



# Vermont Battery Recycling Program

Program Resource Guide for Collection Sites





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# About the Program

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On May 22, 2014, Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin signed into law Act 139, the first battery recycling law of its kind in the country, which laid the groundwork for free and convenient recycling of primary (single-use) batteries sold in Vermont. This law required single-use battery manufacturers to plan, implement, and manage a statewide single-use battery collection program, effective January 2016.

\*Primary (single-use) batteries include alkaline, zinc carbon, lithium primary, and zinc air batteries, commonly used in flashlights, remote controls, and toys.

The Battery Network has successfully operated its rechargeable battery collection and recycling program since 1996. As Vermont's state-approved primary battery stewardship organization since 2016, The Battery Network is pleased to provide this partner toolkit to participating Vermont collection sites.

To enhance your participation in the program, you can find the following tools and materials:

- An overview of how the program works and program materials
- How to correctly identify end-of-life and damaged/defective batteries
- Instructions for safely preparing and packing batteries for shipment in compliance with the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) regulations
- Public educations & awareness materials

Thank you for playing an active role in ensuring that batteries are managed safely and responsibly at the end of their useful lives.

We look forward to continuing our work together in Vermont!



# Program Overview

On behalf of the battery and battery-powered product industry, The Battery Network administers its battery collection and recycling program that provides a means for Vermonters to recycle their primary (single-use) and rechargeable batteries\* in a safe and compliant manner.

*\*Applicable batteries include: Lithium Ion (Li-Ion), Small Sealed Lead Acid (SSLA/Pb), Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Nickel Zinc (Ni-Zn), Lithium Primary, Alkaline, Carbon Zinc, button and coin cell batteries, and all cellphones are accepted regardless of size, make, model or age. Individual batteries must be no larger than 300Wh.*



## In Scope

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The following are included in the program:

- All battery collection boxes (prepaid shipping)
- Point-of-sale materials (Shelf Talker, Window Clingz)
- Collection Poster
- Safety materials:
  - Online safety training
  - Safe handling guidelines



## Out of Scope

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- Over 300 WH Batteries, including E-Bike Batteries
- Damaged/Defective/Recalled Batteries

The Battery Network offers the following materials at an additional cost:

- Damaged/Defective/Recalled Battery Kits
- High-Energy/High-Watt Hour Battery Kits
- Lithium Ion Battery Incident Kit
- Safe Battery Storage Materials

Order materials directly via The Battery Network [e-store](#) or contact our team for pricing and availability.





# How the Program Works

## Complete Enrollment:

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Public (open to the public) and Private (not available for public drop-off) entities enroll as battery collection site(s) with The Battery Network, designating their preferred method of collection (box, bulk, or combination) and for what battery types (primary (single-use), rechargeable, or both).

## Safety Training:

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Once enrolled, collection sites are directed to take battery safety training. Upon completing the short safety training quiz:

- Collection sites can print and post their certificate of completion
- All publicly accessible collection sites (retailers, municipalities, libraries, etc.) are listed as a designated battery collection site on The Battery Network's [online drop-off locator](#). Each collection site must ship batteries with The Battery Network at least once every 6 months to remain on the locator.

## Recycling Kits:

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Once enrolled and trained, if using collection boxes, the first battery recycling kit will be shipped automatically to each participating collection location. Each kit contains a pre-paid, pre-addressed shipping label, instructions, and baggies. If using drums, you can begin collecting immediately.

## Promote:

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Ensure your staff, residents or customers are aware of your participation. Log into the Collection Hub to find resources to use the promotional toolkit resources to promote safe and responsible battery collection & recycling.

# Collection Kits



## End-of-Life (EOL): Large Battery Recycling Kit

The pre-built large battery recycling kit includes all materials to safely collect and ship 40-50 lbs of mixed batteries (and cellphones) for recycling.

Features include:

- Available in single or multiple packs
- A patented flame retardant liner
- Pack of large & small baggies
- Guideline sheet
- Pre-paid return shipping label
- Recycling posters and certificates of recycling available upon request.

## End-of-Life (EOL): Small Battery Recycling Kit

The pre-built small battery recycling kit includes all materials to safely collect and ship 20-25 lbs of mixed batteries (and cellphones) for recycling.

Features include:

- Available in single or multiple packs
- A patented flame retardant liner
- Pack of large & small baggies
- Guideline sheet
- Pre-paid return shipping label
- Recycling posters and certificates of recycling available upon request.



## Bulk Options: Battery Kits

For large quantities, The Battery Network offers palletized boxes (assembly required) to safely collect and ship batteries and cellphones for recycling via our bulk shipping portal.

