

Battery Stewardship Council INFORMATION SHEET



Information for local governments

What is B-cycle?

B-cycle is Australia's official product Stewardship Scheme for batteries. B-cycle was founded in 2020 by the Battery Stewardship Council (BSC) and is supported by the Commonwealth and all State and Territory Governments.

B-cycle is funded by industry, authorised by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and accredited by the Federal Government as a Voluntary Stewardship Scheme.

The Scheme is a not-for-profit organisation, and has received seed funding from all Federal, State and Territory governments. Ongoing operations are funded by industry through a levy paid by the battery importers.



In the traditional sense, B-cycle is not a recycling scheme. Rather, it is a network of 100+ organisations across Australia, that are independently accredited by the Battery Stewardship Council.

Why do we need B-cycle?

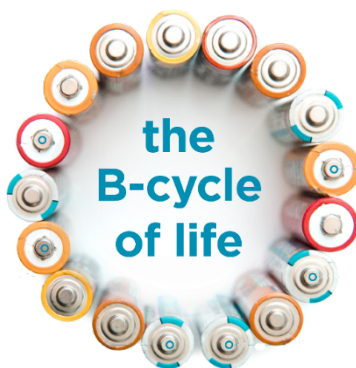
Batteries are incredible, but most used batteries go to landfill, or worse, are dumped. This creates a fire hazard, leaks materials into the environment, and wastes finite, valuable resources.

Demand for battery materials is estimated to jump 500% by 2050, yet 63% of Australians are inappropriately throwing used batteries into household rubbish or recycling bins.

You can now choose to buy batteries that are part of Australian's growing circular economy. You can also be assured that the batteries dropped off for recycling are collected and recycled in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

B-cycle is facilitating the transition to a world where batteries are safely collected, recycled, and used to create something new.

What is the B-cycle of life?



Each part of the battery life cycle has a role to play.

- 1 Battery importers pay a levy**
 - + Voluntary, self-reported, and independently verified
- 2 Retailers sell B-cycle accredited battery brands**
 - + The import levy is communicated and included in the battery price
- 3 Used batteries are deposited by the public at accredited Drop off points**
 - + Drop off points operate to according to the B-cycle Code of Practice
 - + Local governments can become both private and public Drop off points
- 4 Accredited collectors and recyclers earn rebates***
 - + Metro collection rebate: \$2.50/kg
 - + Regional collection rebate: \$3.50/kg
 - + Sorting* rebate: \$1.00/kg
 - + Recycling rebate: \$1.00/kg
- 5 Accredited recyclers recover material to be used to make new batteries and other products**
- 6 B-cycle reports to the ACCC, and to industry on recycling outcomes and performance.**

* Important notes

Rebates are only available to B-cycle accredited Collectors, Sorters and Recyclers who demonstrate safety, traceability, and recycling outcomes.



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Information for local governments

Supporting local government objectives

B-cycle recognizes the crucial role that local governments play in managing used batteries. We have designed the Scheme to:

- + Provide communities with access to convenient Drop off locations and safety information
- + Protect ecosystems, by diverting batteries from landfill or dumping
- + Conserve resources and future-proof Australia's energy security
- + Generate local economic opportunities across the value chain
- + Promote health and safety across the whole battery lifecycle
- + Provide guidance and access to international best practice in fire prevention
- + Share the responsibility for safe management of used batteries across the battery value chain.

Government can be involved in the Scheme in four ways.

All Australian Governments, especially local governments, have a role to play to support B-cycle's success and help to develop one of the best battery Stewardship Schemes globally.

1. Participate – Join B-cycle to become a battery steward

- + Sign the B-cycle Scheme Commitment form.

2. Set up Drop off point(s)

- + When you sign the Scheme Commitment Form, elect to set up a B-cycle Drop off point to enable your community to dispose of used batteries.



3. Procurement – Support accredited battery businesses

- + Inform your existing battery suppliers about B-cycle, and require that they join the Scheme.
- + Only engage with B-cycle accredited businesses when procuring battery-related products or services, including e-scooters, e-bikes and regular batteries.
- + Support local battery collection and processing businesses through grants and other funding mechanisms to build capacity and scale battery recycling infrastructure in Australia.

