Bipartisan Infrastructure Law:
Battery Collection Best Practices and Labeling Guidelines

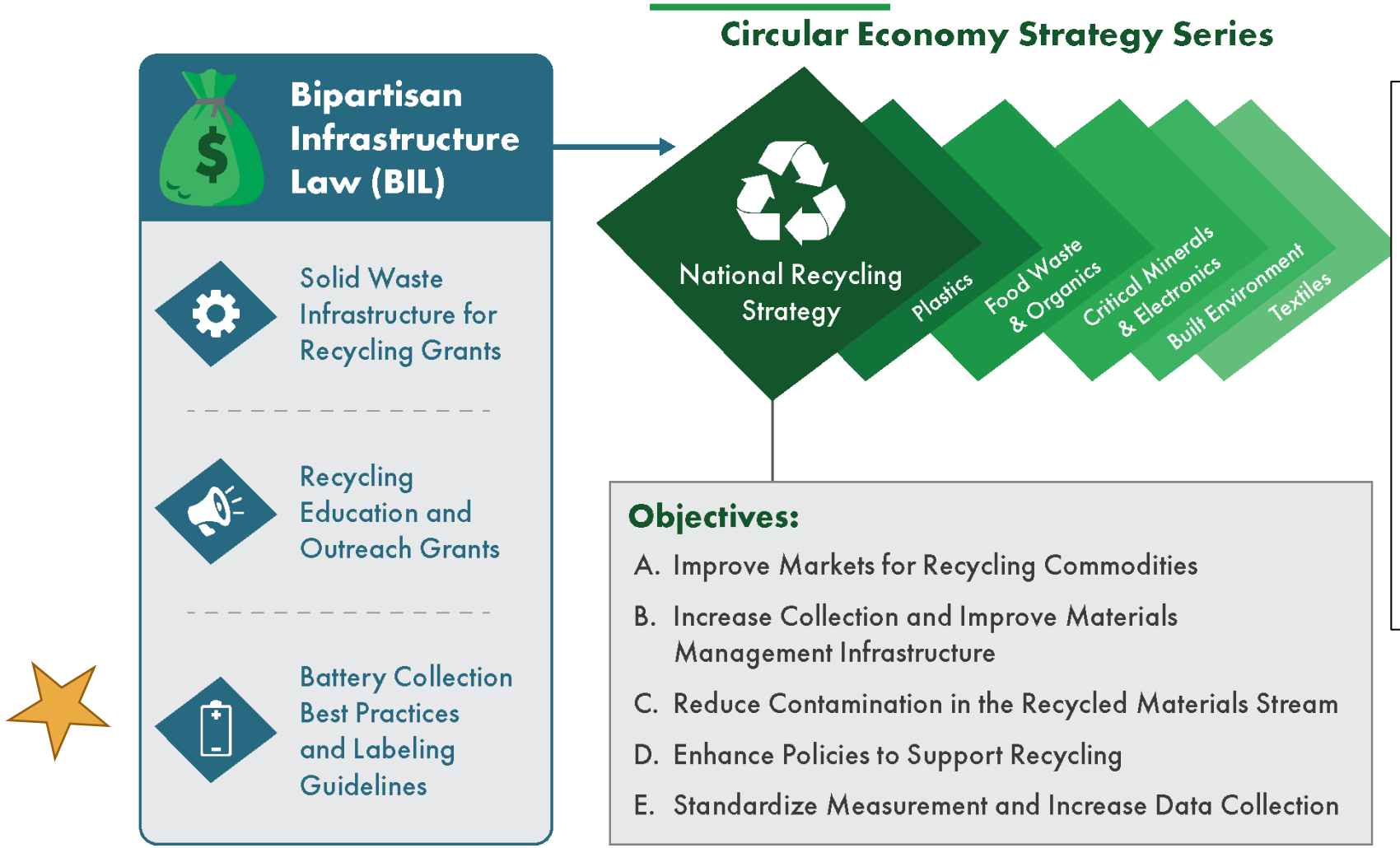
Resource Conservation and Sustainability Division

