

Every battery collected can have an impact!

European national battery collection schemes are joining forces to mark European Battery Recycling Week, and calling on European citizens to bring back all used batteries.

Brussels, Belgium, 9 September 2026 – We all have used batteries lying around our homes, from the back of your kitchen drawer to lying forgotten in old appliances. Yet these batteries are made up of reusable metals, such as lithium, that can be recovered and used to create new batteries. To mark European Battery Recycling Week, Eucobat and its members, are running a joint campaign this week featuring daily stories on why collecting used batteries matters and how Europe's collection schemes are contributing to the circular economy.

Eucobat, the European association of national battery collection schemes, and its members are responsible for collecting the majority of portable batteries in Europe. They represent a dense network of collection points, strong national campaigns and decades of operational experience. Every battery collected is sorted and processed in specialised facilities across Europe, where reusable materials such as zinc, iron, manganese, nickel, cobalt and lithium are recovered and returned to the economy in a variety of products ranging from everyday objects to new batteries. By sharing best practices between countries, Eucobat's members ensure batteries are recycled to the maximum extent.

"Our members prove every day that circularity is not a promise but a practice. Every battery that comes back is raw material regained for Europe, and thanks to the best practices we share across our network, batteries are recycled to the maximum. That is the story we celebrate this week." - **Peter Coonen, Chairman of Eucobat**

New EU targets raise the bar

One rule protects people and planet alike: no battery should ever end up in the dustbin or in any other waste stream. Batteries in household waste can become damaged and cause fires in collection trucks and sorting facilities, but if they are collected by our members, they are treated safely and with proper care.

The EU Battery Regulation published in July 2023 has introduced ambitious new collection targets for the battery industry to achieve by the end of 2030. Eucobat and its members embrace this ambition and today's campaign is part of the answer. Reaching these targets requires the efforts of everyone: producers, collection schemes, authorities and, above all, citizens.

The quickest way to boost collection results is sitting in our homes. Almost every household has a drawer of used batteries waiting to be brought back, but citizens often overlook the "hidden" batteries. These can be found inside old laptops, phones and other devices that have reached their end of life and are sat unused on a shelf or in the back of a cupboard. Where possible these batteries should also be removed from devices and handed in to the relevant collection point.

"The batteries are there, and the collection network is there. All we ask of Europeans this week is to bring the two together: empty that drawer, check your old devices, and hand your batteries in. It is free, it is safe, and it makes a real difference for the circular economy." - **Eric Ruyters, Secretary General of Eucobat**

About the European Battery Recycling Week Campaign

From Saturday 5 to Sunday 13 September 2026, Eucobat and its members are marking the 12th European Battery Recycling Week by running a joint campaign under the hashtags #EveryBatteryCounts and #EBRW26. The Week is an initiative of Eucobat and its members and grew out of European Battery Recycling Day celebrated on the 9 September to mark the birthday of Luigi Galvani (1737), the Italian scientist whose work in animal electricity paved the way for the battery.

About Eucobat

Founded in 2012, Eucobat is the European association of national battery producers' organisations. It unites 30 member organisations: 28 in Europe, representing 21 European countries, as well as one member in Canada and one in Australia. Eucobat enables its members to share best practices across borders, ensuring that used batteries are collected sorted and recycled to the highest standards and speaks with one voice towards European policymakers. Its goal: giving every battery a proper end of life and keeping raw materials in the loop. More information: www.eucobat.eu

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