The Battery Network

Battery Safety and Stewardship in Illinois

APWA 2026

©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Agenda





1. IL Battery Stewardship Act
2. Batteries Accepted
3. Damaged/Defective Batteries Explained
4. The Battery Network
5. Illinois Progress
6. Become a Collection Site
7. Education & Marketing
8. Q&A

©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Illinois Public Act 103-1033

Signed August 9, 2024

Portable and Medium-Format Battery Stewardship Act

Effective January 1, 2026

©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

2024 IL Recognized Batteries are Everywhere





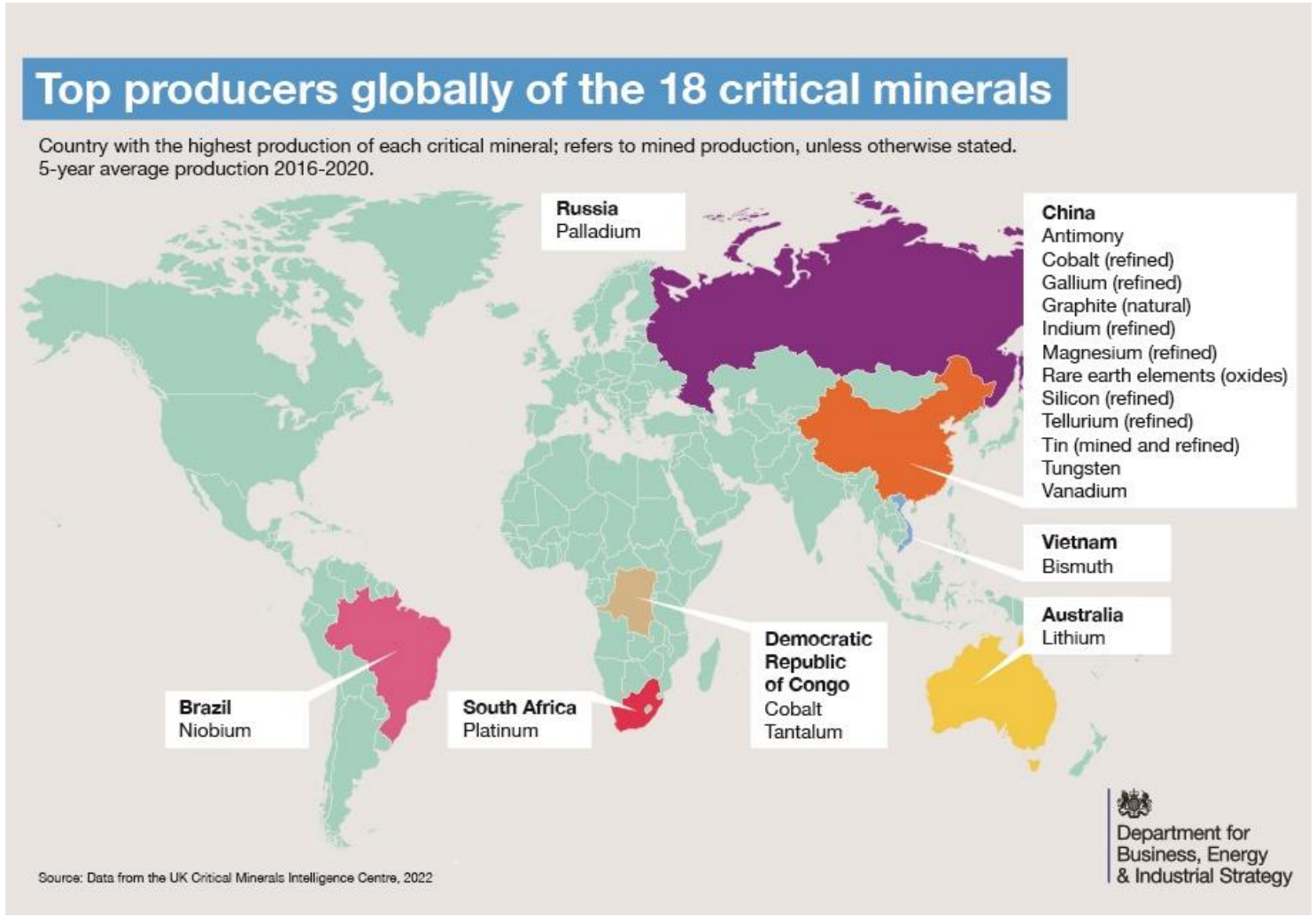





All batteries contain electrical power; mishandling can lead to fire.

©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Recovering Critical Minerals is Important





Lithium Mine in Argentina



Zinc, Lead, and Silver: Mined in Peru

©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Details: IL Battery Stewardship Law

Key Requirements

Producers

- Must join or create a **battery stewardship organization (BSO)**.
- Must submit a **battery stewardship plan** to the Illinois EPA for approval.
- Must fund all program operations, including collection, transportation, processing, and recycling.

Retailers

- Must only sell batteries from compliant producers.
- Must provide consumer information on proper battery disposal.
- **Prohibited** from **charging any point-of-sale fees** for battery recycling.



Battery Stewardship Organization

- Must operate statewide collection systems.
- Must provide **permanent collection sites**, including at retailers and municipal facilities.
- Must meet collection rate targets and report annually to the Illinois EPA.
- Must conduct public education and outreach.

©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Details: IL Battery Stewardship Law

Key Requirements continued

Covered Batteries defined

Portable batteries (≤5 kg / ≤11 lbs)

Medium-format batteries (5–25 kg/11-25 lbs)

Batteries sold individually or packaged within battery-containing products.

Excludes embedded and recalled batteries



Prohibited Disposal

1996 Federal Law prohibits rechargeable batteries from disposal

- Batteries may **not** be placed in commingled recycling or regular garbage due to fire and contamination risks **after Jan. 1, 2028**
- The Act mandates safe end-of-life management to prevent fires at waste facilities.

