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Call2Recycle Canada, Inc. Environmental Handling Fees (EHFs) Frequently Asked Questions

Call2Recycle Canada, Inc. works on behalf of stakeholders to provide its battery recycling program, Call2Recycle®, to consumers across Canada. Call2Recycle Canada, Inc. is the approved battery stewardship organization in British Columbia, Manitoba, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island. In Ontario, Call2Recycle operates as an Individual Producer Responsibility organization, helping obligated producers fulfill their regulatory responsibilities under the Battery Regulation.

Call2Recycle's mission is and continues to be responsibly managing the end-of-life of batteries to keep them out of landfills and minimize environmental impact. With over 20 years of experience, we have learned that the best way to achieve this goal and encourage participation is by offering a robust, convenient program so that consumers can easily recycle their batteries.

General FAQs

1. What is an Environmental Handling Fee?

An Environmental Handling Fee, or EHF, is a charge on a product to handle the responsible collection and end-of-life management of that product.

2. Why is it important to recycle batteries?

Recycling batteries is important for a variety of reasons, for example it:

- Helps keep potentially harmful contaminants out of our landfill and waste stream
- Helps keep people and property safe. If batteries are improperly disposed of at their end-of-life, they can short circuit or overheat and cause a fire.
- Helps reduce the dependency of mining for virgin materials by capturing metals that can be reused into things such as golf clubs or even new batteries.

3. How are the EHFs determined?

Fees are determined using a calculation that factors in the cost to manage the collection and responsible recycling of each battery, by specific type. EHFs may vary between provinces.

4. What about batteries included in products like my cellphone and laptop?

This varies by province and by regulation. In some jurisdictions, batteries in products may be covered under another approved stewardship program; and therefore, the responsibility for the end of life management of the battery(ies) resides with the program responsible for the device.

5. What kind of batteries are subject to an Environmental Handling Fee?

All stand-alone batteries (batteries not sold with a product) that are part of the Call2Recycle program are subject to an Environmental Handling Fee. These include:



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Rechargeable Batteries

- Lithium Ion
- Nickel Cadmium
- Nickel Metal Hydride
- Nickel Zinc
- Portable Power
- Small Sealed Lead Acid (excluding Quebec)

Single-Use Batteries

- Alkaline
- Lithium Primary
- Silver Oxide
- Zinc Air
- Zinc Carbon
- Zinc Chloride

In addition, in Quebec, Manitoba and Prince Edward Island, fees may be applied to products containing batteries, including the following:

- e-toys
- Construction/Renovation Tools
- Garden Tools
- Flashlights/Spotlights
- Smoke and Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms

6. What is Call2Recycle's role?

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7. Who pays for the fees?

The fees are remitted by the obligated party (i.e. the first supplier into the province) which can be a retailer, wholesaler, distributor or manufacturer. It is left to the discretion of the obligated party to determine whether to pass along the fees to consumers. If passed along to consumers, the obligated party has the flexibility to make it visible or hidden, except in Quebec and Prince Edward Island where a visible fee should be internalized.

8. Will these fees be rolled out in other provinces?

At this time EHF's are only applied in Provinces where Call2Recycle operates under approved stewardship plans and in Ontario where the program operates as an Individual Producer Responsibility organization.

With voluntary support from battery and battery-powered product manufacturers, the Call2Recycle program is also administered in all other provinces making battery recycling accessible to residents in Newfoundland, Labrador, Nova Scotia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan, among others.

9. How will the fee structure work?

The current fee schedule for British Columbia, Manitoba, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island and newly introduced fee schedule for ON, effective July 1, 2020 can be found [here](#).



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10. How did Call2Recycle determine which product categories should be included in the program?

The products have been selected based on the likelihood that their easily removeable batteries end up in Call2Recycle's recycling stream. To ensure these batteries can be properly managed at their end-of-life, and minimize any cross-subsidization from other products, Call2Recycle has included the following categories in its program and subsequently charges an EHF. Any fee placed on these categories is intended to manage the batteries only and not for the device itself. EHF's are not applied to products containing batteries in British Columbia and Ontario.

