

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Department of Energy and Environment



May 1, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

Please green your store, business, agency, or building by providing an easy, convenient, and legal way for people to recycle batteries. Battery recycling is good for the environment as it saves resources by recovering materials for reuse and prevents harmful materials from polluting the earth, water, and air. It's also the law. After August 1, 2023, it will be illegal in the District of Columbia to dispose of single-use or rechargeable batteries in the trash.

The Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) is writing this letter to help Call2Recycle recruit locations in the District of Columbia to serve as collection sites for the District's battery stewardship program. [The District's battery stewardship law](#) requires collection of single-use and rechargeable batteries for recycling according to a plan approved by DOEE. As detailed in the law and [regulations](#), an entity known as a battery stewardship organization develops and implements the plan. Call2Recycle, a nonprofit with an established consumer battery recycling and stewardship program, is the District's battery stewardship organization.

**What is a battery collection site?** A collection site is a retail store, business, government agency, or other building that maintains a container, provided by Call2Recycle, where people can drop off batteries.

**What do locations volunteering as collection sites need to do?** Collection sites must:


- Complete a safety tutorial provided by Call2Recycle before collection sites open and when there is a change in staff responsible for managing the batteries;
- Collect and ship batteries safely as specified in the tutorial;
- Prominently display the availability of battery drop-off at the location; and
- Accept up to 100 batteries per visit, regardless of type or brand, whether single-use or rechargeable.

**Is there a cost?** Call2Recycle will provide outreach materials, signs, and collection containers at no cost to collection sites and will cover the cost of shipping collection boxes to the recycler.

**Why are more collection sites needed?** Under the law, battery collection must be convenient and accessible. There must be at least one collection site per 10,000 people in the District, with a reasonable geographic spread of collection sites across all eight wards, taking into account accessibility to public transit. More publicly accessible sites are needed to achieve the convenience and geographic spread required by the law.

Please reach out to Todd Ellis at Call2Recycle ([tellis@call2recycle.org](mailto:tellis@call2recycle.org)) to discuss how you can contribute to the success of this program and provide a valuable service to the community by becoming a collection site.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Richard Jackson, Interim Director