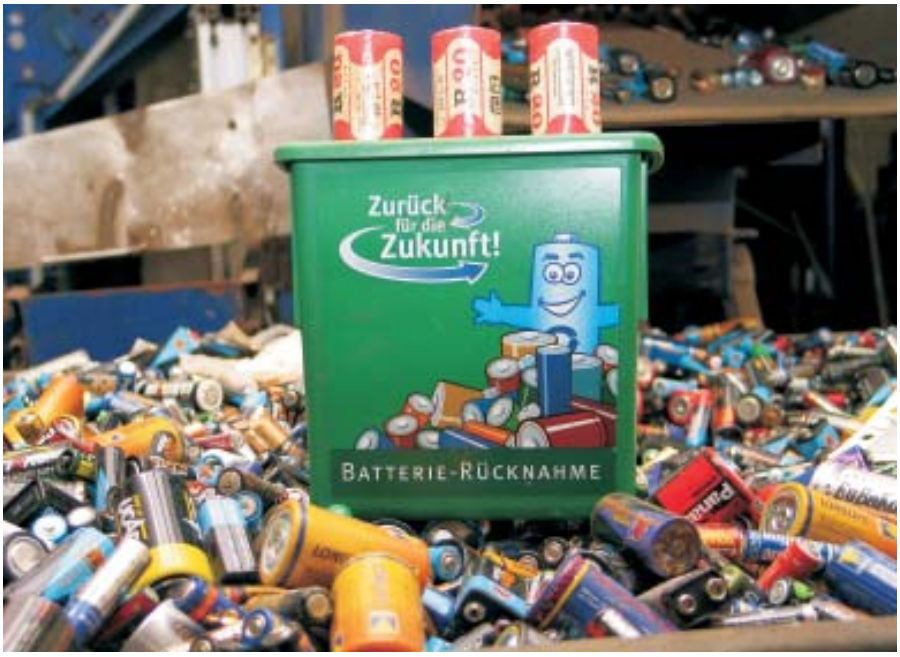


Every German returns a statistical average of 149 grams of batteries and accumulators. In 2005, the Shared Battery Returning System (GRS Batteries) Foundation collected 12263 tons of these energy providers at 160000 collecting points that are set up in shops as well as within the communities. Metals like zinc, steel, nickel and lead are recovered through battery recycling

Photo: GRS Batterien

Batteries: Competition on disposal services

By Brigitte Weber, EU-Recycling

Every third year, the GRS Batteries holds a competition on the disposal services concerning the returning system for batteries. The first of these public competitions is already closed and a second one will take place at the beginning of 2007.

