AIEN
Catalyst to achieving a circular economy

Advancements in Battery Recycling for Fire Risk Reduction

Webinar

Wed 14 August 2024
10:00am - 12:00pm
AEST

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TICKETS

AIEN Member: $77 inc GST
Non Member $110 inc GST

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The use of batteries is increasing throughout our economy to help in the energy transition. Batteries of difference sizes and chemistries are being used in just about every aspect of our lives - in household appliances, toys, portable tools, domestic and commercial power storage, electric vehicles, mobile industrial plant and even heavy transport vehicles.

Australia is rapidly adopting these new applications for batteries, and we have some of the world's largest deposits of critical minerals to support battery manufacturing - yet we have little recycling capability to recover the critical minerals in these batteries to support a circular economy. Whilst the recovery of used lead acid batteries is high, it is estimated that 24,300 tonnes of batteries still end up in landfill in year. For some battery types, such as lithium-ion, the recycling rates are extremely low, at an estimated 3%[1] .

Collection and recycling of batteries at end of life is needed to avoid the disposal of batteries to the general waste stream. The presence of high-energy storage batteries in waste and recycling streams collected at the household level have led to a spate of fires in collection vehicles, material processing facilities and at landfills.

This webinar will explore the issues surrounding the problems of incorrect disposal of batteries to the waste stream, and new facilities that are being constructed that will help to collect, sort and process batteries - helping to divert them from the waste stream and ensure they are recycled to support the circular economy.

1 Langdon, R, Dominish, E., & Lara, H. (2023). B-cycle Benchmarking Program: Market Analysis & Fate Mapping, and Life Cycle Analysis. Sydney: Institute for Sustainable Futures. Internet publication: https://bcycle.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Battery-MA-Report-FINAL-20230927.pdf

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PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

1000 Welcome and Housekeeping

Colin Barker, Chair - Australian Industrial Ecology Network

1010 Setting the Scene and Webinar Objectives

Dr Mark Jackson, Director - Jackson Environment and Planning

- New innovations in battery recycling nationally
- Key issues relating to design, development and approvals to support growth of the sector

1020 Batteries and Fires in the Community - We really need an integrated solution

Dr Michael Logan, Director Research and Scientific Branch - QLD Fire and Emergency Services

- Risks associated with incorrect battery disposal to the general waste stream
- Examples of fires and incidents caused by batteries
- Emergency responses and challenges with battery fires

1050 New battery sorting facility proposed for Western Sydney

Craig Ley, General Manager - Battery Recyclers

- About the facility
- Types of batteries to be received, sorted and aggregated to support the B-Cycle Scheme
- Key matters addressed in the planning phase
- New developments in the pipeline

1120 Solar PV and battery recycling facility in Heatherbrae, NSW

Bede Wolf, Sustainability Lead - SK Tes

- About the facility
- Types of batteries to be received, sorted and processed at the new facility
- Battery components recovered and circular economy benefits

1150 Comments, Questions and Close

1200 Webinar Close

Every effort has been made to present all the information contained in this brochure as accurately as possible. The AIEN reserves the right to change, without notice, any or all of these details.