

Introduction

Welcome to Week 13 of the 2018 CGOP! This week we will be covering Elective Action #17. If you need a refresher from any past weeks, check out the prior newsletters [here](#).

17. Start or join a battery recycling program, such as the one at www.batterysolutions.com.

As a reminder, completion of five Elective Actions beyond the Required Actions will earn you Bronze level certification, completion of ten will earn Silver level certification, and fifteen Elective Actions will earn Gold level certification.

Instructions

Elective Action #17: Start or join a battery recycling program, such as the one at www.batterysolutions.com.

Check out the iCAP [portal page for battery recycling options](#), especially for rechargeable batteries which can't be disposed of through normal means.

According to the U.S. EPA, about 3 billion dry-cell batteries are purchased every year in the United States, which makes for an average of about 9.2 batteries per American citizen annually. On the one hand, this average doesn't seem particularly high -- after all, we need batteries to power a wide range of the devices and electronics we use every single day. But on the other hand, 3 billion batteries a year is a significant volume of heavy metal being consumed with a large potential to pollute the Earth.

Dry-cell batteries work by combining a heavy metal with a chemical electrolyte. The most common heavy metals in such batteries include mercury, lead, cadmium, and nickel. When tossed in the trash, these metals can be very dangerous in landfills due to their toxicity leaching into the ground. If incinerated, they also pose a pollution threat to the air. Furthermore, just as with nearly every other material we harvest from the Earth, our resources of the metals we use to produce batteries are finite. Having this mass of potentially usable metal sitting forever in landfills is not conducive to the sustainability of our society. For all of these reasons, battery recycling is increasingly essential.

Thankfully, though the current rates of recycling for all types of batteries (with the exception of [lead batteries](#)) are chronically low, it really isn't a complicated or difficult process to begin recycling them. If you choose to use Battery Solutions, it is as

simple as ordering a container for your office that you ship back to the company every time it is full. [Call2Recycle](#), the company working on a project with iSEE, uses essentially the same concept, though they send a box rather than a pail.

If your office is unwilling or unable to purchase these containers, the other way to gain a point for this action would be to collect batteries and then bring them to a location or business in the community that accepts them for recycling.

Here is a brief list of places that would accept the batteries:

- AT&T Wireless Services
 - Accepts rechargeable and single-use batteries.
 - 201 Knollwood Drive, Champaign, IL 61820
 - (217) 384-2520
- Best Buy
 - Accepts NiCad and other rechargeable batteries.
 - 2117 N Prospect Ave, Champaign, IL 61822
 - (217) 352-8883
- Lowes
 - Accepts NiCad and other rechargeable batteries.
 - 1904 N Prospect Ave, Champaign, IL 61822
 - (217) 373-7300
- Office Depot
 - 111 Convenience Center Rd, Champaign IL
 - (217) 373-5202
- Staples
 - Accepts NiCad and other rechargeable batteries.
 - 2005 N Prospect Ave, Champaign, IL 61822
 - (217) 373-8490

A list of other locations can be found [here](#). It also specifies if each listing accepts other types of batteries, such as car batteries. No matter which location you choose, we would encourage you to call ahead of time to ensure that they accept the type and quantity of batteries you are looking to recycle.