Enforcement and Penalties

- Illinois EPA oversees compliance.
- Violations may result in civil penalties (e.g., $7,000 per violation) and injunctive relief.
- Fraud related to the Act constitutes a Class 4 felony

©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

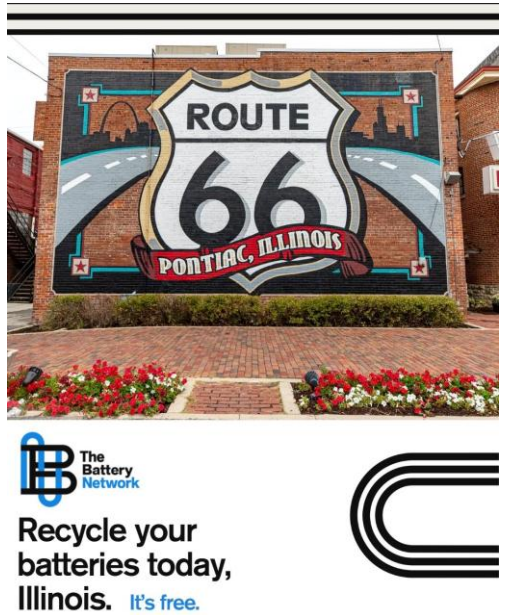
Batteries not sent through us?

All covered batteries sold after January 1, 2026 **recovered in Illinois are to be recovered and recycled through an approved plan.**

- The Battery Network is the **only organization** with an approved plan

Why one organization?

- The Battery Network requires safety training to be completed by each collection site. Ongoing annual training required on fundamentals.
- The Battery Network provides safe collection containers and federally approved special permitted transportation
- The Battery Network is considered the “gold standard” for vetting our downstream recyclers.
- The Battery Network is committed to public transparency and extremely high convenience standards



©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Legislation includes Embedded Study

Embedded Battery Study required by Illinois Law

- Embedded products are best defined by California Law: A product containing a battery from which the battery is not designed to be easily removed from the product by the user of the product with no more than commonly used household tools.
- The Illinois Embedded Battery Study is currently underway
- The study was designed with a stakeholder group consisting of local government involved in the passage of the Battery Stewardship Act, the Illinois EPA, and members of The Battery Network.
- A consultant was hired and has been working for nearly 6 months.
- 30,000 separate products were identified but were narrowed based on parameters of the legislation
- We expect to release the study early next year
- Several states are expecting to base Embedded Product EPR legislation on the results of the study, including Illinois











©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Reading a Battery Label is Challenging

- AA Batteries account for nearly 50% of battery sales in the U.S.
- Lithium single-use and rechargeable sales are increasing, replacing some Alkaline
- **Reading the label is essential** when determining if terminal protection is needed
- Terminal protection required when using our box collection program for **all Lithium** and other batteries at 12 volts



©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Examples of Primary (Single-Use)

- Cannot be recharged.
- Available in various volt sizes. Can be recycled at special collection sites after use.
- Alkaline (single-use, most common)
- Zinc-Air
- Carbon-Zinc
- Zinc-Chloride
- Lithium (protect terminals after use)
- CR/SR/LR Coin/Button Batteries (protect terminals after use)



©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Examples of Rechargeable Batteries

- Gradually materials deteriorate, losing the ability to hold the energy to power devices.
- All batteries contain stored energy, even when reaching the end of life; especially Lithium batteries.
- Rechargeable batteries may offer environmental and financial benefits over single use batteries.

Protect Terminals to Prevent Sparks

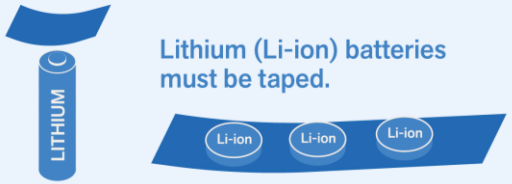
Option A

Individually bag each battery (preferred)



Option B

Tape the terminals



Ni-MH



SLI



Ni-Cd



SSLA/Pb





Li-Ion



©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Damaged & Defective Batteries

©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Damaged / Defective Batteries



Leaking Alkaline – Not considered damaged

Place in plastic bag (single or multiple leaking alkaline batteries in a bag).
Place in collection box with non-damaged batteries.

STOP – Caution

Visual Indications:
A battery that is bulging, swelling, changing shape or is emitting smoke (white or gray)

Audible Warning:
Hissing, popping, or crackling noises

Heat Generation:
It is normal for batteries to warm during charging and heavy use. Sudden heat or extreme heat is a concern. Disconnect it immediately.

Smells or Leaks:
Sweet, metallic or burning plastic odors as well as leaking oils are serious concerns. Do not touch without proper safety gear.













©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Thermal Event: Lithium Battery Fire



Video shared with permission from DEM-CON

©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Responding to Thermal Runaway

- Isolate the battery immediately.
- **Place it in non-flammable material** such as sand or CLEAN kitty litter.
- **Never put DD batteries in the trash, water, any home recycling bin or The Battery Network collection bin.**
- Choose a safe drop-off or disposal option.
  - **Contact your local household hazardous waste (HHW)** facility for instructions on where to take the battery.
  - Please wait at least 7 days before transporting the battery.



