

## Battery recycling scheme to rely on other stewardship regimes

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The administrators of Australia's new battery stewardship scheme will rely heavily on companies already involved in collecting and processing mobile phones, computers and televisions.

The Battery Stewardship Council yesterday launched its scheme website and invited more companies in the battery supply chain to participate.

Existing participants include battery manufacturers Eveready and Duracell, and major retailers including Coles, Woolworths and Bunnings.

Under the scheme, participating battery manufacturers and importers pay a levy – currently based on a rate of two cents for a 24-gram battery – and retailers undertake to only sell scheme-accredited brands.

Battery Stewardship Council chief executive Libby Chaplin told *Footprint* the scheme would have a unique collection model.

Instead of negotiating collection contracts with just a few businesses, any organisation that meets the scheme's health and safety standards will be entitled to collect used batteries and take them to sorting and processing facilities.

They will record their collection activities on a soon to be released scheme App, and will receive a rebate of \$2.50 per kilogram (for transporting batteries to processors in metropolitan areas) or \$3.50 per kilogram (in regional areas).

Businesses sorting and processing used batteries will receive a rebate of \$1 per kilogram.

Chaplin said the scheme's approach was likely to attract many companies involved in collecting and recycling products such as used mobile phones, televisions and computers.

The battery stewardship scheme doesn't have milestone recovery targets, but Chaplin said the rebate model was expected to lead to "a rapid increase" in battery recycling.

Eveready and Duracell were slow to support the scheme – only doing so after threats from Environment Minister Sussan Ley that she would take further action if they did not voluntarily participate.

However, Chaplin said the two companies were now actively involved.

They had provided advance funds to help launch the scheme and are now represented on the Council's board, she said.

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