



BATTERY BLITZ

Clubs Mission Brief

Recycling batteries makes a big difference. When batteries are not properly disposed of and end up in landfills, this causes harm both to the environment as well as waste management workers. What's more, recycled batteries can provide materials for new batteries, or even for other items like sunscreen and stainless steel pots.



Your Mission:

Help the environment by recycling batteries!

To successfully carry out this mission, your Eco-Club will design a "Battery Blitz" – an event to help your community or school properly recycle batteries.

MISSION DIFFICULTY: Low – This guided mission is ideal for clubs just starting up

MISSION LENGTH: Around 3 months (one meeting per week)

BATTERY RECYCLING IN CANADA:

- you can sign up here to receive Call2Recycle collection boxes. It usually takes around 4 weeks for the boxes to arrive. For pick up of the boxes, call Purolator at 1-888-744-7123 to arrange a date.
- Alternatively, your club can make their own collection boxes. Visit [Call2Recycle Canada](#) to find a battery drop off location near you.

BATTERY RECYCLING IN THE USA:

- Visit [Call2Recycle USA](#) to organize the drop off collected batteries for recycling.

The Battery Blitz Mission is broken into 5 stages:

Stage 1: Investigate & Brainstorm

Stage 2: Plan

Stage 3: Prepare

Stage 4: Your Battery Blitz Event

Stage 5: Reflect & Celebrate

You will find all the materials your club needs for each stage on the [Earth Rangers Clubs Battery Blitz Mission Page](#).



Battery Blitz Mission

STAGE 1: INVESTIGATE & BRAINSTORM

All of us use batteries in our daily lives. We are vaguely aware of the fact that they can't go in the normal garbage, but why? How are they recycled?

STAGE OBJECTIVE: During the Investigate & Brainstorm stage, the members of your club will learn more about why we have to recycle batteries and think about why people throw them in the normal garbage. Then, they will begin brainstorming a Battery Blitz event.

STAGE LENGTH: Approximately 4 meetings

SUGGESTED BREAKDOWN OF MEETINGS:

MEETING 1: Batteries

KEY FOCUS: How batteries work and why we need to recycle them

1. Begin by talking about batteries. Here are a few sample questions to get you started:

- *Where are batteries used?*
- *Why do we use batteries?*
- *Who knows how batteries work?*

Suggested resources:

Battery Recycling (Behind the News, 2022)
https://youtu.be/Sx_pmOAeb0

This short video from the public Australian Broadcasting Corporation explains why batteries need to be recycled in a fun and kid-friendly way.

Explore the Secret Life of Batteries (call2recycle)
<https://www.call2recycle.org/explore-the-secret-life-of-batteries/>

Suggested resources:

How does a battery work? Simple and Easy Explanation for Kids (Phil McCordic, 2021) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VaT2s7FvTF0>

Curious Kids: how do batteries work? (Roger Clarke, 2019)
<https://theconversation.com/curious-kids-how-do-batteries-work-123023>

2. Talk about recycling batteries. Below are a few questions you can use to guide the discussion:

- *Why do you think can batteries be a problem for the environment?*
- *What do you think happens when we recycle them?*

MEETING 2: Recycling Batteries

KEY FOCUS: What is holding people back from recycling batteries?

1. Begin by sharing some statistics about batteries: [According to Statistics Canada](#)
 - 55% of Canadians recycle batteries at battery recycling centers
 - 23% throw them in the garbage
 - 15% just leave them at home

In the USA:

- The United States Environmental Protection Agency provides lots of information about the recycling of household batteries: <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/used-household-batteries>
- Call2Recycle offers information regarding the battery recycling laws in each state: <https://www.call2recycle.org/recycling-laws-by-state/>

2. Talking points:

- *Why do you think people don't recycle batteries?*
- *What would you say to convince them to recycle?*

3. Interactive Activity: Battery Recycling Skits

In pairs or small groups, club members create short skits where one person doesn't want to recycle batteries and the others must convince them to do so. Encourage the club members to use the information they have learned about battery recycling.

4. Each pair or group can present their skit to the group.

MEETING 3: Results and Game Plan

KEY FOCUS: What event could be held to encourage people to recycle batteries?