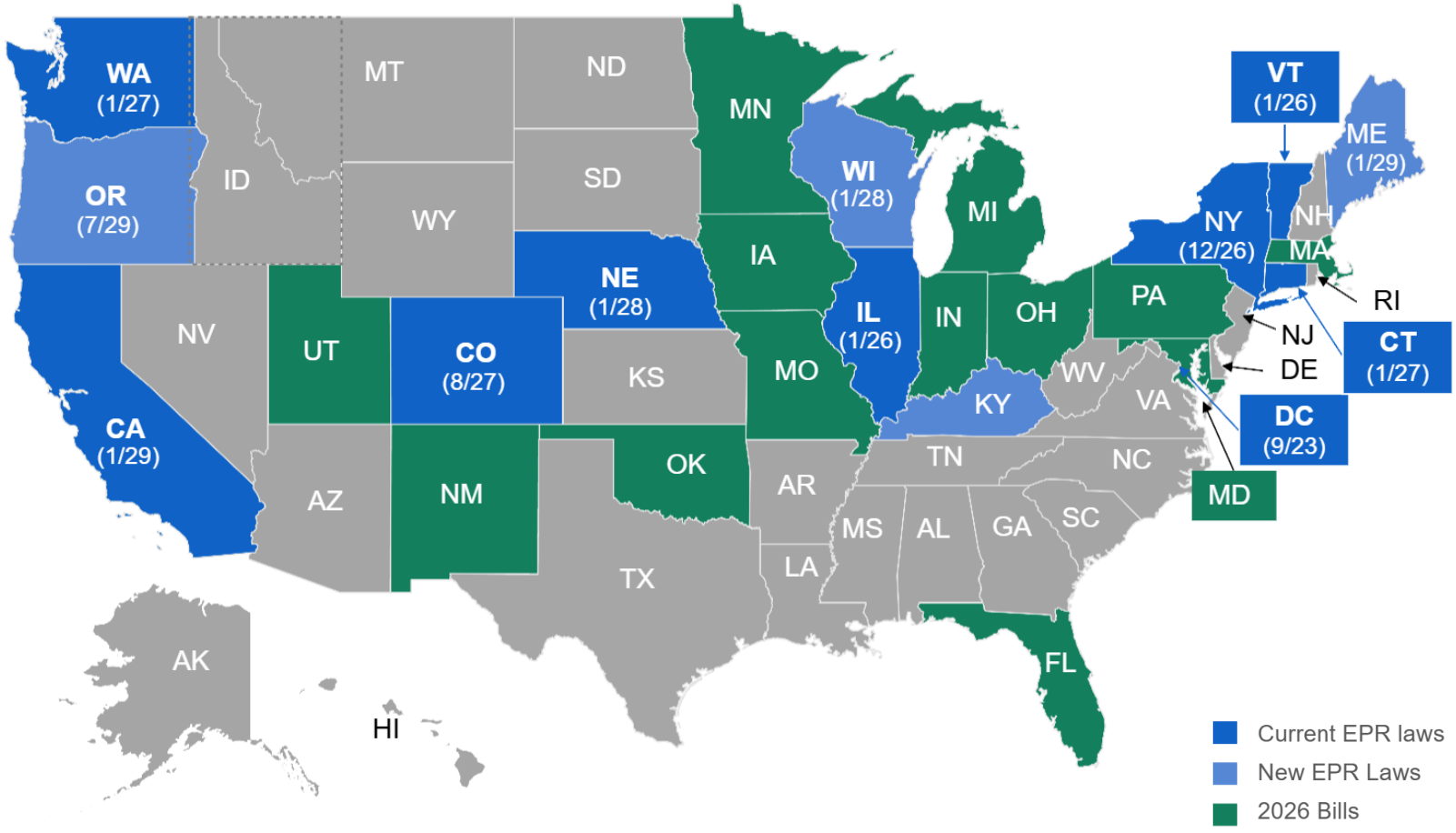
©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

EPR for Batteries

©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Battery EPR is Growing Rapidly

- **Every state in GREEN introduced a form of Battery EPR legislation this year.** Many failed to pass it but expect to bring it back next year.
- **Dark BLUE** states have passed at least one form of Battery EPR legislation, and it is currently underway or in the planning phase.
- The **Light BLUE** states have passed at least one form of Battery EPR legislation. We are in or will be moving into planning phase soon.



©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

About The Battery Network

The Battery Network is a national nonprofit powering safe battery recycling in the U.S.



30+ years of dedication to safe, responsible battery recycling and environmental stewardship



