

MEDIA RELEASE

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National battery recycling charges ahead

In the lead up to World Environment Day SITA Environmental Solutions is charging up battery recycling in Australia with the national launch of its Battery Recycling program.

After a successful trial in Canberra, SITA is extending its' Battery Recycling program Australia wide.

Australian businesses and households dispose of some 94% of single-use and rechargeable batteries through their usual waste collection services, with over 8,000 tonnes of dead batteries ending up in Australian landfills each year.

Mr Mike Ritchie, General Manager, Marketing & Communications said "World Environment Day is the perfect time for businesses, and individuals, to start thinking about how they use, and dispose of, spent batteries".

"Both single-use and rechargeable batteries, which are found in many day-to-day items, contain heavy metals including cadmium, mercury and lead which may be harmful to people and the environment. If not disposed of responsibly they will end up in landfill" said Mr Ritchie.

"By recovering precious metals such as silver, iron and mercury from used batteries we are protecting the environment and recovering limited resources."

Rechargeable batteries are a great cost-effective solution to single-use batteries as they can be used up to 1000 times. The Nickel-cadmium, Nickel Metal Hydride and Lithium-ion in rechargeable batteries can all be recycled, making them a sound environmental alternative.

An added bonus of this program is the box that the batteries are collected in will also be recycled.

SITA is an associate member of the Australasian Battery Recycling Initiative (ABRI).

The new Battery Recycling program is available across Australia from June 4.

SITA Environmental Solutions, a SUEZ Environment subsidiary, provides weekly services to over 43,000 commercial and industrial clients and more than 1.1million households across Australia

SITA's services include domestic, commercial & industrial waste collection; waste assessments; resource recovery and recycling options; processing of organic materials into compost; renewable energy facilities; hygiene services; waste treatment; and product destruction.

More information on SITA's services can be obtained by calling 13 13 35 or visit www.sita.com.au

With over 65,000 employees and more than 120 years of efforts to constantly improve the quality of life for all, SUEZ Environment, a company present on the five continents, is exclusively dedicated to the environment business in which it has firmly secured its position as world leader.

SUEZ Environment and its subsidiaries are committed to the day-to-day challenge of conserving resources and protecting eco-systems by providing innovative solutions to millions of people and industries in the drinking water, wastewater treatment and waste management fields.

SUEZ Environment's waste and water management business expertise is a vital asset in responding to the stakes of the 21st Century: effectively, the world of tomorrow needs an economy which preserves natural resources and optimises the use of raw materials.

For further information contact:

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Additional Information

There are three easy steps to SITA's battery recycling program.

1. Call SITA on 13 13 35 and our customer service centre will send a pre-paid flat-packed Battery Recycling Box
2. Place the box in a prominent area in your place of business and encourage staff to fill the box with used batteries

Once the box is fully call 13 13 35 to arrange collection and a replacement box.

What batteries can be collected?

Batteries come in all shapes and sizes however; they can all be grouped into two categories - single use batteries and rechargeable batteries. Both types are used in many day-to-day office and home items and can be accepted in SITA's recycling program. Examples of these batteries include:

SINGLE USE BATTERIES

Torches
Radios
Watches
Calculators
TV/Stereo remote controls
Smoke Alarms

RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES

Mobile & cordless phones
Laptop computers
Digital & video camera
Remote controlled toys
Cordless power tools
Electric shavers