U.S. EPA Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery

Session Goals

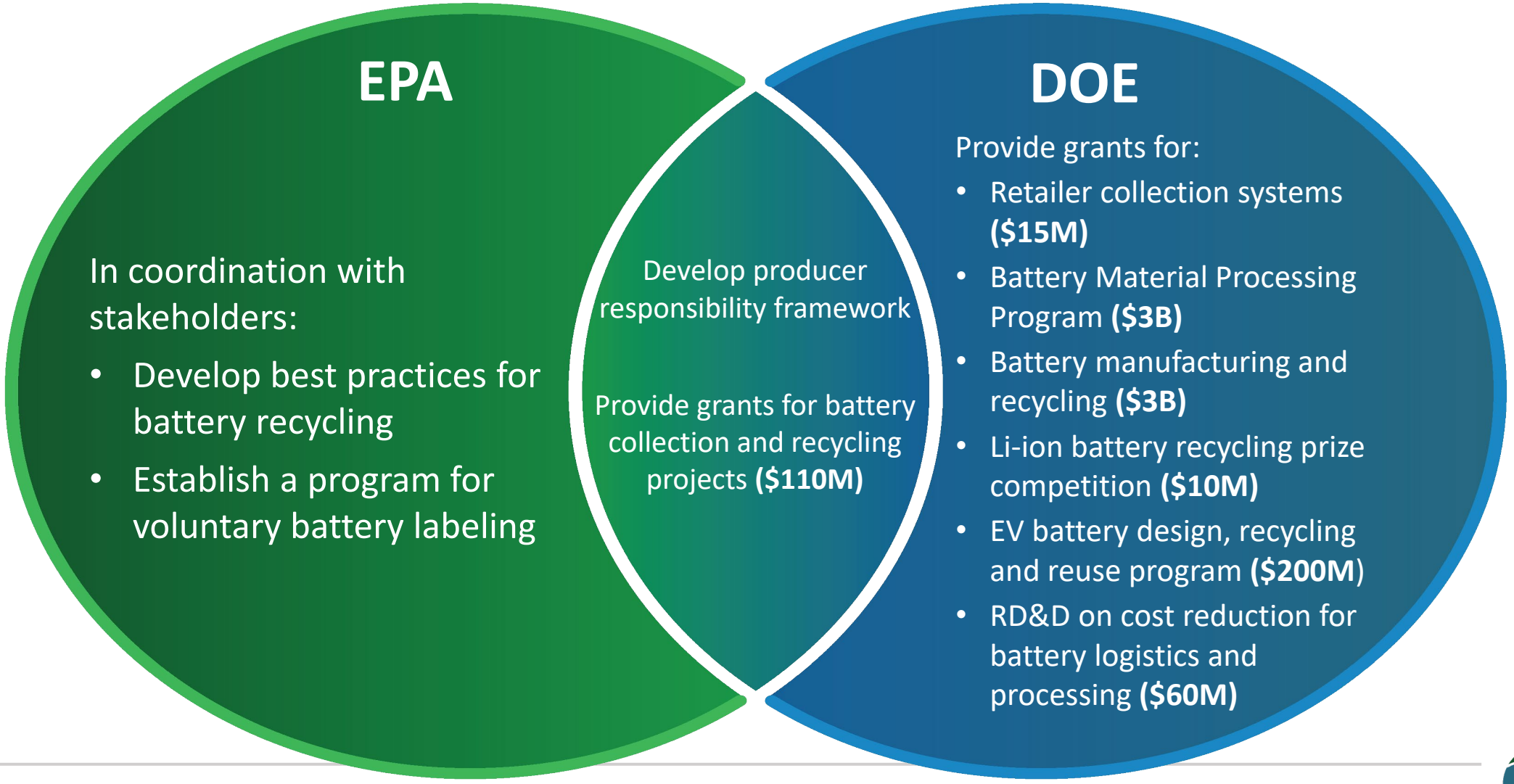
- Provide context on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and circular economy activities
- Introduce two new battery initiatives
  - Battery collection best practices
  - Battery labeling guidelines
- Gather feedback

Relationship to Circular Economy



EPA is establishing a 10-year vision that embraces circularity, sustainable materials management, addresses climate change, and environmental justice.

Battery Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Federal Funding



Definitions: Battery

Battery: a device that consists of one or more electrochemical cells that are electrically connected; and is designed to store and deliver electric energy.

