CHARGE THE FUTURE

Europe's innovative, low carbon lead battery value chain

Europe's bid to become climate neutral by 2050 has ushered in a period of transformation as the transition to a sustainable, low carbon economy becomes imperative.

The EU aims to demonstrate political and economic global leadership by creating a sustainable future for all. As decision-makers prepare a new mandate and look to a new industrial strategy, the EU's institutions and industry can work together to deliver the transition to a low carbon economy while maintaining growth, jobs and skills.

Charge the Future demonstrates how lead batteries and the lead battery industry are supporting Europe's low carbon future. Lead batteries are integral to essential products and services including vehicles, renewable energy storage, back-up for mobile telecoms and data centres. They are used for many other applications including industrial energy powering fork lift trucks as well as throughout the rail and mass transit industry.

Lead batteries are an important foundation for a new European economic model in five important areas:

- Innovation
- Industrial growth
- Clean mobility
- Clean energy
- Circular economy

The lead battery value chain is a European success story. The industry, based in the EU, supports manufacturing, skilled jobs, and innovation - while also underpinning many other essential industries and services. It is fundamental to supporting the delivery of the EU's industrial and energy transformation agendas through electrification.

The lead battery industry is committed to investing in technology and infrastructure, training and developing people and supporting a truly sustainable future. Working together with policy-makers, industry stakeholders and civil society, we will *Charge the Future* and support the transition to a low carbon, innovative and high growth European Union.

We call on the EU to:

Support and promote the essential role of lead batteries in achieving a low carbon economy and as a core battery energy storage technology of the future

Recognise and showcase the lead battery value chain's success in delivering 99% recycling of lead batteries in a closed loop, exemplifying the policies of the circular economy

Ensure a level playing field for all battery technologies including lead batteries

Maintain and encourage investment in EU lead battery production, ensuring that Europe remains globally competitive

Back ongoing innovation in lead battery technology in Europe's successful, high growth, and home-grown lead battery industry

Adopt proportionate and consistent regulatory decisions based on sound risk management principles

Policy-makers and MEPs will start to review regulations and laws which have a direct impact on the lead battery industry in the coming mandate. From REACH chemicals legislation and the Batteries Directive to the End of Life Vehicles Directive, it is critical that the European Commission and the EU Parliament support the lead battery industry's ongoing growth and development in Europe. We have developed a manifesto for batteries in Europe setting out our legislative asks here - www.eurobat.org/election-manifesto-2019-2024

Did you know lead batteries are...

ESSENTIAL

- Lead batteries connect, transport, power and protect our daily lives, supporting society and enhancing the EU economy.
- They safeguard Europe's communications, transportation and logistics infrastructure; they are used in over 290 million vehicles on Europe's roads.

SUSTAINABLE

- The lead battery is one of the world's most successful examples of the circular economy in action.
- Every year, more than 100 million used lead batteries are kept out of the EU's waste stream by a value chain embracing circular economy principles and operating in a fully closed loop.

INNOVATIVE

- Start-stop engine technology, made possible by advanced lead batteries, has helped to eliminate millions of tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions every year.
- Investment and future innovation of lead battery technology are vital to the EU's bid become climate neutral by 2050.

SAFE

- Lead batteries are safe in diverse applications as well as being manufactured and recycled in state-of-the-art processes in industrial facilities which adhere to, or aim to exceed EU legislation.
- This legislation is some of the world's most stringent – for occupational safety, health and environmental standards.

RELIABLE

- Lead batteries have a proven track record of more than a century of reliability.
- Today underpinning the success of hybrid and electric vehicles (EVs) as well as the renewable energy storage they rely on, lead batteries are integral to Europe's transition to a low carbon economy.

COST-EFFECTIVE

- A new lead battery produced in the EU contains more than 80% recycled lead.
- Europe's economically self-sustaining, closed loop lead battery value chain makes them one of the most cost-effective solutions for renewable energy storage and meeting fuel economy targets.

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