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Kickoff held for battery recycling program

Published on Thursday, April 21, 2011
By San Gabriel Valley Tribune Staff Writer

MONROVIA - Most households in the San Gabriel Valley trash their [batteries](#), despite knowing that it's not only illegal but also the wrong thing to do.

On Thursday, a day before Earth Day, a coalition of community, private and public sector leaders gathered at Digitech [Camera Repair](#) in Monrovia to kick off a valley-wide battery [recycling program](#) to combat the growing problem.

Since 2006, the State of California has banned disposal of household batteries in the trash. According to CalRecycle, more than 500 million batteries are sold in California annually, but only 0.5 percent are recycled.

Most people in the Valley would adhere to the law if recycling were more convenient, according to a 2010 study by the the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments.

A study conducted of homes here showed that 59 percent of people know that that the garbage is an improper way of disposing of batteries, which contain metals that have the potential to leak from landfills into drinking water. Despite that, only 3 percent of those surveyed properly recycled batteries.

"We found that most people would recycle if they had more [information](#) and if it were more convenient," said Heidi Sanborn, executive director of the California Product Stewardship Council. "Most people threw them in the trash because they didn't know where to recycle."

The battery recycling program will do just that, she said. Through a grant funded by the the council, CalRecycle and SGVCOG, households will now be able to drop off used batteries at more than 30 local businesses.

"You just drop off your battery and the battery producers will cover the cost for shipping and disposal," said Cynthia Kurtz, president and CEO of the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership.

Residents can log on to www.sgvocg.org/batteryrecycling to find the nearest drop-off location [Read Full](#)

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