# Damaged/Defective Batteries

## Not All Lithium-Ion Batteries Are Created Equal

Lithium ion batteries that are swollen, experience overheating, or have been recalled by the battery and/or product manufacturer, can potentially produce a dangerous evolution of heat, fire, or short circuit. These damaged, and defective batteries require special handling, labeling, and packaging to keep people and property safe. If these batteries are shipped without proper packaging and handling, they are more likely to generate a safety incident, such as a spark, during transit from the collection site to the processing facility.

### What to look out for?

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- Typically a lithium ion rechargeable battery
- Swelling or bulging
- Burn marks or fire damage
- Any kind of water damage
- Severe physical damage
- Defective for safety reasons



**Avoid  
The  
Spark**

Helping people understand battery safety and how to dispose of batteries properly is important across the country, Vermont included. That's why we launched the Avoid the Spark campaign to help prevent fires before they start with clear guidance and simple steps that keep your home and community safe. Learn more and links to <https://batterynetwork.org/safety/avoid-the-spark/>

### Not sure if your battery is damaged or defective? Need assistance?

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Contact our Customer Success Team at 1-877-723-1297 or [connect@batterynetwork.org](mailto:connect@batterynetwork.org) and they can help you determine whether the battery or device requires special handling according to U.S. DOT requirements.



# High-Energy Batteries

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Given their size, weight, and power, high-energy batteries\* cannot be treated like small, portable batteries. They require special training, handling and packaging.

\*Batteries over 300 watt-hours used to power applications such as electric bicycles(e-bikes), scooters, hoverboards, and outdoor power equipment.

**If you receive a High-Energy Battery or get inquiries related to the proper handling of them, please follow the instructions below.**



## For Electric Bicycle (e-bike) Batteries

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The Battery Network collaborated with PeopleForBikes to establish the first, voluntary industry supported e-bike battery recycling program in the U.S. to ensure e-bike batteries are safely and responsibly returned to the proper recycling stream when they reach their end-of-life. The Battery Network created the first U.S. industry-wide, voluntary e-bike battery recycling program that keeps batteries out of landfills and protects people and communities.

Direct all consumers to The Battery Network's online drop-off locator at [batterynetwork.org/locator](https://batterynetwork.org/locator). To learn more about our E-Bike Battery Recycling program, visit <https://batterynetwork.org/programs/e-bike-program/>



## For All Other High-Energy Batteries

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High-Energy Batteries cannot be dropped off at any drop-off location nor should be placed or transported in The Battery Network's regular collection box. They must go in a special container permitted for 300 watt-hour batteries

The Battery Network offers a High-Energy Lithium Ion Battery Recycling Kit through [our store](#).





# Hosting a Collection Event

Hosting a collection event can increase battery recycling awareness and ensure batteries are responsibly and safely managed at their end-of-life.

## Step 1. Plan

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Choose a day for your event, plan around time frames when household clean-outs occur. Create a timeline of what you need to do to prepare. Set a goal - how many pounds of batteries you are targeting for collection?

## Step 2. Order materials

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Insure you have enough collections kits for the event. Order more if necessary.

## Step 3. Pick a date and location

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Weekend events are generally more popular and have greater participation. To make it convenient, select a central location that offers easy access (like community centers, libraries, work, or retail centers).

## Step 4. Sign up volunteers

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Volunteers are the backbone of any collection event and are critical to making it run smoothly. Make sure to train your volunteers on The Battery Network requirements: acceptable materials, safety guidelines, and FAQs.

## Step 5. Advertise

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Now it's time to spread the word and invite your community to take part. Promote your collection event through your usual channels like social media, your website, email, community calendars, flyers, and local partners. You can also ask local partners like schools, libraries, or municipal offices to help spread the word. Tag **@thebatterynetwork** so we can help boost your message and drive more participation. Log into the Collection Hub to find materials to help you spread the word.

## Step 6. Host the event & ship your batteries.

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You've organized, promoted, and held your event -- now it's time to ship your batteries. Just follow the shipping guidelines that came with your box and we'll take care of the rest.



# Quick References

## Websites to Bookmark

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**[batterynetwork.org/stewards/state-recycling-laws/vermont](https://batterynetwork.org/stewards/state-recycling-laws/vermont)**

- General Program Information
- State Law Information
- Vermont Specific Drop-off Site Locator

**[collectionhub.batterynetwork.org](https://collectionhub.batterynetwork.org)**

- Order materials, download marketing and safety resources, and stay up-to-date on trainings—all in one place.

**[batterynetwork.org/safety/](https://batterynetwork.org/safety/)**

- Learn more about safe battery handling and download important safety materials.

## Contact Us

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**877.723.1297**

**[connect@batterynetwork.org](mailto:connect@batterynetwork.org)**



**Thank you for your continued commitment to  
safe & responsible battery collection & recycling.**

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