



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/>

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?*

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>

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?