

## Armenia battery recycling

Starting from August 10, 2024, the Vega store network is launching battery and accumulator collection. At the moment, this is the only company with a license to collect, store, and recycle hazardous waste, including batteries.

Battery collection containers are installed in all Vega stores in Yerevan, with plans to install containers in other cities of Armenia in September.

Unfortunately, battery collection by activists without a license is subject to administrative penalties. GreenGreen was fined 550,000 drams for collecting batteries based on a report by "eco-activists", and the collected batteries were confiscated and, most likely, discarded by the authorities. Therefore, we are currently unable to organize battery collection on our own, even for transferring them to Vega.

We urge the Armenian authorities to allow activists to collect batteries and similar waste, similar to how it is organized in Russia, where short-term storage of such waste does not require a license, allowing activists to independently organize the collection and transfer of batteries for recycling.

Vega will sort and store the collected batteries in a special licensed facility. Once a sufficient amount of batteries for processing has been accumulated, equipment for recycling will be purchased or rented. The pace of accumulating recyclable materials will be the determining factor.

This FAQ is developed in the frames of 4-year Waste Policy Armenia program funded by Sweden and implemented by the American University of Armenia (AUA) Acopian Center for the Environment. It offers essential information about the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system.

Waste Policy Armenia aims at improving country's waste management sector capacity to implement more environmentally sound waste management practices through its three components:

RA Law on EPR (3rd draft, Oct7, 2024) Interconnected legal act to RA Law on EPR (Oct7, 2024) EPR Policy Brief (Armenian, 59 pages) EPR 2-pager (Armenian)

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is an environmental policy that holds producers or importers of specific products responsible for the environmentally sound management of special wastes generated from the consumption of those products. This system encompasses the separate collection, recycling, or proper disposal of special wastes, along with the implementation of other measures.

Special waste refers to the waste generated through the sale, consumption, or use of EPR regulated products. It is a common practice to categorize wastes based on their specific characteristics. The list of special waste



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streams will be approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

The specific groups of special wastes managed by EPR schemes usually include:

&#8211; batteries and accumulators (mandatory in EU),

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Web: <https://kary.com.pl/contact-us/>

Email: [energystorage2000@gmail.com](mailto:energystorage2000@gmail.com)

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

