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For Immediate Release

HOUSEHOLD BATTERY PROGRAM: RELAUNCH STARTS SEPTEMBER 3

Residents in Single-Family Homes Can Put Bagged Batteries on Top of the Black Cart

SAN CARLOS, CA – August 27, 2018 – Starting September 3, 2018, residents in single-family homes (*including residents living in small apartments with four units or less*) can responsibly dispose of household batteries and cell phones by placing them in zip-top bags on top of their black carts. Previously, residents were asked to place these items on top of the blue recycling cart.

To help initiate this change, RethinkWaste mailed all single-family home residents in early September a notice explaining the program change along with two orange-tinted battery and cell phone collection bags (see image below). The bags will serve as a reminder to residents to properly dispose of these hazardous items. Residents wanting to use the orange bag can find many local pick-up locations at www.rethinkwaste.org/batteries, or are encouraged to use any clear zip-top bag to properly dispose of batteries and cell phones. Many local battery drop off locations are also listed at this link.

This change may seem simple, but it's an important one. Currently, the RethinkWaste-owned Shoreway Environmental Center in San Carlos finds on average 13 batteries per hour on the recycling sort line. Batteries are helpful in everyday life, but when batteries are improperly disposed of end up in a facility with lots of heavy equipment, this can lead to a bad combination. On September 7, 2016, the Shoreway Environmental Center experienced a four-alarm fire that was likely called by a lithium-ion battery. Thankfully all staff were evacuated safely, but it cost \$8.5 million in damages.

RethinkWaste has made numerous fire suppression improvements to the Shoreway Environmental Center and worked closely with its contracted employees to expand technical fire response training, but still need residents' help in disposing of used batteries properly.

"For the safety of our worker's and the long-term viability of our \$35 million-dollar recycling facility, we must ask our residents to help us make this simple change," said Joe La Mariana, RethinkWaste's Executive Director. "Our recycling worker's lives depend on it! And don't forget that all program costs ultimately get passed on to our residents."

The curbside collection and drop off program for batteries and cell phones launched in October 2007 and has been quite a success since initiation. In 2017, 104 tons of batteries were collected. Residents in multi-family dwellings can ask their property manager to request a battery and cell phone collection bucket from Recology San Mateo County.

About RethinkWaste

RethinkWaste is a joint powers authority of twelve public agencies in San Mateo County (Atherton, Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Carlos, City of San Mateo, parts of unincorporated San Mateo County and the West Bay Sanitary District). We own and manage the Shoreway Environmental Center, which processes all the collected trash, recyclable and compostable materials. See www.RethinkWaste.org and follow us on Facebook and Twitter at @RethinkWaste.

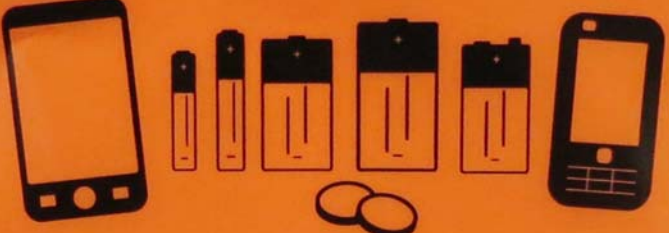
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MEMBER AGENCIES: Town of Atherton • City of Belmont • City of Burlingame • City of East Palo Alto • City of Foster City • Town of Hillsborough
City of Menlo Park • City of Redwood City • City of San Carlos • City of San Mateo • County of San Mateo • West Bay Sanitary District

8x10 Household Battery & Cell Phone Collection Bag mailed to all single-family households

Household Battery & Cell Phone Collection Bag
Bolsa de colección de baterías del hogar y teléfonos celulares



No car or lead acid batteries

Instrucciones

- 1) Put household batteries and cell phones into bag and seal. Fill bag at least half way. For safety, place tape over both ends of each lithium battery.
- 2) Place bag on top of your **BLACK GARBAGE CART** on your regular collection day.


Need another bag?
Visit RethinkWaste.org/batteries or Recology.com for pick up locations or use any clear zip-top bag.

Excepto baterías de automóvil o plomo-ácido

Instrucciones


- 1) Coloque las baterías domésticas y los teléfonos celulares en la bolsa y selle la bolsa. Llene la bolsa hasta la mitad. Para mayor seguridad, coloque la cinta sobre ambos extremos de cada batería de litio.
- 2) Coloque la bolsa encima de su **CARRITO NEGRO DE BASURA** en su día regular de recolección.

¿Necesitas otra bolsa?
Visite Rethinkwaste.org/batteries o Recology.com para obtener otra bolsa o use cualquier bolsa transparente con cierre de cremallera.

 **RethinkWaste**
A Public Agency

家用電池和手機收集袋

有關中文資訊，請訪問我們的網站：
www.RethinkWaste.org/batteries

 **Recology**
San Mateo County
WASTE ZERO

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