

# Be About Safety

Environment, Health, and Safety  
Risk Services  
University of California Office of the President

## SAFE-T-GRAM

### Recycling Used Cell Phones



#### Help Keep Used Cell Phones Out of the Trash



In the United States there are over one half a billion used cell phones sitting on shelves or in the landfill. It is estimated over 130 million additional used cell phones will be added this year alone. Cell phones along with their rechargeable batteries, if buried in the landfill will eventually degrade resulting in several hazardous chemicals, such as arsenic, antimony, beryllium, cadmium, copper, lead, nickel, and zinc, seeping into the groundwater, eventually contaminating the drinking water

Assembly Bill (AB) 2901 (Pavley, 2004), the Cell Phone Recycling Act of 2004, required the establishment of a safe, cost free, convenient collection, reuse, and recycling of used cell phones in the State of California.

Keep California Beautiful (KCB), a statewide non-profit environmental organization has established a free cell phone collection and recycling program. The website for the KCB cell phone recycling program is:

<http://www.keepcaliforniabeautiful.com/cellrecyc.html> Depending on the make and model of the cell phone, you can download a postage paid envelope label to send in your used cell phone. For select cell phones, KCB will mail you an envelope to return your used cell phone.

The cell phones which are recycled are refurbished, reused, or smelted down for metals and plastic recovery. KCB will use funds raised from the cell phone recycling program to sponsor future recycling, clean-up, and beautification events throughout the state of California.

Make a positive difference in the environment and recycle your old used cell phones!

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