



Waste Authority

MEDIA STATEMENT

Battery recycling to get a re-charge

New energy is about to be injected into household battery recycling across the Perth metropolitan area with the help of a \$80, 140 grant from the Waste Authority's Strategic Waste Initiative Scheme (SWIS).

The battery recycling program will prevent the unsafe disposal of more than 100 000 household batteries to landfill each year in Perth. In landfills, the battery casing breaks down causing chemicals harmful to the environment to leach out.

Up to 95% of a battery can be recovered and recycled. Metals recovered include zinc that can be used in galvanising and in fertilisers, manganese for use in new batteries and steel alloys and steel for use in new steel products.

Collection points will be set up in strategic locations throughout the metropolitan area including council offices, libraries and leisure centres. Batteries recovered through the program will be sent to AusZinc in NSW which has initiated a pilot program to recycle zinc and alkaline batteries.

Waste Authority Chairman, Mr Barry Carbon, said the initiative shown by the Regional Council was to be applauded.

"The program has grown from the very successful school collection program which began a few years ago at schools in the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council," he said.



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“This sort of recycling initiative shows that if it’s easy and convenient for people to do the right thing by providing the appropriate infrastructure and promoting the service well, people will recycle.”

A total of 31 Local Governments will participate in the program due to be launched in 2009.

SWIS projects are supported by the Western Australian Landfill Levy fund.

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