More than 175 million pounds of batteries collected & recycled since inception



350+ Manufacturers and fee-based services fund The Battery Network Program

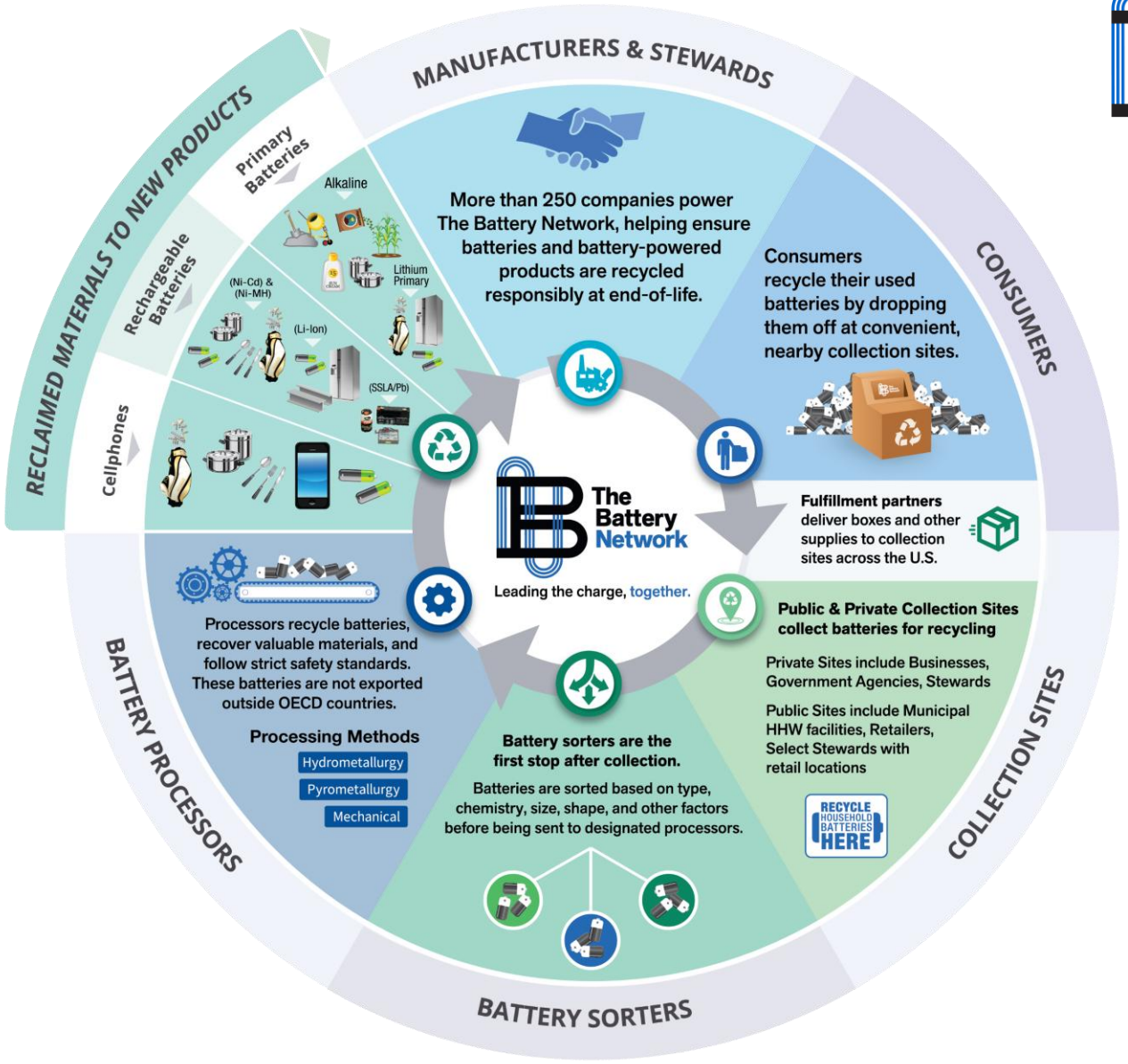


80% of the U.S. population has access to at least one of our drop-off locations within 15 miles

©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

How Our Program Works

Powered by purpose.
Driven by stewardship.



©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Recycling: Vetting Downstreams

- The Battery Network is North America's most comprehensive battery collection and recycling program.
- One of our core commitments is to safely and efficiently move batteries from participating collection sites to our approved network of sorters and processors.
- To meet the highest standards of responsible recycling, we seek third-party certifications and independent reviews of the facilities in our network. We are a member of **CHWMEG**, which provides third-party auditing of environmental practices.
- *CHWMEG, Inc. is a non-profit trade association comprised of manufacturing, and similar industrial organizations, educational/research institutions, and individual government installations.*

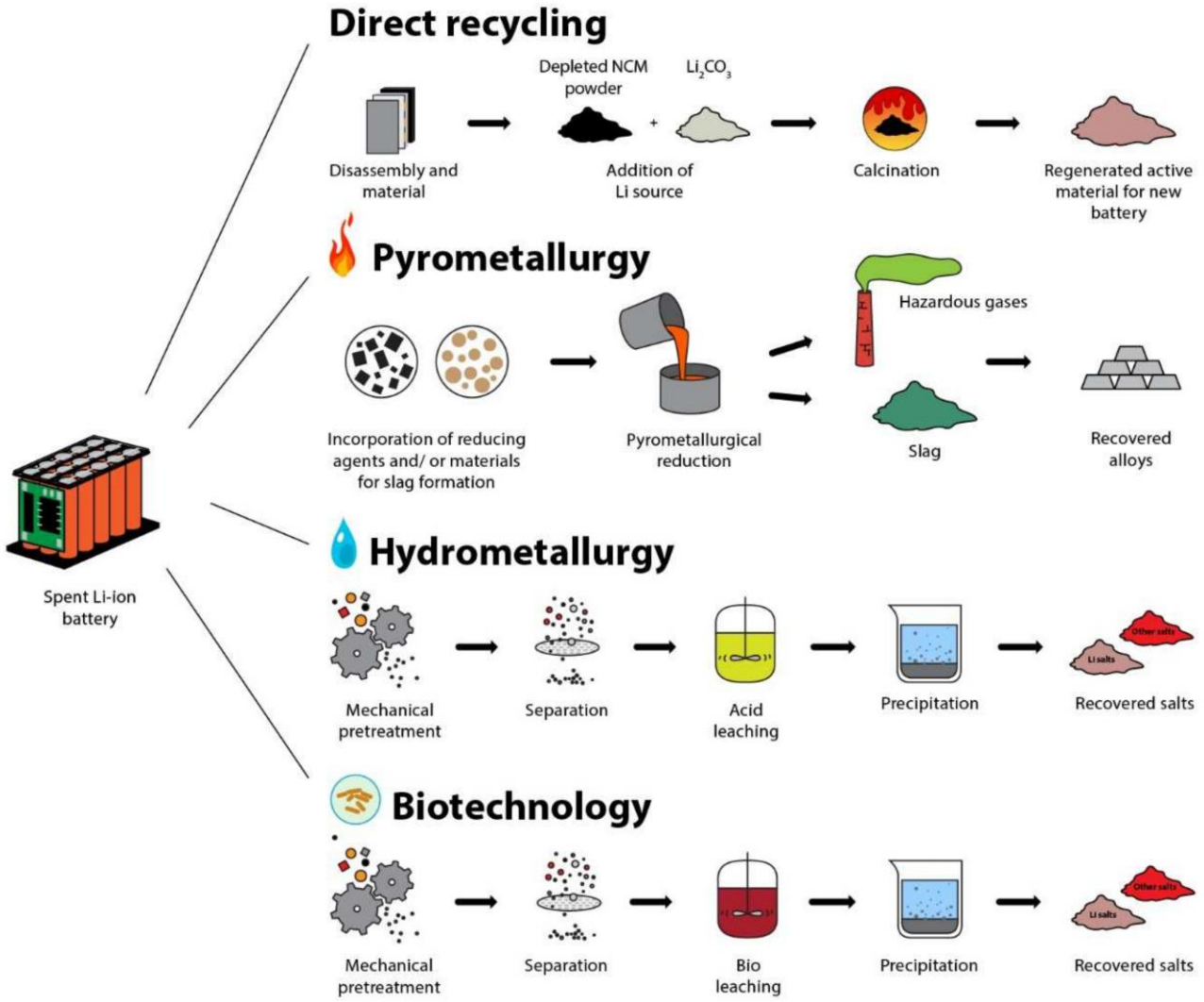


Certification and Audits - The Battery Network

©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Recycling: Black Mass Portion

