



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Laurel Prussing and Council Members
FROM: Bill Gray, Public Works Director
Rod Fletcher, Environmental Manager
DATE: February 6, 2008
RE: Commercial Recycling, Mercury Containing Devices Program, Battery Program

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update regarding commercial recycling, introduces a new program for recycling household mercury containing devices, and discusses the battery recycling program.

Commercial Recycling

A meeting was held on October 30, 2007 with staff and representatives from Allied Waste, Area Disposal, Illini Recycling and Community Resource Recycling. The purpose of the meeting was to give an overview of responses received from businesses on current recycling activities, communicate to haulers/recyclers Council's desire to expand and enhance commercial recycling efforts, and explain the connection of recycling as a strategy to further advance the city's efforts toward development of a Sustainability Plan.

While there was good discussion on several topics, it was clear that there was not any significant interest on the part of haulers to enhance the types of materials to be collected above what is predominately being recovered, mostly paper and cardboard commodities. And there was also little interest expressed to offer services to locations other than who they were currently providing service to. Council member Smyth was also present and suggested that a pilot program be undertaken to businesses in the core of downtown - along Main St. from Broadway to Race.

In early December, Matt Snyder who operates Community Resource Recycling, expressed interest in offering recycling services, including a wide range of commodities, to downtown businesses. He has applied for a grant to acquire recycling containers with the State and is awaiting a response. However, Mr. Snyder has indicated that it is his intent to initiate a downtown program around April 1. The City has already provided assistance in identifying business owners for this effort. Staff will keep Council apprised of developments.

Household Mercury Containing Devices Program

The Environmental Management Division has developed a recycling plan for mercury containing devices commonly found in households. The program targets compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs and tubes, thermostats, and thermometers. Public Works will keep a small inventory of pre-paid "Recycle-Pak" boxes in stock for residents to purchase at City cost. For CFL's and tubes, the cost

includes recycling fees and pre-paid shipping for residents to mail the boxes. The RecyclePak boxes are shipped to Veolia Environmental Services for proper management and recycling.

Arrangements have also been secured to accept mercury thermostats at Public Works for recycling. There are nominal costs involved to acquire shipping containers and for shipping, however there are adequate monies budgeted to maintain this program, therefore we can offer this program at no cost for residents. Finally, mercury thermometers can be taken to Carle Rx Express for recycling at no charge. Please find attached the promotional flier. We believe that this program offers viable options for residents to manage these materials and will become effective Monday, February 11.

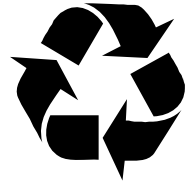
Household Battery Program

A program to recycle single use alkaline (AAA, AA, C, D, and 9 volt), button batteries, and rechargeable batteries commonly found and used in households was implemented on November 27. Alkaline batteries available for sale in the U.S. have not been manufactured with mercury since 1996 and are being recycled for the value of the metals. However, button batteries are manufactured with small amounts of mercury and are being recycled as a preferred method to manage mercury as well as for recovering metals. (The battery industry has announced a commitment to eliminate mercury from button batteries by June 2011.) Rechargeable batteries also are recovered primarily for the metals.

There are five (5) locations where batteries may be dropped off: Anita Purves Nature Center, Phillips Recreation Center, Urbana City Building, Urbana Free Library and Urbana Public Works (see attached flier). Recycling of rechargeable batteries is being accomplished at no cost through a program offered by the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation available to municipalities. Recycling for alkaline and button batteries can be a costly program. However, staff has made arrangements with the Interstate Battery Center in Champaign and they have agreed to accept alkaline/button batteries at no cost as long as they can collect lead acid car and truck batteries generated by our Fleet Division. Lead acid batteries do have a modest value and this enables Interstate Batteries to offset costs they incur for alkaline/button batteries. This arrangement is currently working fine, given the quantities of alkaline/button batteries being collected and the quantity of lead acid batteries available to them. However if large quantities of alkaline/button batteries should be collected, it may require supplementary funding. Given this, the program is being promoted for the use of Urbana residents only.



Managing Mercury Containing Devices



The City is offering solutions for recycling household mercury containing devices for Urbana residents.



Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) and Fluorescent Tube Bulbs



CFL RecyclePak– Comes with everything you need: Sealable plastic bag, pre-paid shipping label, packing tape, and step by step illustrated instructions.

Box Size 6"x6"x6"- \$15.00 (Holds up to 12 Small Bulbs)



Fluorescent Tube RecyclePak– Available for both 4 ft. and 8 ft. tube lengths. Comes with everything you need: Poly-liner, pre-paid shipping label, and step by step illustrated instructions.

4 ft.- \$33.00 Holds 15 T12 (1.5" Dia.) or 30 T8 Bulbs (1" Dia.)

8 ft.- \$53.00 Holds 15 T12 (1.5" Dia.) or 30 T8 Bulbs (1" Dia.)

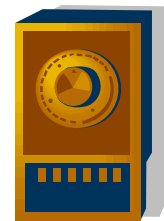
All 3 RecyclePaks can be purchased at Urbana Public Works

706 S. Glover Ave Urbana, IL

Checks Only Please



Household Thermostats



Bring your mercury household thermostat to Urbana Public Works to be recycled **FREE!**



Thermometers

Mercury thermometers should be taken to Carle Hospital RX Express at 611 W. Park St. Urbana, IL to be recycled **FREE!**

This program is coordinated by the Environmental Management Division

Office hours are Monday thru Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(217) 384-2416 For More Information



BATTERY RECYCLING PROGRAM



Urbana now offers **FREE** single-use AND rechargeable battery recycling at the following drop-off locations:

Anita Purves Nature Center

1505 N. Broadway Ave., Urbana

Philips Recreation Center

505 W. Stoughton St., Urbana

* This location does not accept rechargeable batteries

Urbana City Building

400 S. Vine St., Urbana
(Vine Street entrance)

Urbana Free Library

210 W. Green St., Urbana

Urbana Public Works

706 S. Glover Ave., Urbana

NO CAR/TRUCK BATTERIES ACCEPTED !

For more information:

Call Urbana Public Works
at 384-2302

