Battery Waste Disposal

Purpose
This procedure specifies the proper disposal of waste batteries at UBC and ensures compliance with all legislations. It also promotes waste minimization and embeds sustainability culture on campus.

Scope
This disposal procedure applies to waste batteries in Class 8 (Corrosives), Class 9 (Miscellaneous Products, Substances or Organisms), or Class 4.3 (Water Reactive Substances) as defined by the current Canada Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) Regulations.

The only waste batteries disposed via the Environmental Services Facility (ESF) are rechargeable wet-cell batteries such as automotive lead-acid batteries, uninterruptible power supply (UPS) batteries, dry-cell batteries over 5kg, and batteries containing sodium (water reactive).

Household batteries (e.g. alkaline, watch, Ni-Cg, Ni-MH, Li-ion, cell phones, etc.) are recycled directly via Call2Recycle, the official, charge-free battery stewardship program in British Columbia.

Background
Waste batteries shall be disposed in accordance with the BC Environmental Management Act, 2003.

All batteries will be shipped for recycling by a designated contractor. Shipping and packing of all rechargeable batteries are required to comply with TDG shipping regulations in order to prevent short circuits and fires.

Procedure
- All automotive or UPS battery disposal requests must clearly identify:
  - Name of waste generator
  - Battery type
  - Quantity
  - Building location & address
- Ensure that ALL information is filled out completely.
- Email the request to ESF and attach some pictures of the batteries.
- Package UPS batteries inside a strong cardboard box and secure the box with tape prior to pick-up.
- Ensure that all batteries are contained in plastic bags if they are wet or leaking.
- Place batteries in the designated pick-up area for pick-up by ESF.
- Inform ESF if batteries/cells contain sodium and await special instructions.
- Contact ESF at 604-827-5389 for pick-up or if you have any questions.