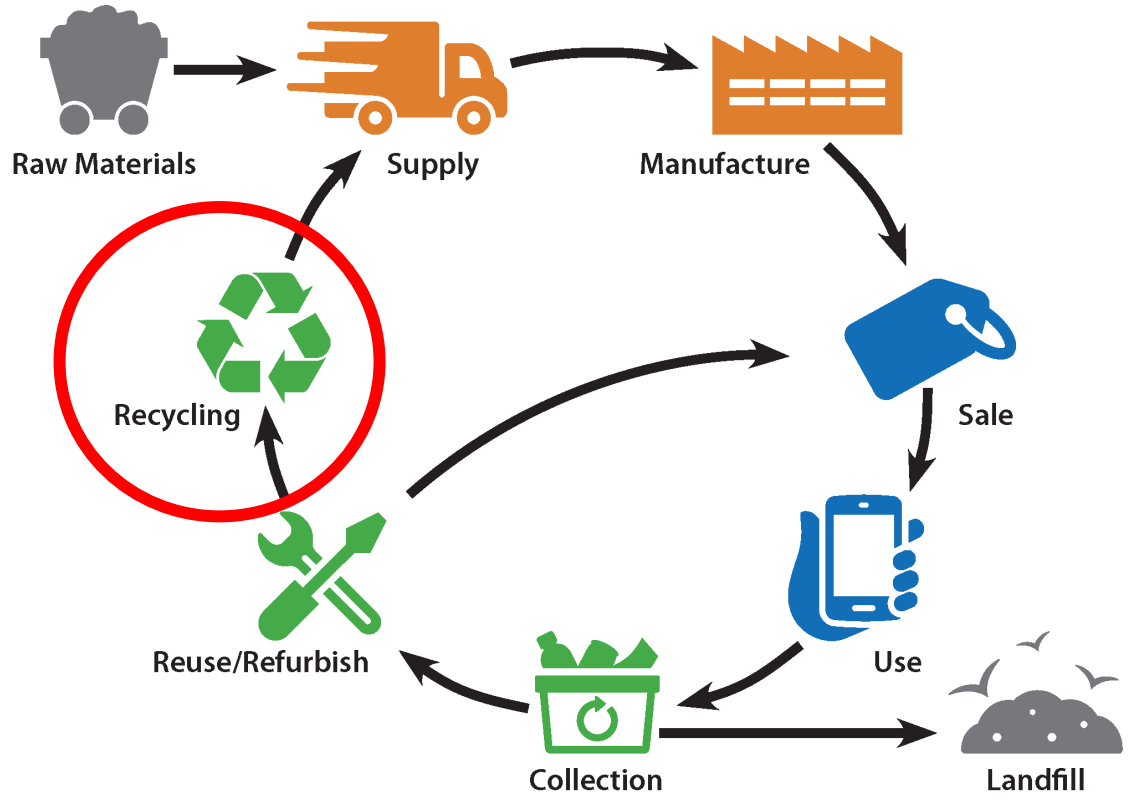
Batteries include:

- ✓ Small consumer/single-use batteries
- ✓ Rechargeable batteries
- ✓ Large electric vehicle and grid energy storage batteries
- ✓ Industrial batteries used in manufacturing, commercial businesses, and healthcare
- ✓ Lithium-based, nickel-metal hydride, and other chemistries