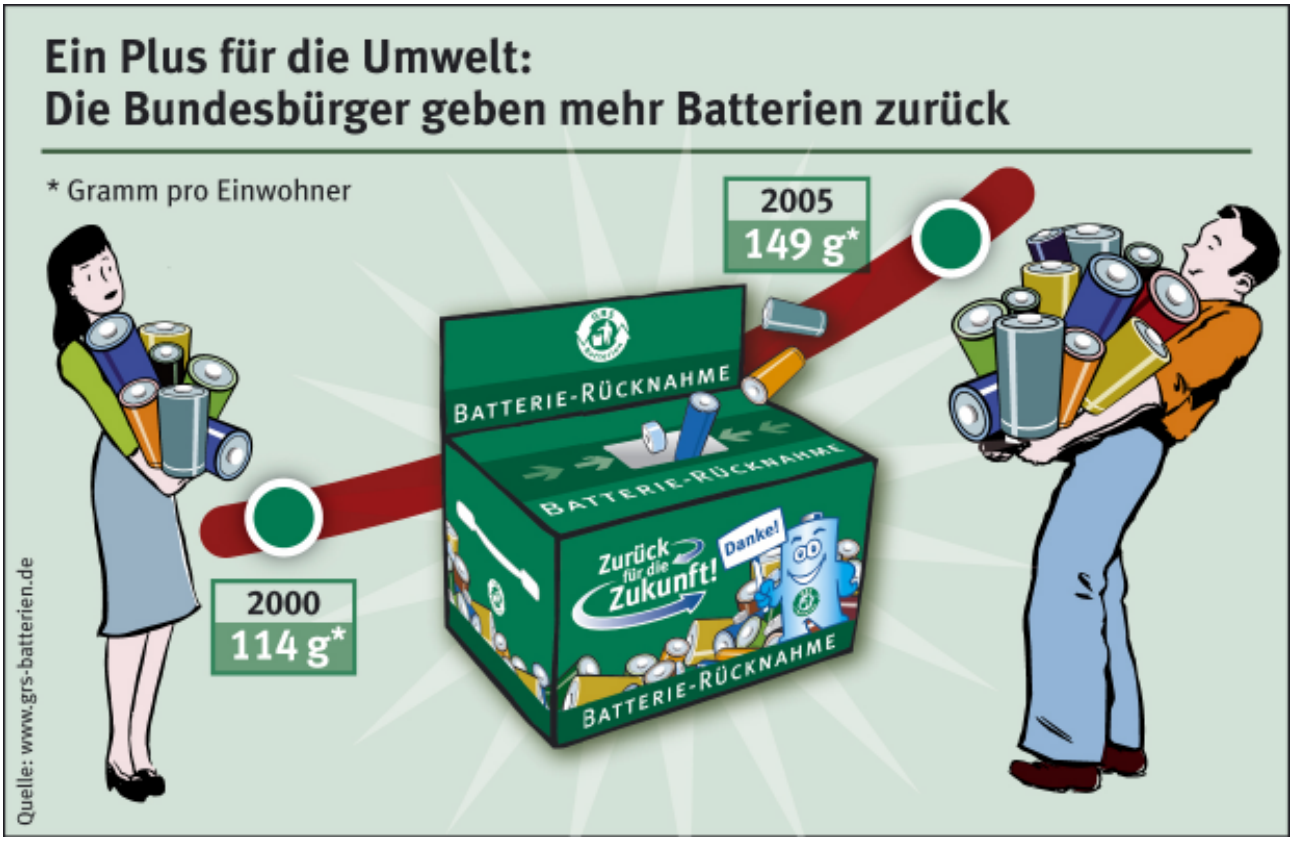
As part of a national and global tendering, the Shared Battery Returning System (GRS Batteries) Foundation, responsible for the returning and recycling of discharged batteries and accumulators in Germany, has awarded working contracts for the first three of a total of six lots. The public competition, that has been closed only recently, was used to assign lots with the category II (sorting), IV (disposal), and V (recycling) for the service period from October 2007 till the end of September 2010.

The lots with the category 0 (original equipment), I (pre-sorting logistics) and III (post-sorting logistics) will be assigned in a separate procedure. The public tendering will take place at the beginning of 2007.

Future EU guidelines and current recycling quotas

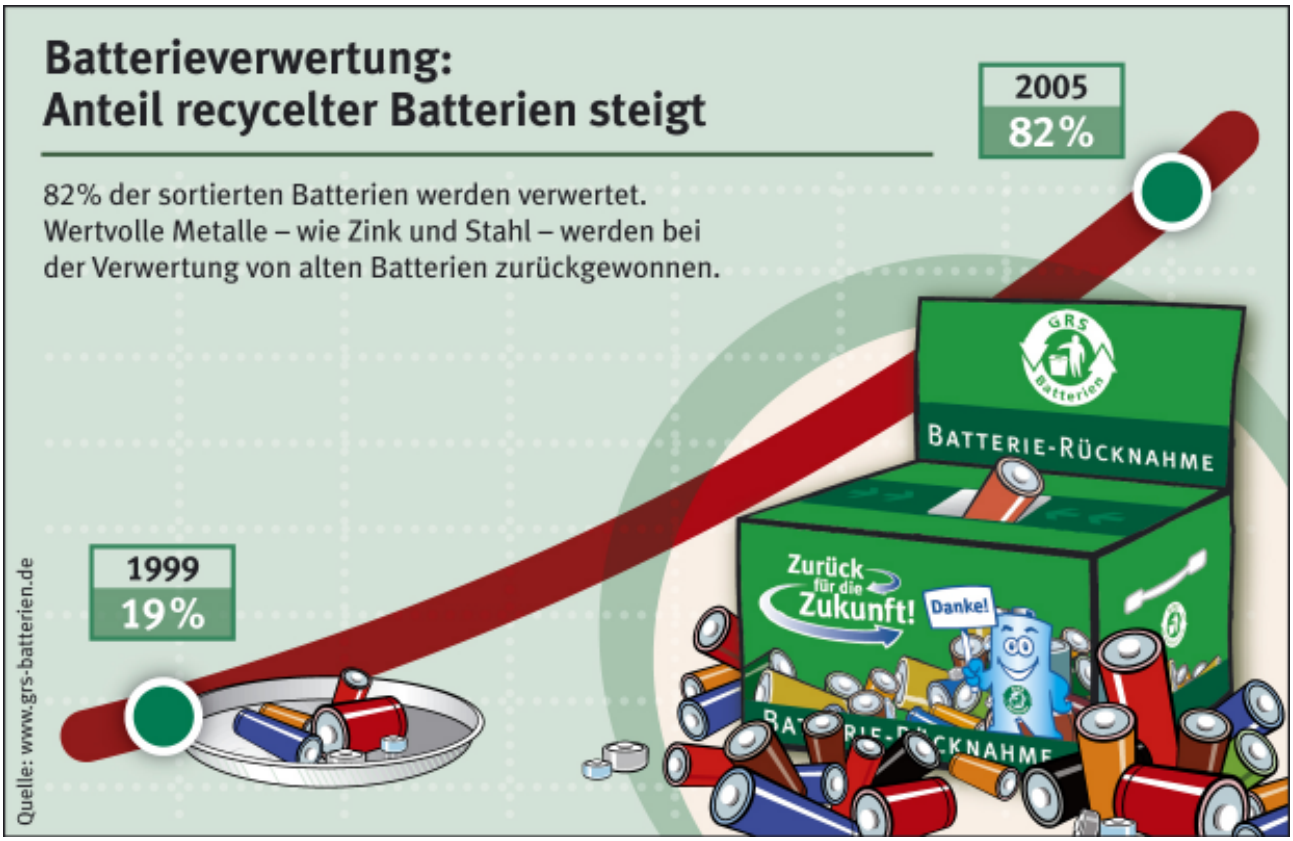
According to the GRS Batteries, Germany's quotas for the returning and recycling of discharged energy providers is so high by now that future conditions of the new EU guidelines will be fulfilled without great difficulties. The foundation, whose services as a trade partner are used by 760 battery producers and importers at the moment, took charge of the free returning and disposal of discharged batteries and accumulators on a national basis in October 1998, after the ratification of the German Battery directive that is still in force today. Ever since its launch eight years ago, both the returned amount and the percentage of recycled energy providers has increased.

