

BE POSITIVE – RECYCLE YOUR BATTERIES HERE



I wonder how many of us have started to use the in-store battery recycling bins that have recently popped up in many shops.

A new law came into force at the beginning of February that requires shops to offer customers a facility to recycle their used batteries.

Last year in the UK we threw away around 30,000 tonnes of batteries, ranging from those in electrical goods like torches, to rechargeable ones in mobile phones. Just 3% of these batteries were recycled, the remaining 97% going to landfill sites, where they leak poison into the soil. With targets to raise recycling levels to 10% by the end of this year, 25% by 2012 and 45% by 2016 - the EU Batteries Directive aims to cut carbon emissions by reducing the need for new batteries.

Manufacturers of new batteries have been tasked with meeting these stringent recycling targets and the government hopes the new legislation will make it easy for the public to recycle while ensuring that retailers fulfil their part of the bargain.

There seems to be a general lack of promotion for the new arrangements and retailers have called for a government information campaign to raise public awareness. Also why are shops the only route for collection, why not include workplaces, schools, community centres and kerbside collection. Existing evidence shows home collections of recyclables are easiest for customers and produce the best results.

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