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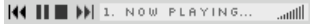
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Organizations work to divert batteries from landfills

Published on Tuesday, April 12, 2011
By San Gabriel Valley Tribune Staff Writer

IT is seemingly impossible to hear a news report these days that doesn't include a story about people not working together to solve problems.

The Democrats and the Republicans aren't working together, labor unions and conservatives aren't speaking and Nevada apparently is trying to steal all of [California's](#) businesses.

Here in the San Gabriel Valley things are different. Bucking the trend, the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) brought together local [governments](#), San Gabriel Valley businesses and battery producers to solve an environmental problem.

Too much stuff goes into our landfills that should not be put there. Some of the most damaging items are household batteries. Everyone knows batteries harm our groundwater if landfilled, but there has been no clear answer as to who should be responsible for providing the recycling services - government, the producers ... retailers? However, they worked together and developed a solution that [works](#) for everyone. And in this case, the big winner is the customer.

Businesses from El Monte to Claremont and La Ca ada Flintridge to Baldwin Park are launching a battery-recycling program. To date, 34 businesses have signed on as free collection sites. You just drop off your battery and the battery producers will cover the cost for shipping and disposal.

I am not trying to cast any blame on you, dear readers, but if you are like me, there is a box of old batteries in your garage waiting for a convenient roundup event so you can properly dispose of them. There aren't that many roundups and, unfortunately, I always find out about them the day after they conclude.

But now there is no excuse. These 34 businesses are open almost every day and we all live or work near many of them.

A kickoff celebration is planned for April 21 at 10 a.m. at one of the participating businesses, Digitech [Camera](#) Repair at 447 W. Foothill Blvd. in Monrovia. Everyone is invited and it's no coincidence that the program begins the day before Earth Day, 2011.

To find a participating business near you, log on to www.sgvco.org/batteryrecycling [Read Full Article...](#)

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