What is **Universal Waste**?

This fact sheet is designed to promote collection and improve management of certain widely generated waste.

**Universal Waste** is the general term for common waste materials that contain *hazardous substances*.

There are four specific categories of materials that are considered universal waste in MA. *Three are more relevant to everyday use.*

1. **Hazardous Batteries**
   - NICKEL CADMIUM (NICAD), LITHIUM ION, RECHARGEABLES & BUTTON BATTERIES — NOT THE MORE COMMON ONES USED IN MANY DEVICES

2. **Mercury containing devices**
   - THERMOSTATS, MANOMETERS, SWITCHES, WATER METERS, THERMOMETERS, AND GAUGES

3. **Mercury-containing lamps**
   - FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS, INCLUDING COMPACT FLUORESCENT (CFL)

4. **Hazardous waste pesticides**
   - *Mostly for landscape use*
   - MERCURY-BASED PESTICIDES, ARSENICALS, AND CHLORINATED PESTICIDES

**Universal Waste cannot be thrown in the trash with other wastes.** The EPA has developed special regulations for the management and disposal of Universal Waste.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Boston College Office of Sustainability, 617-552-0339; www.bc.edu/sustainability