



# Battery Recycling in the Union

Organization name: Illini Union Board

Date of Submission: April 1<sup>st</sup> 2011



**1. Name of Group:**

**Illini Union Board and Kim Pekar, SSC recycling intern**

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**2. Primary Contact:**

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**1. Applicant Information and Mission Statement:**

The Illini Union Board provides programs and services for faculty, staff, students, Alumni and guests of the University. While some of these programs and services should be culture-and interest-specific in nature, all must reach out to diverse audiences and participants.

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**2. Proposal Summary**

We propose to utilize the Big Green Box program at the Union to provide recycling for portable electronic devices and all types of batteries. The Big Green Box for consumer use offers certified recycling for all lithium, alkaline, lead, mercury, nickel-cadmium, nickel metal-hydride, magnesium, silver, zinc, and lead batteries. The Big Green Box also accepts cellular telephones, pagers, wireless communication devices such as PDA's, MP3's, chargers, portable tools, laptops, and any other devices designed to operate on battery power.

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The Big Green Box is an United Nations rated corrugated container that is 12"L X 11.5"W X 8"H and has a 43-pound weight capacity. Once we purchase the Big

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Green Box, it would be shipped directly to the Union, fully assembled. The price of the Big Green Box includes the U.N. approved, pre-labeled container, pre-paid shipping to and from the recycling facility, and all recycling fees. Once each box is filled, it is sealed and picked up by FedEx.

In the past, the Union has collected 1600 pounds of batteries over a 12 month period. Since the weight capacity of each Big Green Box is 43 pounds, we would need a minimum of 38 boxes to successfully accommodate the volume of batteries that the Union receives annually. However, we would like to begin a pilot program to test the suitability and success rate of the Big Green Box before purchasing an adequate amount of boxes to support a year long program. Therefore, the Illini Union Board, requests \$1400 to purchase 20 Big Green Boxes. This amount of boxes would allow the Union to successfully divert 860 pounds of batteries from the campus waste stream.

### 3. Project Benefits and Impact:

The heavy metals such as mercury, lead, cadmium, and nickel, that batteries contain can contaminate the environment if disposed of in an improper manner. This project would ensure that 860 pounds of toxic batteries were diverted from the University waste stream. Also, this program will assist the University in achieving its' goal of a 75% waste diversion rate by 2020.

### 4. Student Engagement:

The Vice President of Policy for the Illini Union Board would be responsible for managing this program and securing additional assistance from other board members. Currently, the job description of the VP of Policy for the IUB is as follows, "...the IUB policy advises the building on policy matter and sustainability issues in the operation of the Union..." The present VP of Policy, Anil Hussain, has proposed that the oversight of the Big Green Box program be written permanently into the job description. Also, the IUB hopes to involve other Registered Student Organizations in their effort to secure permanent funding from the University to sustain the Big Green Box program in the future.



**5. Implementation Plan:**

Upon receiving the requested funds, the Illini Union Board would immediately place an order from the Big Green Box website for 20 boxes. A minimum of two boxes will be placed in visible locations with high foot traffic at the Union. The remaining boxes will be stored until needed. The boxes will then be monitored by the Vice President of Policy for the Illini Union Board to determine when the boxes will need to be sealed and shipped. An education and marketing plan will be formulated to inform students, faculty, and staff where they can recycle their batteries in the Union.

**6. Timeline:**

Please refer to implementation plan.

**7. Publicity Plan including how you will acknowledge the SSC's contribution:**

A label acknowledging the SSC's contributions will be affixed on each Big Green Box (please see page 6 for possible design). Additionally, the SSC's recycling intern, Kim Pekar, has agreed to design an informational page for their website. Marketing for this program will credit the SSC for their contributions to making the program feasible.





Example of label that would be affixed to each Big Green Box

