



San Luis Obispo County  
Integrated Waste Management Authority  
Battery & Fluorescent Lamp Program Update

April 2009

***Did You Know*** ... Household batteries, cell phones, and fluorescent lighting are considered hazardous because they contain toxic ingredients, including mercury, lead, and cadmium. Because of these contaminants, it's now illegal to throw away these items in your garbage or recycling can, or to dispose of them at area landfills. Instead, for free disposal, you should take dead batteries, cell phones, and fluorescent lights to *any* area business that sells them.

Beginning in April of 2008, a county-wide ordinance established a "Take Back Program" for household batteries, cell phones, and all fluorescent lighting. If a business in our community sells batteries, cell phones, or fluorescent lighting, they are required to take those items from the public for *free* disposal.

***Remember*** ... Household batteries should be fully discharged and lithium batteries should have tape placed on the metal contacts. Also, use caution when transporting your fluorescent lighting. Lamps must not be broken and should be carefully placed in the store's collection containers for recycling.

This important environmental program has been brought to you by the San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) and a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

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