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BATTLE CREEK AND WASTE MANAGEMENT TEAM UP TO HELP RESIDENTS RECYCLE FROM HOME

Free program launched to recycle compact fluorescent lamps and batteries

BATTLE CREEK, Mich., April 21, 2009 — Battle Creek residents now have a free, convenient solution for responsibly recycling compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and batteries right from their home, thanks to a new program the City of Battle Creek launched today.

“Battle Creek is the first city in Michigan to provide residents with this important and innovative service, making our community greener,” said Battle Creek Mayor Mark Behnke. “This program brings recycling right into local homes; it can’t get any easier than that.”

The city purchased 5,000 battery recycling kits and 2,000 CFL recycling kits through Waste Management’s Think Green® From Home (TGFH) program, which was launched last year nationwide to provide consumers convenient mail-in solutions to safely store and recycle household devices that contain heavy metal.

“Waste Management is proud the city of Battle Creek has chosen our program to provide residents with at-home recycling options,” said Tom Horton, Midwest Vice President of Public Affairs for Waste Management, Inc. “The Think Green® From Home program makes recycling CFLs and batteries as safe and convenient as possible.”

TGFH recycling kits will only be available to Battle Creek residents on a first come, first serve basis and will be distributed at the Battle Creek Public Works Office (150 S Kendall St.), Monday-Friday, during normal business hours, 7:30 a.m.- 4 p.m. There will be a limit one free CFL and one free battery kit recycling kit per household.

Once the free kits are gone, or if a household requires more than one kit to fill its recycling needs, additional kits can be purchased at www.ThinkGreenFromHome.com.

The kits are suitable for both the storage and transport of discarded bulbs or batteries and are approved for shipping by the United States Postal Service. Consumers can ship the boxes directly from their home or at any one of the over 34,000 postal offices across the country.

The TGFH program is the first of two partnerships the City of Battle Creek and Waste Management will announce this spring to encourage residents to recycle and support sustainable living. Details of another innovative program will be announced in the coming weeks.

“The Think Green® From Home partnership is just one of the exciting and innovative programs we will be announcing this year to support sustainable living in Battle Creek,” Mayor Behnke said. “Residents should look for more information in the next few months about other initiatives to boost recycling efforts in the community.”

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) have increased in use because they reduce energy, however the bulbs contain small amounts of mercury and should be properly recycled. TGFH recycling kits incorporate Mercury VaporLok™ technology, which is designed to reduce the risk of airborne exposure and environmental contamination from lamps broken during storage and shipping.

The average home has about 35 sockets. It is estimated an average home will go through 7-8 CFLs a year. Think Green From Home packaging holds up to 15 10-watt spiral type CFLs, providing about two years worth of recycling.

About Waste Management

Waste Management, Inc., based in Houston, Texas, is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management services in North America. Through its subsidiaries, the company provides collection, transfer, recycling and resource recovery, and disposal services. It is also a leading developer, operator and owner of waste-to-energy and landfill gas-to-energy facilities in the United States. The company’s customers include residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal customers throughout North America. To learn more information about Waste Management visit www.wm.com or www.thinkgreen.com.

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