

Battery Industry Begins Shift To Producer Responsibility

Motivated by a recently completed MIT Life Cycle Assessment <http://recyclebattery.org/wp-content/themes/twentyten/pdfs/alkalinelca2011.pdf>, the US primary (non-rechargeable) battery industry, under the not-for-profit Corporation for Battery Recycling (CBR) launched two of the six scheduled Foundation Programs. The Programs will be used to gather data from existing battery collection programs to aid in the development of an environmentally positive and economically sustainable stewardship program scheduled for launch in 2013. CBR was founded by the five major primary battery manufacturers in the North American market; Energizer, Duracell, Kodak, Rayovac and Panasonic. See www.recyclebattery.org.

Santa Clara County, CA and Hennepin County, MN (Minneapolis) were selected to be the first Foundation Programs to receive funding from CBR. The remaining four Foundation Programs; Onondaga County (Syracuse NY), San Luis Obispo County, CA, King and Snohomish County (Seattle, WA) will hopefully launch in April of 2012. Rob D'Arcy, Hazardous Materials Program Manager for the County of Santa Clara says: "the shift toward Product Stewardship by CBR will save us over \$50,000 the first year." "They have agreed to fund transportation and recycling of primary single-use batteries."

Submitted by Rob Darcy