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
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

EPA

In coordination with stakeholders:

• Develop best practices for battery recycling
• Establish a program for voluntary battery labeling

Develop producer responsibility framework

Provide grants for battery collection and recycling projects ($110M)

DOE

Provide grants for:

• Retailer collection systems ($15M)
• Battery Material Processing Program ($3B)
• Battery manufacturing and recycling ($3B)
• Li-ion battery recycling prize competition ($10M)
• EV battery design, recycling and reuse program ($200M)
• RD&D on cost reduction for battery logistics and processing ($60M)
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
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
Thank you!

• Sign up to *Stay Connected* to learn more about grants, future strategies and reports: [https://www.epa.gov/recyclingstrategy/forms/stay-connected](https://www.epa.gov/recyclingstrategy/forms/stay-connected)


• Questions? Email: Batteries@epa.gov
Thank you!