AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE MONMOUTH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM .....

The Department of Transportation has made wide reaching regulatory changes in how all batteries must be sorted (lithium, individual chemistries, and voltages greater than 1.5 volts must be sorted), packaged by chemistry and/or voltage (individually bagged or taped) and shipped. These and other changes would cause a large increase in expense to the County, requiring additional personnel and equipment to meet the mandated packaging and shipping regulations. Violations of these and other new DOT regulations are a criminal offense. As a result of the regulatory changes, the County will only be collecting button cell batteries. Alkaline, Carbon Zinc, and other various types of rechargeable batteries will no longer be collected by the County.

Alkaline and Carbon Zinc Batteries will **no longer be accepted for recycling** after **October 15th 2009**. Alkaline batteries are not classified as a hazardous waste. In 1996 the Federal government banned the use of added mercury in alkaline batteries. Currently, alkaline batteries cost the County about $1.00 per pound to recycle.

Rechargeable Batteries will **no longer be accepted for recycling** after **October 15th 2009.** These types of batteries are already collected by over 300 retail stores in our surrounding area. This collection program is funded by the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC), who pays for the box, bags, shipping and recycling of the batteries. Any public institution, department, or retail store can receive and ship, totally free of charge, a RBRC recycling box for customers and employees to use to recycle rechargeable batteries. Go to the RBRC website (**www.rbrc.org**) and request a free battery recycling kit. Residents place a battery in a bag, and deposit the bagged battery into a cardboard RBRC collection box at any participating retail or institutional collection center. The batteries are shipped by the retailer or institution free to the recycler. Again, the County must curtail its program due to DOT regulatory changes which would cause a large increase in handling expense, and additional personnel would be required to conform to packaging and shipping regulations. Violations of these and other new DOT regulations are a criminal offense.

Button Cell Batteries will be continuously collected, sorted, and shipped by the County Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Button cell batteries can contain up to 25 milligrams of mercury per battery, and are considered a hazardous waste. There is no privately funded collection system available for these types of batteries. Therefore, in the interest of keeping mercury out of the environment, we will continue to collect, sort, package, and ship these types of batteries in accordance with the new DOT regulations. We are currently planning to design and purchase labels for containers stating "button cell batteries only". These labels will be available to retail stores, public institutions, and public works departments to enable the collection of these battery types.

Remember, as of October 15th 2009, the County will only accept "button cell batteries". Any other type of household batteries will not be accepted after October 15, 2009.

Any additional questions please contact:
Monmouth County Planning Board 732-431-7460
Monmouth County Health Department 732-431-7456
Monmouth County Household Hazardous Waste Facility 732-922-2234

MUNICIPALITIES SHOULD PLAN TO REMOVE ALL OF THE OLDER BATTERY COLLECTION CONTAINERS FROM LOCAL SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES AND OTHER MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS BEFORE THIS CUTOFF DATE, AND RETURN ACCUMULATED BATTERIES TO THE COUNTY HHW PROGRAM ASAP. AFTER OCTOBER 15TH, ONLY 'BUTTON BATTERIES' WILL BE ACCEPTED THROUGH THE COUNTY PROGRAM.