Black mass is the dark, powdery material produced when spent lithium-ion batteries are shredded and mechanically processed. It contains a concentrated mix.



©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Critical Minerals Export Update

The federal government just restricted where recyclers can sell battery scrap. Here's what it means for us:

Current State (Pre-rule)

- No domestic black mass refining capacity; 100% of feedstock historically exported (Korea, Japan, Canada, EU)
- Export practice via multiple tariff codes: no unified classification for black mass across the industry

What's Changed

- **Aug 6:** Department of Commerce (BIS) mandated 100% domestic sales allocation (de facto export ban), effective in 30 days, no phase-in
- Allocation applies to lithium battery black mass, but technically not to whole batteries
- Exceptions being granted; first one 14 days after rule publication, more since
- BIS now asking applicants for buyer identity and commercial terms, not just codes

Conclusion

- No market impact to date; pricing and volumes are holding
- Working theory across the industry: this isn't designed to stop material movement, it's designed to build a reporting structure BIS hasn't had before
- Compare to copper: identical DPA EO a year ago, still no rule. This one moved in a week.
- **This is a visibility play, not a shutdown so far. The Battery Network's posture is to stay compliant, stay engaged, keep tracking.**

©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

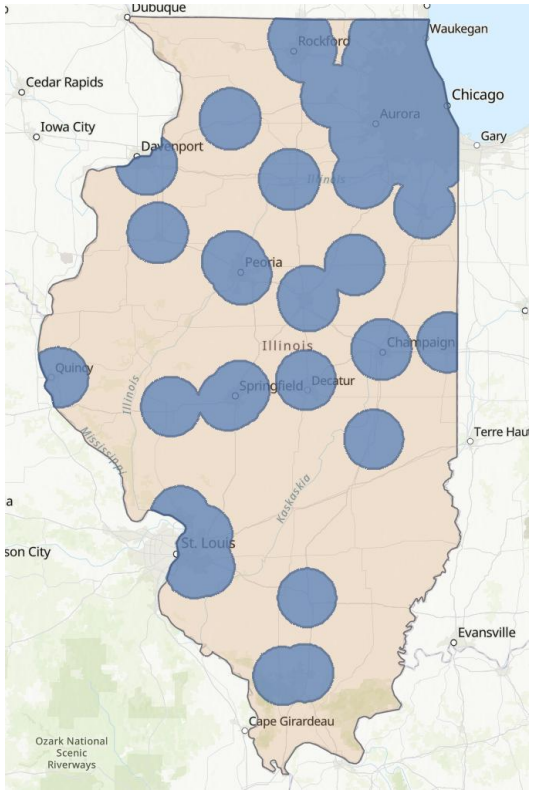
Illinois Progress

©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

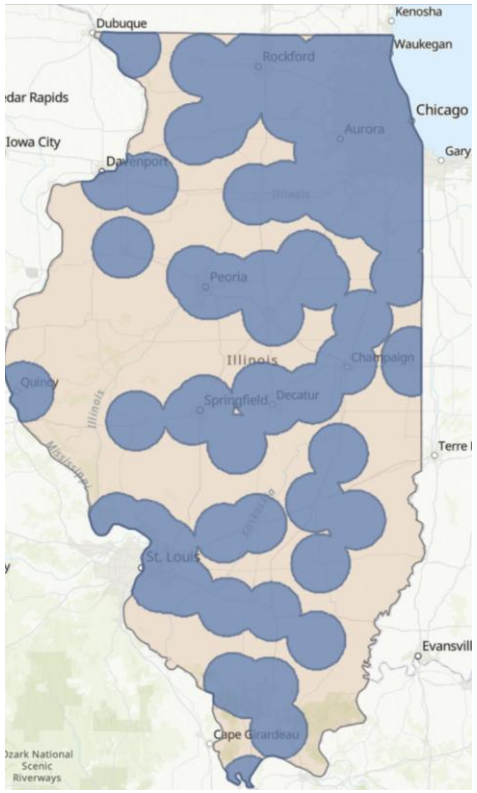
Current Accessibility: Goal 95%

Nationally: 80% of people are within 15 miles of a drop-off site.

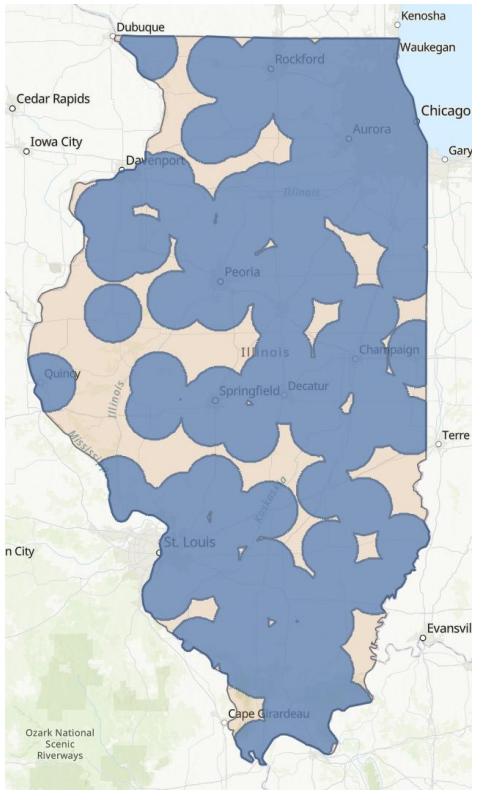
Exceeding the goal! 425+ public locations in 95 Counties