11. Is there a tool available to help identify which products are subject to the new EHF?

Yes. Please refer to the updated Product Clarification Guide, which is available [here](#). If you have questions about the guide, please contact Call2Recycle at: ProductGuideCanada@call2recycle.ca

12. Will Call2Recycle add additional product categories in the future?

In order to ensure both compliance with provincial regulation and the long-term financial stability of the Call2Recycle program, additional product categories may be introduced in the future in applicable provinces.

Should additional product categories be introduced, Call2Recycle will follow the guiding principles of fairness, transparency, ease of implementation, as well as clear and timely communication.

13. Why do EHF's differ in different provinces?

Fees are calculated based on the cost to collect and manage batteries generated within each province. Given the regional differences (such as geography, population, location of collection sites, sorters and processors), program costs vary between provinces.

14. Why are EHF's on rechargeable batteries being postponed in Ontario?

Due to the uncertainty on how the recently introduced Ontario Battery Regulation will work with the yet to be released Electronics and Electrical Products Regulation, fees generated through a North American agreement with obligated producers will continue to be used for the balance of 2020 to finance collections.

15. Why was there a rate reduction in Quebec in January 2020 and not in other provinces?

Call2Recycle calculated the initial EHF based on projected revenue of estimated sales. Since then, the program has realized greater efficiencies from operational enhancements, which has reduced its overall operating costs. Call2Recycle's intent is to ensure EHF's reflect the specific program costs for each province. Upon assessment, Call2Recycle determined a rate reduction was necessary in QC.

16. Why is an EHF applied to SSLA batteries in BC, MB and PEI and MB but not QC?

Small sealed lead acid rechargeable batteries (SSLA/Pb) are currently not regulated as a designated product in Quebec.



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17. Will rates change again?

Rates are subject to change and can be adjusted up or down.

18. What is a stand-alone battery?

A battery that is sold independent of a device or for replacement purposes.

19. If a product is sold with one or more bonus/extra stand-alone batteries, do the bonus/extra batteries carry a Call2Recycle EHF?

Yes, the bonus or extra stand-alone batteries must carry an EHF, except in Ontario.

Obligation

20. I'm already a member in one province, how do I declare my obligation for other provinces?

As an existing member, please log into Call2Recycle's reporting portal [GreenTrax](#) to declare your obligation for other provinces.

21. How can I find out if I am obligated?

To help determine whether your entity is the obligated party, please review the provincial regulations:

- [Manitoba Household Hazardous Material Regulation](#)
- [British Columbia Recycling Regulation](#)
- [Quebec Regulation Respecting the Recovery and Reclamation of Products by Enterprises.](#)
- [Prince Edward Island Environmental Protection Act Materials Stewardship and Recycling Regulation](#)
- [Ontario Batteries Regulation under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016](#)

If you need further assistance, we encourage you to use the prepared decision tree found in our [Member Registration page](#) or contact Call2Recycle at ehf@call2recycle.ca

Registration & Reporting

22. How do I qualify to become a small volume generator?

Information can be found in the [Rules and Policies](#).

23. When should I register?

As soon as possible, as EHF's are already in effect in BC, MB, PEI, and QC. In Ontario, producers who supply designated batteries into the Ontario market must establish and operate systems to collect and manage batteries at end-of-life starting July 1, 2020 and must register with [RPRA](#) between November 1 and November 30, 2020. EHF's on primary batteries will be effective July 1, 2020 in Ontario, while EHF's on rechargeable batteries in Ontario will go into effect on January 1, 2021.



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24. What if I sell or distribute small quantities into the province(s)?

Information can be found in the [Rules and Policies](#).

25. How do I report?

Upon registration as a Call2Recycle Canada Member, you will gain access to Call2Recycle's reporting portal, [GreenTrax](#).

26. How often do I need to report?

Reporting occurs monthly.

27. How should I register?

If this is your first time registering with Call2Recycle Canada, Inc. please visit our [Member Registration page](#). If you are an existing member and wish to register for other jurisdictions, please also visit our [Member Registration page](#).

28. What if I want to report and remit sales on behalf of the obligated steward?

Some provinces allow for proxy agreements. You may choose to enter into a [Contributor by Proxy Agreement](#). This proxy agreement, which is a voluntary agreement between two parties, will provide satisfactory evidence for Call2Recycle in the case that one party agrees to report data and remit sales on behalf of an obligated party.