4. Permits, promotion, and policy

- + Ensure permits for e-bike, e-scooter and other e-mobility services include a requirement to be B-cycle accredited.
- + Promote and raise community awareness about the importance of B-cycling.
- + When updating policies and regulations related to used or old batteries, consult with the Battery Stewardship Council, and seek nationally consistent approaches.
- + Join B-cycle to participate in government discussions regarding battery safety and fire mitigation.

How to provide accredited B-cycle Drop off points to your community

Accreditation Steps

1. Review both [general requirements](#) and those [specific to Drop off points](#) to ensure your local government can meet all obligations.



2. Sign and submit the [B-cycle Battery Steward Commitment Form](#) and [Drop off Points Code of Practice](#) to the BSC.



3. Arrange a contract with a [B-cycle accredited Collector](#) to manage your used battery pick-ups.



4. Work with your B-cycle Collector to identify battery collection containers that conform to B-cycle requirements.



5. Complete a Risk Assessment and develop a Safety Plan with controls to address risks. You may use [B-cycle's template](#) or your own.



6. Develop and implement emergency plans and training procedures for fire, spills, and poisoning.



7. Complete the B-cycle Drop off point Online Safety Training and cascade learning to relevant staff, including your own safety procedures.



8. B-cycle will confirm your Drop off point(s) are B-cycle accredited.



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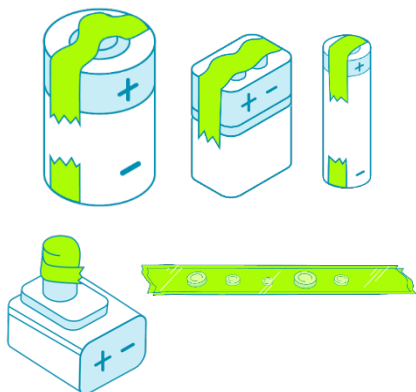
Local Government FAQs

Which batteries are included?

B-cycle is taking a phased approach to the recovery of used battery products.

We are commencing with the immediate problem of handheld consumer batteries, including:

- + loose batteries
- + removable batteries from consumer goods and electronics
- + power tool batteries
- + button batteries.



Batteries not currently in-scope include lead-acid batteries and batteries covered by other product stewardship schemes (e.g. mobile phone and computer batteries).

Can local governments access rebates?

No, Drop off points are not eligible to receive B-cycle rebates. Rebates are paid directly to Collectors, sorters, and recyclers.



What's next?

B-cycle will consult with other stewardship schemes, industry, and government to address:

- + Batteries embedded in small electronics
- + Small scale energy storage used in camping and marine environments
- + Batteries not easily removed from products
- + Electric storage, electric vehicle (EV) batteries, and other large-scale batteries.

How do I find an accredited Collector, Sorter or Recycler?

You can find a list of B-cycle accredited participants at:

- + b-cycle.com.au/stewards/



What does the public currently do with used batteries?

63% of Australians currently throw batteries in household garbage or recycling bins.

Does the public want to recycle their batteries?

Yes, 95% of consumers would consider taking used batteries to a B-cycle Drop off point.

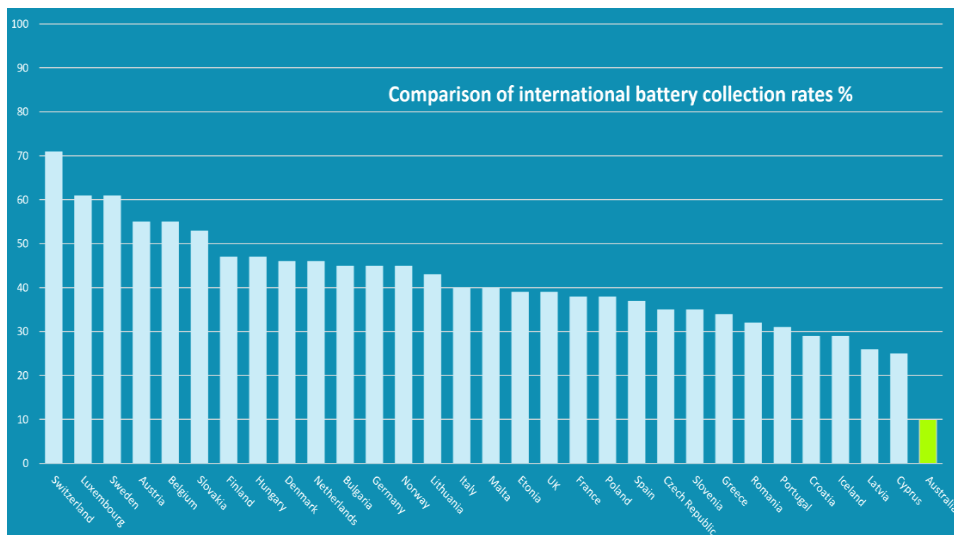
What do the public see as barriers to recycling their batteries?