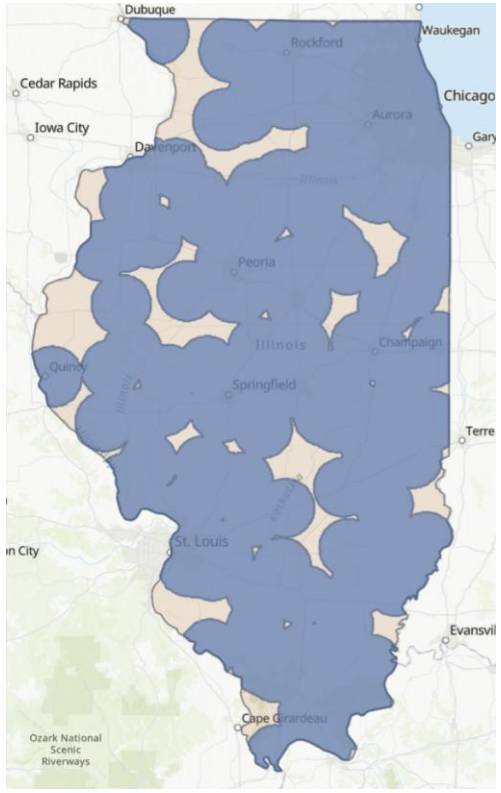
End of 2025
86%



April 2026
93.3%



July 2026
97.5%



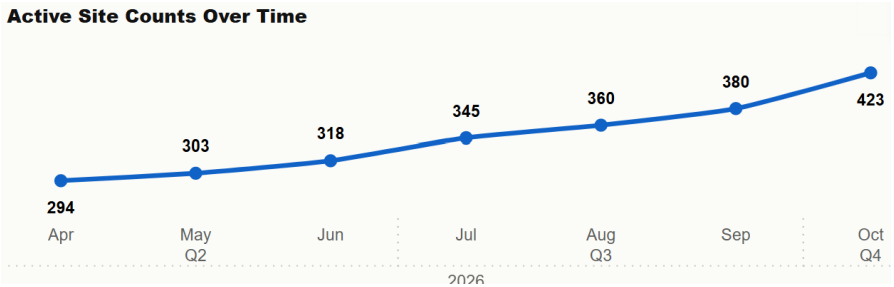
Oct 2026
98.4%

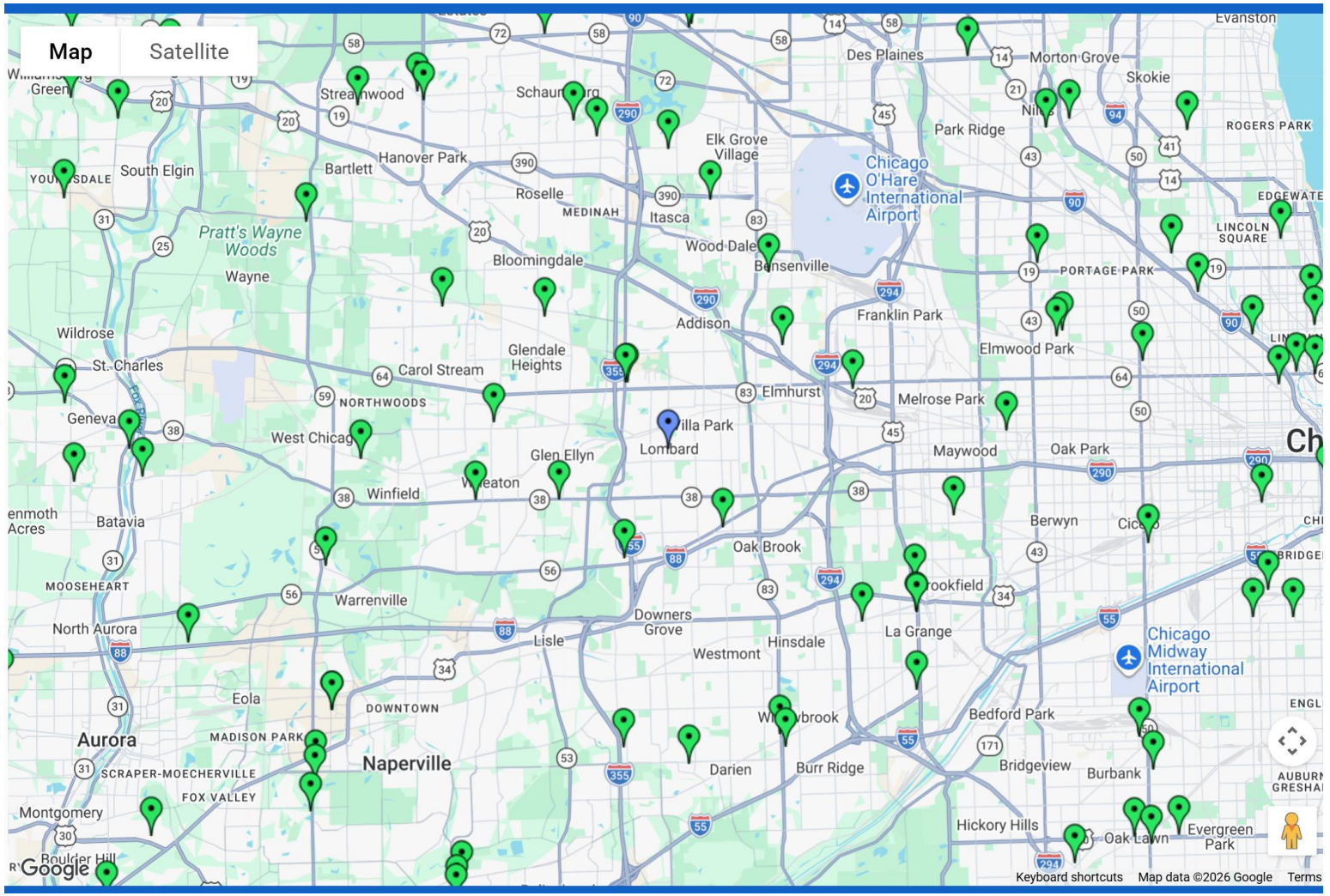
©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Find A Collection Site