Thus, sub-goals of the EU guideline have already been reached today: The collection goal for 2012 and 2016 is 25 or respectively 45 % of the average battery sales of the last three



Positive effect on the environment: The citizens of the Federal Republic of Germany are returning more batteries

Graph: GRS Batteries



Battery recovery: The percentage of recycled batteries increases

Graph: GRS Batteries

years. In 2005 alone, the GRS Batteries has collected 12263 tons of discharged batteries and accumulators, which equals a quota of 35 % according to their information. “That way we have already exceeded the goal of 25 % that was set for 2012”, said Dr Jürgen Fricke, chairman of the board of the foundation, during an event in October 2006. In order to reach the 45 % mark that has been set for 2016, every participating party (trade, public disposal companies, the industry) must actively support battery collection.

The GRS Batteries is also optimistic in view of the recycling of all identifiable batteries and accumulators that is demanded by the EU guideline from 2009 on. As the current recycling quota is about 85 %, the foundation believes that a good basis has been set for the fulfilling of the 100% mark.

Implementation of EU guideline in Germany

The new EU guideline on batteries was declared on September 26th, 2006. Within the next two years, that means until September 28th, 2008, the German Federal government will have to adapt the national directive on batteries to EU regulation. According to the information, a first draft is expected for the second quarter of 2007.

Higher collection goals for old batteries in the EU

According to expert information, the market for batteries in the European Union contains 800000 tons of car batteries, 190000 tons of industrial batteries and 160000 tons of batteries for other devices every year. These energy providers contain heavy metals which pollute the environment at their disposal. Mercury, lead and Cadmium are the most hazardous substances here.

To keep those pollutants out of the environment, discharged batteries and accumulators are supposed to be collected and recovered separately in Europe. The new guideline sets collection goals for 2012 and 2016 that are 25 % or respectively 45 % of the average battery sales of the last three years.

According to the verdict of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, this goal will be quite a challenge for producers, trade and consumers in Germany in the near future. So far, about 35 % of the batteries that have entered the market are returned and collected separately. “Free returning possibilities for discharged batteries have been installed in shops and additionally in communities long ago”, says the Ministry in pointing out established collection systems. “It is the job of the economy and of the consumers to do their part in actively saving valuable resources and improving the environment by collecting even more intensively.”

Besides that, the new EU guideline adds another heavy metal ban to the existing ban on mercurial batteries that has been in force since 2000: As the national laws for implementation are put into force, cadmium may longer be used in batteries.

Download www.eu-recycling.com/richtline_batterien.pdf – Richtlinie 2006/66/EG des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates vom 6. September 2006 über Batterien und Akkumulatoren sowie Altbatterien und Altakkumulatoren und zur Aufhebung der Richtlinie 91/157/EWG