



**RECYCLING OF HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES & FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS TO  
BE MORE CONVENIENT DUE TO GRANT  
Partnerships with Local Businesses and Consumer Participation Key**

**Contacts:**

Nick Conway, SGVCOG Executive Director  
(626) 564-9702 (o)

Heidi Sanborn, CPSC Executive Director  
916.480.9010 (o)

**Pasadena, CA (March 8, 2010)** - Thanks to a \$395,966 grant from the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) is working to make it easier for consumers and retailers to recycle household batteries and mercury-containing lamps, such as compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs).

The goal of the grant is to develop partnerships between SGVCOG and local businesses and retailers to develop an education and pilot take-back program for these hazardous household products, which are banned from disposal in the trash.

“Everyone uses batteries and CFLs in their daily life, but currently there isn’t a simple and convenient way for recycling these items in the San Gabriel Valley,” said Nick Conway, SGVCOG Executive Director. “Through this generous grant, we plan to create a simple take-back program that people will be able to easily follow and ultimately save taxpayer dollars.”

Currently, local governments bear the burden and \$100-million annual cost to properly collect, recycle or dispose of hazardous waste as mandated by statewide disposal bans. According to CalRecycle, more than 29.5 million batteries were sold in California in 2001, with only 162,000 (or 0.6%) actually collected. In addition, more than 15 million fluorescent lamps were sold in California in 2001. Of this amount, less than one percent of the mercury-containing bulbs were recycled.

SGVCOG will be working with the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) to develop an education and outreach program to support the pilot take-back locations, and will conduct a survey to assess the public’s understanding of the battery and lamp end-of-life management. Residents and businesses will participate in focus groups to determine the most effective take-back program and messaging. In partnership with the business community, SGVCOG and CPSC hope to establish convenient take-back locations that benefit both the consumer and the businesses that voluntarily become take-back locations.

“The public wants to recycle, and implementing take-back programs in other parts of the state have proven successful,” said Heidi Sanborn, CPSC Executive Director. “We hope that by partnering with the business community, SGVCOG and CPSC can create convenient, voluntary take-back locations that will benefit both consumers and businesses in the San Gabriel Valley.”

CPSC is also providing outreach and education about Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), also known as Product Stewardship. EPR is a policy approach to place a shared responsibility for end-of-life product management on the producers, and all entities involved in the product chain, instead of it solely being a taxpayer and ratepayer responsibility. EPR encourages product design changes that minimize a negative impact on human health and the environment.

For more information about the project, contact Nick Conway, SGVCOG (626)564-9702 or Heidi Sanborn, CPSC Executive Director: 916.480.9010. For general information about EPR go to [www.calpsc.org](http://www.calpsc.org). For more information about CalRecycle go to [www.calrecycle.ca.gov](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov).

---

---



Funded by a grant from the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)