

## WICKED on Broadway uses rechargeable batteries!!

**As of October 2008, the Broadway company of WICKED switched from using regular alkaline batteries to nickel-metal hydride (NiMH) rechargeables in all of their wireless microphones.** They alternate between two sets of rechargeables to allow sufficient time for recharging. These two sets of rechargeables generally last for ten months.

There are many 'green' benefits from using these batteries. With the old alkaline batteries, they used 38 AA's per show. This resulted in **15,808 used batteries per year**. Now they only need to dispose of **96 NiMH batteries each year**. This will reduce, over the next five years, 78,560 batteries from entering the waste stream. That works out to **3,959 lbs** of solid waste – just a bit less than two tons!

**The new batteries are also mercury-free, cadmium-free and lead-free.** They are in compliance with the European Union's stricter RoHS standard (the Restriction of the use of certain Hazardous Substances in electrical and electronic equipment).

The last green benefit is money. They pay 29¢ for each alkaline AA battery. That works out to \$4,742 every year. The NiMH batteries are \$2.65 per cell, and require five rechargers for \$66.97 each. Rechargeables cost \$589.25 the first year and \$254.40 each subsequent (each year they need new cells but not new chargers); **this will save \$22,103.15 over five years.**

Julie's Bicycle reports that **rechargeable batteries have 32 times less impact on the environment** (global warming, air & water pollution) than disposable batteries throughout their lifecycle, and that one rechargeable can replace 93 disposables. The end result, of course, is that finite natural resources are reused, and the release of harmful chemicals (such as lead, mercury and cadmium) from improper disposal is prevented.

**Add up the benefits – reliability, cost savings, greener profiles, and less pollution and waste –** and it's easy to see why better batteries is one of the wisest sustainability choices a production can make – and why theatres from as far away as Australia are reaching out to the BGA for information about how they too can go greener.

For more information, please look at our website [BroadwayGreen.com](http://BroadwayGreen.com), or email [green@broadway.org](mailto:green@broadway.org) with specific questions.