The 3 top reasons for not recycling batteries are:

- + 66% 'Convenience' - No close or easy drop off point.
- + 25% 'Knowledge' - Don't know what to do with them.
- + 45% 'Remembering' - Forgetting to do it.
- + B-cycle is designed to address these barriers, to rapidly improve battery collection and recycling.

How many batteries do we currently recycle in Australia?

Australia only collects 10% of batteries. Similarly developed countries collect 30 - 70%.



Australian
Government
Accredited
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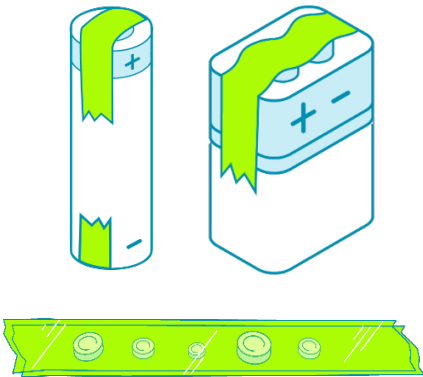
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Do we need to enforce the taping of battery terminals?

One of the most effective ways to reduce fires from used batteries is to tape terminals to ensure that they do not touch and ignite.

Protecting battery terminals is a regulatory requirement for used battery transport.

We ask all B-cycle Drop off points to communicate this important message and encourage the taping of battery terminals for disposal.



Will B-cycle offer public rebates for used batteries?

No, there are no direct financial incentives for the public to return used batteries for recycling.

Unlike container deposit collection schemes, battery recycling has been ad hoc and inconsistent across Australia, with only 10% of batteries recycled. B-cycle is therefore focusing on building a comprehensive and convenient recycling network.

Is it free to be an accredited B-cycle Drop off point?

The process to become an accredited B-cycle Drop off point is free. However, your accredited B-cycle Collector will charge a fee for collecting and transporting batteries to a recycler.

How can I access communications and safety information to raise awareness in my community?

Anyone who makes a B-cycle Battery Steward Commitment – whether they provide accredited Drop off points or not – are eligible to use B-cycle's digital communications assets. These can be used to promote B-cycle and help the community find their nearest Drop off point.

If the public prefers to return used batteries to retail stores, why would local government offer Drop off points at transfer stations or depots?

Most retail sites do not have the space to provide safe and reasonable collection of larger used batteries, such as e-bike batteries.

There remains a need for local governments to provide battery Drop off points.

What is involved in B-cycle Drop off point training?

The B-cycle training is specifically for sites hosting a B-cycle Drop off point to ensure they are aware of safety risks and issues associated with collecting used batteries.

The training includes helpful information on how to reduce risks, and ensure that Drop off points educate the public on safe disposal.

The training takes less than 20 minutes and is completed online.

Why are we asked to complete a risk assessment and safety plan?

Each site is different, and it is important to complete a risk assessment and safety plan to:

- + Understand, address and mitigate risks.
- + Ensure that B-cycle Drop off points are safe environments for both staff and users.

Will the cost of battery recycling change?

B-cycle is designed to offset the cost of battery recycling.

We expect to see a reduction in the cost of recycling due to the rebates for the collection (transport), sorting and processing of used batteries.

This economic incentive solves current market failures, enabling more affordable and economic battery recycling services to develop.

How can the public find their closest Drop off point?

To find the nearest public B-cycle Drop off point, visit:

www.bcycle.com.au

For more information

To learn more about B-cycle and how your organisation can partner with us to solve the battery waste problem and provide safe battery recycling options for your community, go to:

www.bcycle.com.au

To learn more about the Battery Stewardship Council, go to:

www.bsc.org.au