



## San Luis Obispo County IWMA Battery & Fluorescent 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, you should take back dead batteries, cell phones, and fluorescent lights to *any* area business that sells them for ***free*** disposal.

Beginning in April of 2008, a county-wide ordinance established a "Take Back Program" for household batteries, cell phones, and all fluorescent lighting. Rest assured that if a business in our community sells batteries, cell phones, or fluorescent lighting, they are required to take back 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. In addition, use caution when transporting your fluorescent lighting. Lights 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.

###

San Luis Obispo Count IWMA  
870 Osos Street, San Luis Obispo, California 93401-2717  
Phone: (805) 782-8530 email: [iwma@iwma.com](mailto:iwma@iwma.com)  
[www.iwma.com](http://www.iwma.com)