1. Begin by having the group members revisit the skits from the previous meeting and talk about why, despite the fact that batteries need to be recycled, some people don't recycle them.
2. In small groups, club members can create a mind map, on paper or online, to suggest answers to the following question: What kind of event could we do to encourage people to recycle batteries?
3. Look at the ideas together as a club and decide on an event to collect batteries for recycling.
4. Explain that in the next meeting, you will create a more detailed plan for your event.

To help you guide the brainstorming:

What problem we are trying to solve? Who are we targeting? Why will this event help? Can we realistically hold this event? How can we make people excited about this event?



Battery Blitz Mission STAGE 2: PLAN

STAGE OBJECTIVE: In the planning stage, club members will decide on everything that needs to be done and who will do it. The [Earth Rangers Clubs Planning Framework](#) below can help you guide the group in its planning and gives suggestions on how to break down the decisions per meeting. The [Earth Rangers Clubs Task Chart](#) will help keep track of decisions.

STAGE LENGTH: Approximately 3 meetings.

Earth Rangers Clubs Planning Framework MEETING 1: Project decisions

1. Begin by briefly discussing why is it important to make a plan for a project (for example, so we don't forget anything, to make sure things happen on time, etc.) Next, discuss what should be included in the plan.

For example:

- Details (who/when/where);
- What would make it a successful event or campaign;
- Materials;
- People who can help;
- Promotion;
- Calendar

2. Recap the project decisions and discuss event or campaign details:

- *Who: Who should we target? Everyone at school? Parents and kids or just kids? Why these people?*
- *When: What would be the best time of year? Day? How long should it last? One day or more? Select a date and time.*
- *Where: At the club's meeting location? In another location? Why would this be the best location?*

Have club members keep track of these decisions.

3. Give the event or campaign a name:

- In small groups, members brainstorm and suggest a name.
- Once all the names have been shared, every club member votes on their favourite name, but can't vote for the suggestion of their group.

Explain to the club members that you are going to continue making your plan next time.

MEETING 2: Success, Materials & Promotion

1. Begin talking about measuring success:

- *How will we know if our project is a success?*
- *What do we need to observe during the event or campaign?*
- *What details do we need to keep track of? (number of people participating, etc.)*

2. Next consider the materials and help that is need to carry out the project:

- *What do we need to carry out this project?*
- *Do we need to build something?*
- *Do we need paper/markers/etc.?*
- *Who do we need to help us with this project?*
- *Who do we need to ask for permission to carry out this event or campaign?*
- *Do we need to ask to reserve something?*

3. Finally, discuss promoting your event or campaign:

- *How can we tell people about this project?*
- *Where can we tell people about this project?*
- *Who should we tell about this project?*
- *What materials do we need?*
- *When should we put up posters/make announcements?*

Ideas for advertising:

- Local newspaper
- Community center or school website
- Social media
- Flyers in the community center or school
- Flyers in local businesses
- School Morning announcements
- Emails to parents

Explain to the club members that next time you are going to make a calendar to make sure that everything gets done.

If there is time left after discussing success, materials and promotion, your club can begin setting up the calendar.

MEETING 3: Calendar

1. As a club, make decisions about who will be responsible for what. The club can complete [Earth Rangers Club Task Chart](#) below to help keep track of decisions.

2. Looking at the plan, have the club members decide what will be done at the next few meetings. Help them determine what they need to have on hand to carry out their tasks (art materials, computers for research, etc.).



CLUBS TASK CHART

PROJECT NAME:

WHEN:

WHERE:

	task	due date	names	done
materials	<i>Get cardboard to make boxes</i>	<i>May 5th</i>	<i>Sarah & Ahmed</i>	

	task	due date	names	done
people to help	<i>Contact principal</i>	<i>May 12th</i>	<i>Seo-joon</i>	

	task	due date	names	done
promotion	<i>Make posters</i>	<i>May 26th</i>	<i>Marc, Wei, Lara</i>	

	task	due date	names	done
other				



Battery Blitz Mission STAGE 3: PREPARE

STAGE OBJECTIVE: In the **preparation stage**, club members carry out the preparation using the [Earth Rangers Clubs Task Chart](#) completed in Stage 2.

STAGE LENGTH: The number of meetings required for this stage depends on the type of event or campaign and the deadlines.

Gold star stickers, check marks, or other fun ways of marking completed tasks can help keep members engaged. While the members are preparing, put aside copies anything that might be useful for the post-event debrief.



