

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL FACILITY**

455 WORCESTER STREET • WELLESLEY, MA 02481-4925

GORDON MARTIN
SUPERINTENDENT

TELEPHONE (781) 235-7600
FACSIMILE (781) 235-5891

January Recyclable of the Month: Batteries

While batteries make up less than 1% of the waste stream, they are responsible for releasing many toxic chemicals into the environment when they are not properly recycled. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Americans purchase nearly 3 billion dry-cell batteries every year to power radios, toys, cellular phones, watches, laptop computers, and portable power tools. And nearly 99 million wet-cell lead-acid car batteries are manufactured each year, they power automobiles, boats and motorcycles. Recycling batteries keeps heavy metals out of landfills and the air. Recycling saves resources because recovered plastic and metals can be used to make new batteries.

One way to help reduce waste is to buy rechargeable batteries that can be used over and over again. It is also important to try to buy batteries that contain lower amounts of hazardous waste. Once a battery is no longer usable, it should be placed in the proper receptacle at the RDF. If it is a household battery it should go in the bin along the recycling wall; if it is an automotive battery, it should be brought to the battery collection area. **Step Up** your battery recycling to decrease toxic chemicals in the environment!

For more information, contact Superintendent Gordon Martin at 781-235-7600 x 3340, or visit the RDF website at: www.wellesleyma.gov