

Battery Newsletter

June 2012

Current events, background, positions

Pleasing results in 2011

Greater collection rate, increased user numbers: GRS Batterien looks back on a successful year

Dear reader,

The past year was again extremely successful for GRS Batterien. It is especially satisfying that we were able to reach a collection rate of 44.7% in 2011. This comes very close to meeting the requirement of 45% that will become compulsory by law in 2016. However, this also includes a number of manufacturers who are no longer participating in the joint collection system. Taking into consideration only manufacturers associated with the system in 2011, we achieved an even higher collection rate of 45.8%.

The number of users relying on our competence grew further in 2011. By the end of the year, 2,536 customers were registered with us. In the previous year there were only 2,394 GRS users.

Increased fuel and energy costs for logistics and a decrease in recyclable segments resulted in a slight increase in costs. However, we partially offset this increase with the ongoing optimisation of our logistics processes. At the end of the year we had a net revenue surplus of 23.8%. As a non-profit organisation, as usual,

we are giving this surplus back to our customers.

In 2011 we aimed in particular to expand the industrial battery business. Above all in the electric mobility sector, we were able to develop solutions for electric bicycle and e-car batteries and to establish these in the market. In addition, we further improved customer service: users of device batteries can now conclude their agreements online and use an electronic invoicing system; this makes the processes much faster and more straight forward.

Our success in 2011 shows that we are on the right track. Now the goal is to remain on course and address new challenges, especially in the e-mobility sector. We are looking forward to tackling these challenges!

Yours sincerely,

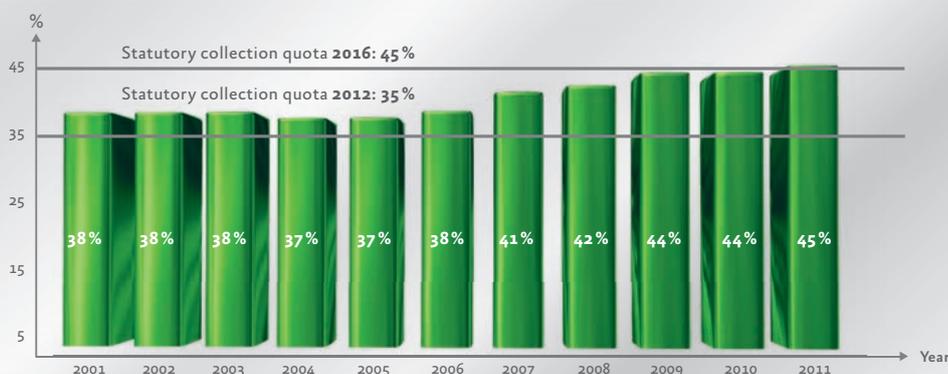


Georgios Chryssos



Georgios Chryssos
 Managing Director
 Stiftung Gemeinsames
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Collection quota 2001 – 2011



New Waste Management and Product Recycling Act in effect as of June

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The new German Waste Management and Product Recycling Act (KrWG) came into effect on 1 June 2012, implementing the EU Waste Framework Directive (Directive 2008/98/EU, AbfRRL) into German law and comprehensively modernising German waste law. The goals of the new law are on the one hand to sustainably improve environmental and climate protection and on the other hand to increase resource efficiency in waste management by avoiding waste and encouraging recycling.

At the same time, to facilitate the application of the law: a new area of application and standard terminology throughout EU law is intended to result in greater legal certainty and easier application of legislation. Unnecessary bureaucratic burdens will thus

be reduced. Also new is the five-tier waste hierarchy, giving waste avoidance priority over reuse, recycling and other green uses of waste. The amendment of the waste law also leads to two important changes in the German Batteries Act: first, it has been clarified that the manufacturer obligated to take batteries back is the entity in whose name, account or under whose brand the respective battery product exists on the German market. The second significant amendment is a clear prohibition for dealers not to distribute batteries which are not listed in the official battery register.

You can find full information related to the obligations to be fulfilled according to the Battery Act as well as the new wording of the law at www.grs-batterien.de.

Strengthening regional partnerships

Package of measures for regional collection points

Regional collection points such as local waste authorities, retail collection points and waste management companies are the supporting pillar for the return of batteries. Not only are further increasing amounts of used batteries expected in the coming years, but the collectors will also face increased safety requirements in dealing with lithium batteries. This presents new logistic and technological challenges to the regional partners of GRS Batterien.

For this reason we have developed an extensive package of measures to further improve regional collection.

To this end, GRS Batterien is expanding its positive cooperation with local waste authorities, dealers and waste management companies. Part of this package is a new contractual agreement with the offer to compensate the collection and compaction services provided, to support regional partners in their communication and information measures and to provide assistance for all questions about the safe collection of used batteries.

Kids are captivated by Inspector Energy

To help make the next generation enthusiastic about recycling and environmental protection at a young age, GRS Batterien has developed a nationwide educational initiative for pre-school children. Under the motto 'Batteries – They offer more!', a character called Inspector Energy reveals the secrets of batteries with an exciting puppet play and introduces children to the topic of energy in an entertaining way. In addition, children can enter the 'Fascination Energy' competition, which invites them to learn more about energy and batteries.



