



Upper Valley Waste Management Agency Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Jill Pahl - Acting Manager
Upper Valley Waste Management Agency
REPORT BY: John Kara, Jr, Environmental Health Supervisor, 253-4471
SUBJECT: Universal Waste

RECOMMENDATION

UNIVERSAL WASTE

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Manager to discuss the options for universal waste recycling/disposal.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff will report on recent changes to regulations governing the disposal of universal waste to the municipal solid waste stream, and recycling opportunities for the waste.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

On February 9th, regulatory exemptions allowing households and other small quantity generators to dispose of some widely generated, hazardous waste known as "universal waste" to the municipal waste stream expired. The waste that no longer is allowed to be placed in the trash includes: alkaline, rechargeable and small sealed lead

acid batteries; fluorescent, high intensity discharge, and sodium lamps; mercury containing thermometers, switches, gauges and other devices; consumer electronic devices including computers, cell phones, microwaves, printers, radios, and VCRs. A comprehensive list of consumer electronic devices is not yet available from the Department of Toxic Substances Control.

Batteries are currently accepted at Clover Flat Landfill, the Town of Yountville's Corporation Yard, various locations throughout the City of Napa, and the Devlin Road Transfer Station. Agency staff is working with the cities of Calistoga and St. Helena and the Town of Yountville to establish public collection locations at city buildings. Staff is also exploring the establishment of public collection locations at businesses in the up valley area. The County of Napa will soon begin collecting batteries from its employees at each County building.

Staff recommends the Agency use and promote the use of rechargeable batteries as an alternative to disposable batteries. There is currently in place an advanced disposal fee for rechargeable batteries that allows businesses and public agencies to mail the batteries in prepaid boxes to a recycler.

Currently the only public collection locations for universal waste lamps are the Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility at the Devlin Road Transfer Station and the Agency sponsored temporary household hazardous waste collection events. Two events are scheduled for this year. The first on May 27th at the Upper Valley Disposal Service Yard and the second on October 21st at the Napa County Fairgrounds in Calistoga. Staff is working on an informational handout of companies that provide collection and recycling services for universal waste lamps.

Electronic waste is currently accepted only at the Materials Diversion Facility in Napa and at the City of Napa's annual collection event at Napa College. Staff is working with the operator of Clover Flat Landfill on the acceptance of electronic waste at the landfill. The landfill currently accepts only televisions and computer monitors. Staff is researching the possible acceptance of electronic waste at future temporary household hazardous waste collection events.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Jill Pahl