

HB 4144 - Providing for the Safe and Responsible Management of Batteries



Safer Management of Used Batteries, More Convenient & Accessible Collection, Recycling & Resource Recovery, and Saving Money for Local Governments in Oregon.

Why is this important?

Batteries in the trash can lead to fires in garbage and recycling trucks and at facilities. While many batteries are hazardous because of the toxic or corrosive materials they contain, they are also a valuable source of metals and critical raw materials that could be recovered.

It's estimated that over 1.4 million pounds of single-use and rechargeable batteries are disposed in Oregon each year. The number of batteries that will become waste is expected to increase drastically with more connected, portable and / or mobile products such as consumer electronics, cordless power tools, and electric bikes and scooters sold on the market.

Extended Producer Responsibility for Batteries will:

- Lower fire risk at waste management facilities, improving employee safety
- Finance battery end-of-life management, saving money for residents, businesses & local governments
- Protect the environment by reducing pollution caused by fires and toxic leakages
- Increase the number of batteries recycled and the recovery of critical raw materials

What will HB 4144 do?

The law establishes an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program in Oregon that:

- Requires battery manufacturers to manage and pay for the collection, transport, and recycling of single use and rechargeable batteries.
- Provides battery recycling drop off locations that are accessible for all Oregonians.
- Establishes collection, recycling, and education performance goals.
- Prohibits lithium batteries from being disposed of in the trash.

OVERVIEW OF EPR FOR BATTERIES:

What Batteries Are Covered?

- **Portable batteries**
 - ◊ Includes primary (single-use) batteries weighing no more than 4.4 lbs
 - ◊ Includes rechargeable batteries weighing no more than 11 lbs, such as those used for power tools and digital cameras
- **Medium format batteries:**
 - ◊ Includes primary batteries weighing up to 25 lbs
 - ◊ Includes rechargeable batteries such as those used for e-bikes and e-scooters
- **Does not include:**
 - ◊ Batteries contained within a medical device that are used in locations other than the home
 - ◊ Lead acid batteries greater than 11 pounds
 - ◊ Electric vehicle batteries
 - ◊ Batteries embedded in devices covered by the E-cycles law, and batteries contained in products that cannot be easily removed

- No fees at point of sale.
- Fully funded by producers.
- Ensure 95% of residents are within 15 miles of a collection site.
- At least one collection site serving cities with a population of 4,000 or more.



The Department of Environmental Quality will review and evaluate studies and assessments regarding whether batteries that are not covered under the law should be covered, and provide findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than May 30, 2028.

