Wisdom from the Field: Ins-and-Outs of Developing a Top Recycling Program

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MODERN (MOBILE) MILITARY

Batteries power thousands of devices for soldier activity and across installations.

. . . Field communication equip. (radios, laptops)
. . . Night vision goggles & flashlights
. . . GPS units
. . . Secondary power units

3 Day mission in Afghanistan – 20-35 lbs of up to 7 different types of batteries*. 

Although the individual devices may vary, each military branch uses a significant amount of batteries in their every day operations!

* Army, Marines Face Uphill Battle To Lighten Troops’ Battery Load, May 2011; By Sandra I. Erwin
Battery disposal for the military can be . . .

. . . Expensive
. . . Complicated
. . . “Unclear” – Final Disposition
BATTERIES everywhere!

Cost of $1.50/lb for disposal as UW.

Can we be “GREENER”?!?!?

One of ten facilities engineering commands (FECs) in NAVFAC (over 3,400 Federal employees) & responsible for public works, planning, engineering/design, construction, real estate, environmental services, and acquisition / disposal of facilities and real estate in a six state area.
STEP 1 – ESTABLISH GOAL AND APPROACH

GOAL:
Implement a fiscally responsible and environmentally sound recycling program to divert rechargeable batteries from the Universal Waste stream for the entire CNRSW footprint.

APPROACH:
Domino Theory . . . The FECs are uniquely positioned to promote the Navy’s participation region-wide.
STEP 2 - SERVICE VENDOR

What are others doing - why “reinvent the wheel”!?!?

More than a Vendor, find a PARTNER!
CALL2RECYCLE®

Non profit organization of manufacturers - no competitive sourcing issues.

Program is simple – collect and recycle your rechargeable batteries at no cost . . . NO SHIPPING OR PROCESSING COSTS in CONUS.
STEP 3: DUE DILIGENCE

Certifications

Audits / Insurance

Legal Counsel
STEP 4 - THE “BUY IN”

All hands on Deck Meeting – What a BRILLIANT Idea!

Within 2 hours NAVFAC footprint in Metro San Diego was on board!
STEP 5 – IMPLEMENTATION & TRAINING

Where do you collect?
Haz Waste Facility/90 Day Site or TSDF or individual Units/Offices . . . All NAVFAC SW installations are handling through HW or TSDF.

How do you collect?
“Milk Runs” vs. Units Drop Off

How are you shipping?
Collection Boxes – NAS Fallon, NV

Bulk Shipping – NB San Diego, CA
STEP 5 – IMPLEMENTATION & TRAINING

Vendor Capabilities
Safety & Comp. Manager
Handouts
Reports

Internal Capabilities
SOP’s
Tech Training
STEP 6 - MAINTENANCE

Track activity.

Constantly evolving.
CHALLENGES

Communicating the message – how do you effectively gain support for the program (the “change” factor)?

On-going training for multiple POC’s throughout installation.

Every battery not created equal - only rechargeable batteries.
SUMMARY

Battery RECYCLING for NAVFAC SW is . . .

. . . FREE – Estimated savings for METRO SAN DIEGO is $87K this FY.

. . . SIMPLE – Easily integrated into existing collection efforts.

. . . TRANSPARENT – Full compliance with legal requirements in the State of California & improves sustainability posture for CNRSW.
QUESTIONS

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