Local sites include:

- Home Depot
- Lowe's
- Blain’s Farm and Fleet
- Staples
- Some of the Ace Hardware stores
- Household Hazardous Waste sties
- Some **local government sites**

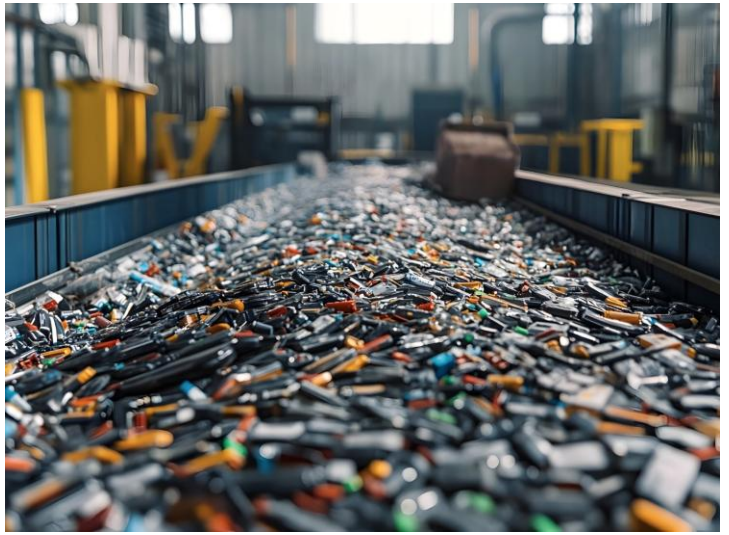




©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Top 40 Collection Sites by Weight

1	The Home Depot USA, Inc	21	Chervon HK Limited / Skill Recall
2	Staples, Inc.	22	Naperville Household Haazardous Waste
3	Lowe's Companies, Inc.	23	A-Team Recyclers
4	Menards Distribution Center Bdlg 219	24	iRobot Corporation
5	Motorola Solutions, Inc.	25	Waste Management At-Your-Door - Rockdale
6	Elgin Township	26	Crystal Valley Batteries
7	Zebra Technologies Corporation	27	Snap-on Incorporated
8	Stanley Black & Decker, Inc.	28	City of Champaign
9	Village of Mount Prospect Public Works Dept	29	Dyson
10	Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO)	30	Kane County
11	Wahl Clipper Corporation	31	Elgin Recycling
12	Full Circle Electronics US, LLC	32	Interstate All Battery Center of Peoria
13	Batteries Plus	33	eWorks
14	Best Buy Co, Inc.	34	Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation
15	Walmart Inc.	35	Skokie Public Works
16	Arcwood Environmental Services	36	uBreakiFix
17	CBRE - UPS	37	Hilti, Inc.
18	Interstate All Battery	38	Makita U.S.A. Inc.
19	Interstate All Battery Center	39	City of Rockford HHW Collection Site
20	Batteries Plus, LLC - Geneva	40	Batteries Plus - Schaumburg



Year	2026
Q1	125,636
Q2	102,471
Q3	125,636
Q4	28,131
Total	456,818

Q4 is only September

©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Next Steps

©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Goal: Supply One Site per Community



OneDrum™

- Non-damaged Lithium Batteries up to 2,000 Watt-hours
- Full Average Weight 450 pounds total



Battery Collection Box

- 4.4 lbs of multiple batteries
- Max 11 lbs for a single battery
- Under 300 watt-hours
- Average 50 lbs full

Protect the terminals if the battery is any of the following:

If it says "LITHIUM" anywhere
- Lithium-ion (Li-ion) Ex: power tools, cellphones, power banks
- Lithium-primary Ex: watches, hearing aids, small toys

Soft-sided batteries
Ex: laptops, drones, medical devices

Button or coin cells
Ex: watches, hearing aids, key fobs

Rechargeable (Ni-Cd, Ni-MH, Ni-Zn) batteries over 9V
Ex: in power tool packs

Alkaline or carbon zinc batteries over 12V
Ex: garage door openers, wireless doorbells, medical devices

Small sealed lead acid (SSLA)
Ex: emergency devices, ride-on toys, security systems



Large DD Battery Recycling Pail (5G)

- Only Damaged Lithium Batteries
- 4.4 lbs of multiple batteries
- Max 11 lbs for a single battery
- Under 300 watt-hours

©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Become a Collection Partner

Illinois Registration Page

1. Enter business / organization information
2. Enter contact information
3. Once you submit, you'll receive an email with an account number and a link to TRAINING
4. 15 min online for Box / 30 min online for the OneDrum™
5. Once you pass the training quiz, you will be able to enter order supplies through our Collection Hub

Certificate for Basic Training is good for **one year**. Required annually.

Collection Hub

1. Add additional contacts
2. Access Training
3. Order Supplies

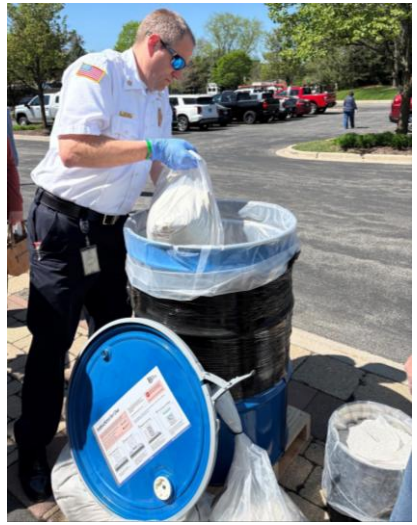
Certificate for the OneDrum is good for **three years**, then training must be repeated.



