

Greetings,

ECE Facilities recently coordinated a massive waste pickup for batteries and chemicals abandoned in ECEB or on its properties or research/instruction waste submitted to the ECE Facilities Office. In total, three employees spent over 12 hours aggregating, prepping, and processing materials for waste pickup – nearly all of which originated from another group/area, with many of the items not readily identifiable. Many of these waste items originated from Everitt Lab, having been in storage for years.

This creates a variety of issues:

- Safety – potentially hazardous items are being handled by those unfamiliar with the risks
- Labor – one unit is dedicating time to prepare and process waste generated by multiple groups
- Storage – waste inventory is being built up and inadequately stored or moved repeatedly

To curb these issues and comply with DRS best practices, ECE Facilities is implementing a new policy regarding battery/chemical waste. All groups will be responsible for managing their own chemical and/or hazardous waste pickups through DRS – preferably on a regular, recurring basis. For some groups receiving this message, this is already a standard practice; however, for those new to this process, we wanted to provide the tools and resources to make this an easy transition.

Going forward, ECE Facilities will limit its role in this process to providing the DRS staff access to the waste pickup locations, but the responsibility of storing and prepping waste materials as well as submitting waste pickup requests will fall on the group or unit directly involved in generating the waste.

The Division of Research Safety (DRS) links below provide information about specific waste types and general guidance for how to submit a request for waste pickup.

Common waste types: <https://drs.illinois.edu/Page/Waste/CommonWasteTypes>

Requesting a waste pick-up tutorial: <https://drs.illinois.edu/Page/RequestAWastePickup>

DRS Waste Menu (all waste-related information): <https://drs.illinois.edu/#WASTE>

Thank you for your help in making this a safe and smooth process!