Image credit: Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

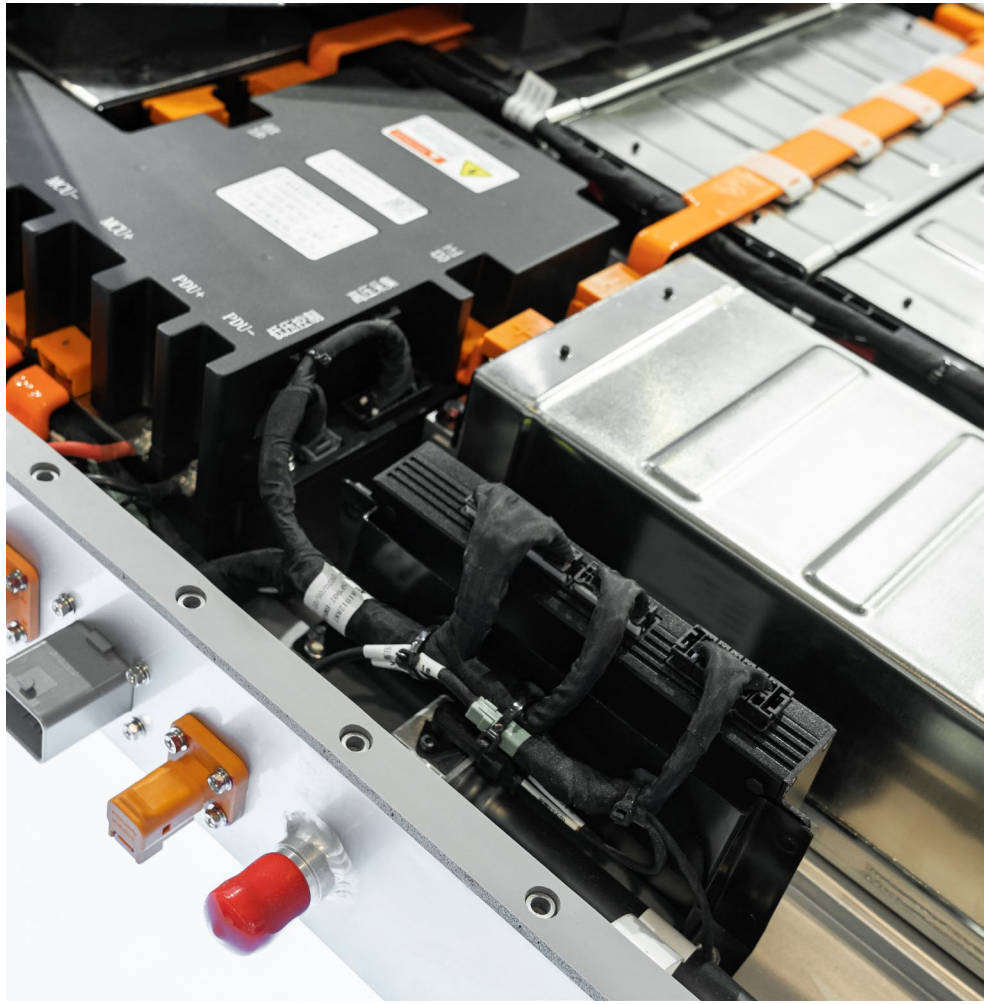
Definitions: Recycling

Recycling: the series of activities during which recyclable materials are processed into specification-grade commodities and consumed as raw material feedstock (instead of virgin materials) in the manufacturing of new products.



Why Are Batteries Important?

- They **power our electronics, transportation systems**, and more.
- They contain **critical minerals,** which can be recovered and reused.
- They can **help tackle climate change.**



What Are the Benefits of Recycling Batteries?

- Prevent valuable materials from going into the waste stream.
- Reduce energy needed, and greenhouse gases generated, to manufacture new batteries.
- Reduce the extraction of valuable and limited virgin resources.
- Avoid fires caused by improper battery disposal.
- Reduce waste going to landfills.

What Is The Battery Collection Best Practices Initiative?

Best practices will focus on:

- Identifying and increasing accessibility to battery collection locations
- Promoting consumer education
- Reducing hazards from improper disposal (fires)

Best practices will be:

- Technically and economically feasible
- Environmentally sound and safe for workers
- Beneficial to increasing the recovery of critical minerals

How Will EPA Develop The Best Practices?

- **Gather input** from governments, NGOs, and the private sector through feedback sessions and the Request for Information (RFI).
- **Develop a draft report** and provide **opportunity for public comment**.
- **Submit the report** to Congress by November 15, 2023.

What Is the Battery Labeling Guidelines Initiative?

- **Labeling guidelines** for end-of-life batteries
- **Communication materials** for battery producers, consumers, and other stakeholders about the reuse and recycling of critical materials from batteries

Example of a battery label

The Request for Information (RFI) for Batteries Initiatives

- The RFI started the process of gathering stakeholder input
- The public comment period runs from June 9–July 11, 2022
- https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OLEM-2022-0340-0001

Thank you!

- **Sign up to *Stay Connected* to learn more about grants, future strategies and reports:** https://www.epa.gov/recyclingstrategy/forms/stay-connected
- **Learn More:** https://www.epa.gov/rcra/battery-collection-best-practices-and-voluntary-battery-labeling-guidelines
- **Request for Information:** https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OLEM-2022-0340-0001
- **Questions? Email:** Batteries@epa.gov

Thank you!