

Rechargeable batteries, cell phones recycled locally

The Otsego County Conservation Association is putting out the word that opportunities exist locally to recycle rechargeable batteries and cell phones. Through the Call2Recycle Program, batteries are recyclable at many local stores, including Radio Shack, CVS Pharmacy, NAPA, Oneonta Cellular, Verizon Wireless and Home Depot.

OCCA president Martha Clarvoe came across this opportunity when she noticed a rechargeable battery recycling box at Radio Shack located inside the Bruce Hall Home Center in Cooperstown. She later learned that the Cooperstown CVS also participates in the Call2Recycle program.

“In general, we probably use more rechargeable batteries than we realize,” Clarvoe said.

“Rechargeable batteries keep wireless products and cordless tools going for quite a while, but they eventually need to be recycled in a responsible way.”

“People should look for a recycling box in the sections of stores where batteries are sold. If there is no recycling box, we hope people will ask the owner to check into the Call2Recycle program,” she said.

To confirm a recycling location, area residents may visit www.call2recycle.org or simply ask a local establishment if they participate. The website contains other information on rechargeable batteries, including a diagram showing where rechargeable batteries are likely to be found in a household.

Battery types that are recycled are: nickel cadmium (NiCad), nickel metal hydride (Ni-MH), lithium ion (Ni-ion), nickel zinc (NiZn), and small sealed lead (Pb) up to 2 pound or 1 kilogram of individual batteries. These types of batteries are used in cell phones, power tools, laptops, digital cameras, two-way radios, cam corders, cell and cordless phones, and remote-control toys. More items using these batteries are listed on its website.

Through the national program, Call2Recycle has collected and recycled more than 42 million pounds of rechargeable batteries at 50,000 recycling locations.

“We would like Otsego County residents to know that there are opportunities to recycle these batteries year round – in addition to the county’s annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day,” Clarvoe said.

OCCA is a private, non-profit environmental membership organization dedicated to promoting the enjoyment and sustainable use of Otsego County's natural resources through education, advocacy, resource management, research, and planning. For more information about OCCA, or to donate, call (607) 547-4488 or visit www.occainfo.org