You can find more information and register kindergartens and playgroups at: www.inspektor-energie.de

New dates for G2 Infoforum in 2012

Last year the G2 Infoforum, carried out jointly by GRS Batterien and stiftung ear, was a complete success. A large number of participants asked more than 100 questions, which were published online at www.g2-infoforum.de/infoforum.

The feedback from the participants was also positive: more than 88% of those who took part in one of the six workshops in the previous year would recommend colleagues to sign up for one of the new dates this year.



The following dates and speakers have been arranged:

26 June 2012 in Düsseldorf

Speakers:

- + Sabrina Gärtner-Nitsche (stiftung ear, Fürth)
- + Bernhard Hennings (GRS Batterien, Hamburg)
- + Attorney Hans-Jochen Lückefett (1WEEE Services GmbH, Böblingen)

03 September 2012 in Braunschweig

Speakers:

- + Sabrina Gärtner-Nitsche (stiftung ear, Fürth)
- + Bernhard Hennings (GRS Batterien, Hamburg)
- + Attorney Dr. Holger Jacobi (Law Firm Prof. Verstejl, Burgwedel)

20 September 2012 in Detmold

Speakers:

- + Sabrina Gärtner-Nitsche (stiftung ear, Fürth)
- + Bernhard Hennings (GRS Batterien, Hamburg)
- + Attorney Matthias Schleifenbaum (Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, Cologne)

08 October 2012 in Munich

Speakers:

- + Sabrina Gärtner-Nitsche (stiftung ear, Fürth)
- + Bernhard Hennings (GRS Batterien, Hamburg)
- + Attorney Matthias Schleifenbaum (Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, Cologne)

24 October 2012 in Berlin

Speakers:

- + Sabrina Gärtner-Nitsche (stiftung ear, Fürth)
- + Bernhard Hennings (GRS Batterien, Hamburg)
- + Attorney Dr. Holger Jacobi (Law Firm Prof. Verstejl, Burgwedel)

26 November 2012 in Stuttgart

Speakers:

- + Sabrina Gärtner-Nitsche (stiftung ear, Fürth)
- + Bernhard Hennings (GRS Batterien, Hamburg)
- + Attorney Hans-Jochen Lückefett (1WEEE Services GmbH, Böblingen)

All manufacturers, importers, marketers and distributors of batteries are invited to register for the workshops free of charge. To ensure high quality, a maximum of 20 people can participate in each session. You can apply immediately online at www.g2-infoforum.de.



Service for manufacturers

GRS Batterien takes over Annual Review for electric bicycle batteries

Currently, e-mobility is experiencing a boom in Germany. Nationwide there are around 600,000 electric bicycles or 'pedelecs'. Even cars are powered in increasing numbers by high-performance accumulators. The more of these electric-powered vehicles appear on the road, the more accumulators will be returned in the future. In response to this, GRS Batterien has redeveloped the return system for industrial batteries.

In addition, we are developing a collection concept for e-car batteries that will offer tailored solutions to different manufacturers and dealers. In addition to the developing return solutions, GRS Batterien is cooperating with companies in the recycling industry and research institutes to enhance the methods used.

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According to the German Batteries Act (BattG), distributors of industrial batteries have to report about collection, return and recycling to the Federal Environmental Agency.

Manufacturers of industrial batteries can (voluntarily) provide joint documentation for several distributors. GRS Batterien takes on this task for its users and provides an Annual Review for all manufacturers participating in the industry solution for electric bicycle batteries in the form of a consolidated overview submitted to the Federal Environmental Agency.



Bifa Umweltinstitut presents final report

Project Secure Recording: Analysis of results

Entitled 'Reliable recording, transport and disposal of device batteries and similar industrial batteries' ("Zukunftssichere Erfassung, Transport und Entsorgung von Gerätebatterien und geräte-batterieähnlichen Industriebatterien"), bifa Umweltinstitut conducted a comprehensive study ordered by GRS Batterien and presented the final report.

Batteries which are not removed undamaged as they should be from discarded electric devices cause signifi-

cant safety risks. As a first step in designing solutions to this problem, a project focus group established by GRS Batterien will discuss the results of the study to determine appropriate action. Especially significant factors appear to be changes to battery designs, the handling of undefined battery mixes and the handling of monocharges. GRS Batterien will also develop a comprehensive communication strategy to raise awareness among key target groups and to provide relevant information.

New image film online

GRS cleans up: Image film wins Silver Award at the WorldMediaFestival

Now you can find a new image film about GRS Batterien online at www.grs-batterien.de. The film shows a range of interesting facts about diverse types of batteries and the fascinating recycling process. As a measure of the film's quality, it won the Silver Award at the WorldMediaFestival in the PR category for Environment-Conservation-Recycling. But make up your own mind and watch the film on the GRS website!



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