Battery Blitz Mission

STAGE 4: EVENT OR CAMPAIGN

In the last meeting before the mission event, have the club fill out the [Earth Rangers Clubs Event or Campaign Plan](#) to decide on what needs to be done before, after, and during the event or campaign and who will be doing it. Make sure that everyone is clear on what their role is.

During the event, remind club members to make observations and take photos for the post-event or post-campaign debrief.



EVENT OR CAMPAIGN PLAN

	task	names
set up	<i>Set up tables and chairs</i>	<i>Sarah & Ahmed</i>

	task	names
during	<i>Welcome people as they arrive</i>	<i>Ahmed, Wei and Marc</i>

	task	names
after	<i>Put away tables and chairs</i>	<i>Lara and Sarah</i>
	<i>Take down posters</i>	<i>Kehinde</i>

	task	names
other		



Battery Blitz Mission

STAGE 5: REFLECT & CELEBRATE

The post-project stage is a key part of all Earth Rangers Clubs missions. It allows members to take a step back, reflect on their experience and develop an awareness of the skills needed to carry out projects to help protect the environment.

It is important to conclude the mission by celebrating the club's success. Recognizing the positive impact of their collective work is very empowering. It gives club members the opportunity to see that they can contribute to environmental action by making a difference in their community.

STAGE OBJECTIVE: In the **Reflect & Celebrate** stage, club members will analyse the impact of their project, share the results with the community, reflect on the project planning process and celebrate.

STAGE LENGTH: Approximately 4 meetings + time to share results

Once your club has finished the Reflect and Celebrate stage, complete the [Mission Form](#) on the [Earth Rangers Clubs Website](#) to receive your club's completion certificate.

Below is suggested plan for meetings of this stage:

MEETING 1: Event or Campaign Debrief

KEY FOCUS: The results of the event or campaign

1. Discuss the results of the event or campaign. The following questions can get the conversation started:
 - *How many people participated?*
 - *Did we accomplish what we wanted to accomplish?*
 - *Are the results what you thought they would be?*
 - *What is surprising?*
 - *How can we share the positive benefits of this event or campaign with the wider community?*
2. As a club, decide on the best way(s) to share the positive benefits and to encourage people to continue adopting sustainable habits.
3. Begin to prepare your decided means of sharing.

A few ideas for sharing:

Creating a video about the project

Writing a blurb for a local newsletter or social media site

Making a poster to display in the area where the event or campaign took place

MEETING 2: Sharing with the community

KEY FOCUS: Sharing the positive benefits of the event or campaign

1. Finish preparing your means of sharing
2. Make it public and share your club's experience and insight with the wider community

MEETING 3: Project Debrief

KEY FOCUS: What event could be held to encourage people to recycle batteries?

1. As a club, take time to analyze what went well and what could have been done differently in your project planning and execution. Some good starter questions are:
 - *Did anyone see anything you would change if we did this again?*
 - *What was something you think worked really well?*
 - *What were some problems we came across that we hadn't thought of before?*
 - *Who saw something that made them feel like this was successful?*

The [Earth Rangers Clubs Debrief Journal](#) can help you keep a written record of the mission experience.

2. Fill out and submit the [Mission Form](#) on the [Earth Rangers Clubs Website](#).
3. Decide how you will celebrate your success at your next meeting.

Let club members talk and (respectfully) disagree with one another, but make sure each member has the ability to share if they choose.

To help guide the conversation, it can be helpful to walk through the event or campaign in chronological order.

MEETING 3: Project Debrief

KEY FOCUS: Celebrating a job well done!

1. Enjoy your celebrating your success!
2. Wrap up your celebration by selecting your club's next mission.

Pizza party

Personalizing desks or cubbies with their favourite sustainable swap coloured in picture

Picture of the club posted in main hall and announcement recognition

Eco-craft day where they can make take home sustainable things (seed bombs with native plants, pollinator homes, egg carton seedlings, bird feeders made out of plastic bottles, etc.)

Eco-friendly movie and pajama party day



CLUBS DEBRIEF JOURNAL

what went well in each stage?

brainstorming:

planning:

preparing:

the event or campaign:

what could we do better next time in each stage? how?

brainstorming:

planning:

preparing:

the event or campaign:

what did we learn?