Water powered sump pumps vs. Battery powered sump pumps. Which one is the "Green" choice for today?

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Every now and then someone comes along with an opinion about protecting the environment, preserving the green space, etc. In the course of this type of discussion, it often is explained that water is precious and should not be wasted, and this is true. It is also true that a water powered sump pump uses some water during its run cycles, but this is a non-polluted discharge of ground water into the ground water collection system. What I am saying is this: the sump water that is removed is not like the sewage water discharged to the sewage treatment plant where it has to be cleaned, disinfected, and returned into the water supply. No, this is the same waste water that comes down from the sky in the form of precipitation. Nearly every populated area in North America prevents this water from being discharged into the sewage system. It must be discharged into the Storm Drainage System instead, where it goes right back into the water supply and is "cleaned up" by nature's operation of filtration, etc. Nothing is contaminated or polluted by this operation in any way. However, this is often greatly exaggerated during one of these proposals to advance someone's own agenda, and is often far from the actual truth. So we want to give you our opinion about water powered sump pumps vs. battery powered sump pumps as used for backing up the main sump pump in residential and commercial properties. Because we sell both types of sump pump systems, it is natural for us to be the target of such opinions. But let's look at the real facts.

A backup sump pump is a needed item and so it's one or the other, battery- or water- powered, period. There are no other choices at this time. People will often say they have or can get a generator. Well what about a sump pump burnout? The generator does no good at that time. And unless you have a very expensive automatic generator, you have to be there to run it. They are dangerous and difficult to run properly and still are only useful during a power failure, not a pump failure. Keep in mind that some day that generator will no longer work and will be disposed of into a landfill. A water powered backup sump pump rarely operates, so it is off most of the time and uses no water or energy at all during this "off" time. A battery powered pump continues to use electricity whether it is in use or not. The battery needs constant attention and re-charging regardless of whether or not the pump runs, which uses electricity all the time.

A water powered pump produces no waste of any kind, toxic or otherwise during its use or non-use periods. A battery powered backup sump pump produces several types of waste products at all times. Even though batteries are recycled, they are not 100% recycled. There are toxic waste byproducts disposed of when batteries are manufactured. Although battery manufacturers are extremely conscious of these waste products and do their best to reduce these to a minimum, there is still some toxic waste produced. And even when batteries are recycled, there is toxic waste produced in the re-manufacture of old batteries into new batteries. Toxic waste includes mercury, lead, nickel, magnesium, plastics, and other metals, etc. And this assumes that everyone recycles those old used batteries. In many cases, they are simply left to rot in the basement or hidden in the trash and dumped into a landfill.

Let's talk about batteries in the basement of occupied homes. Batteries emit small amounts of toxic gas into the home while they are being used and charged. Granted this is a small amount and hardly noticeable, it still remains that this is toxic waste. In addition to all this, battery powered pumps use a far more complex manufacturing process. There are motor windings to make, batteries to manufacture, wire and cable used, battery chargers made, toxic materials wasted, etc. Each motor and battery will eventually need replacing and the used ones go into landfill in most cases. A water powered pump uses a far less complex manufacturing process and leaves a far smaller "footprint" as a result.

A water powered backup sump pump is certainly the "green" choice for today. Once installed, it lasts many years, wastes nothing, emits nothing, and protects basements from water damage that otherwise would cause other types of waste, like ruined furniture, soaked rugs, damaged furnaces, and other appliances