OneDrum™ Set of 4 Orland Township



OneDrum™ Set of 4 Kane County



One-Day Recycling Event in Streamwood. OneDrum™ now kept in Public Works year-round.

©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Easy with OneDrum™ in your Public Works



OneDrum Tutorial : https://youtu.be/E0S7Gz4kWE8

See how OneDrum™ makes battery collection simple from start to finish.

- Over 24x more efficient that traditional box collection
- No sorting, taping, or bagging required
- Safe, efficient high-volume battery recycling

©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

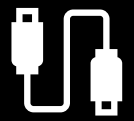
Battery Safety Tips



Avoid overcharging your phone. Enable optimized charging or charge limits when available.



Don't leave devices charging unattended. Set a timer if needed.



Use quality charging accessories. Choose manufacturer-approved or trusted brands.



Stay informed. Sign up for U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recall alerts at cpsc.gov/Newsroom/Subscribe or email uscpsc@info.cpsc.gov

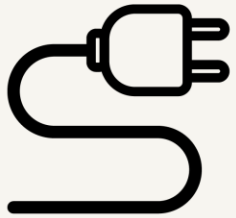
©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

The Battery Network

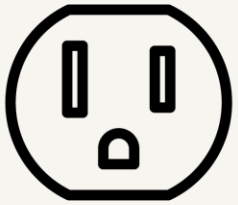
E-Bike Battery Safety Tips



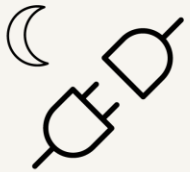
Follow the manufacturer's instructions for charging, storing and handling your e-bike battery.



Only use the original equipment manufacturer's charger to charge your e-bike battery.



Charge your e-bike battery plugged directly into a wall outlet. Never use charging strips or extension cords.



Never charge an e-bike battery unattended or overnight. Never leave it plugged in when it is not charging.



Avoid charging or storing your e-bike battery in extreme temperatures.



Handle your e-bike battery with care - do not drop or submerge in water.



Do not modify or attempt to repair your e-bike battery.

©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

E-Bike Battery Recycling

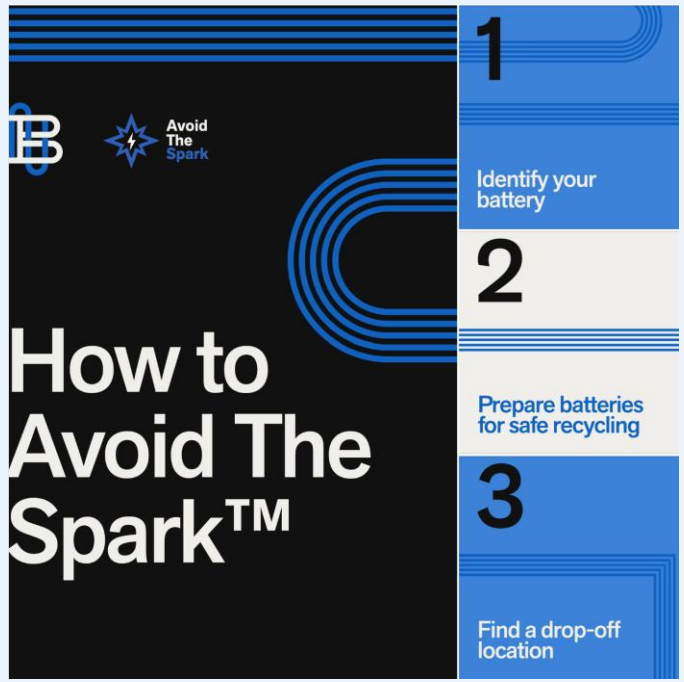
Promote Battery Recovery to Your Community

Share our posts









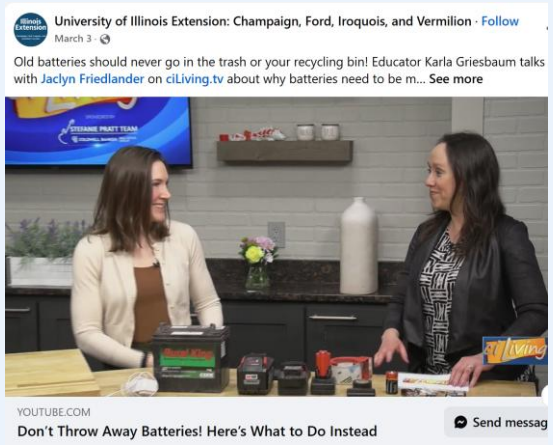
©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Promote Battery Recovery to Your Community

Create your own posts!

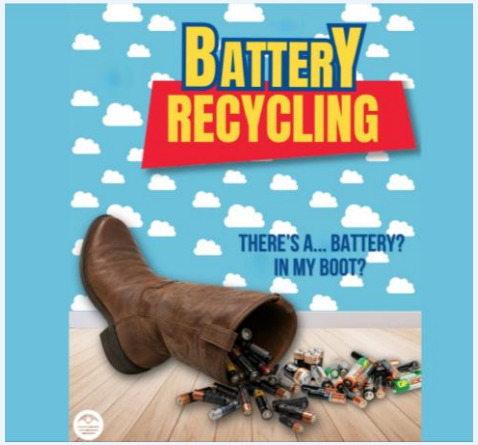














©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Q&A

Do you have any questions?

©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.

Thank you.

Marta Keane,
Regional State Stewardship Manager
Mkeane@batterynetwork.org

The Battery Network

©2026 The Battery Network. All rights reserved.