteries and Lights.

Batteries

There are several types of batteries, and most of these contain heavy metals such as mercury, lead, cadmium, and nickel.

alkaline (AA, AAA, C, D or 9-volt) and carbon zinc

So called button batteries (for hearing aids and cameras, etc) – mercuric-oxide, silver-oxide, and zinc-air

Rechargeable nickel/ cadmium called NiCad, Lithium Ion, Nickel-Metal Hydride called NiMH, and some alkaline

Lights

Fluorescent: compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), about 96% of a CFL bulb by weight is the glass casing which is completely recyclable, and the last 4% is metal (aluminum), phosphor powder, and mercury

Incandescent: Argon/ Mercury, tungsten, and filaments- create more heat, require more power, shorter life span California is set to phase these out completely by 2018 and as of January 1, 2014 incandescent bulbs are no longer being manufactured in the US

High Intensity Discharge (HID): mercury vapor, high-pressure sodium (used for outdoor lighting), metal halide lamps (long lasting and brighter than incandescent), put out less heat and use less energy than incandescent