



recycle
your
electricals

Tackling the issue of single-use vapes

Thursday 12 December 2024

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What we will cover in the next 20 minutes

1. Who are Material Focus
2. Vapes: the issue
3. Government updates
4. Local authorities - how we can help
5. Reducing risk of fires
5. Questions

Who are Material Focus?

- **Independent, not-for-profit** organisation on a mission to save the precious materials inside electricals from going to waste
- Our role is to **improve the UK e-waste system, and inspire the UK public** to reuse and recycle their electricals
- Funded through the Extended Producer Responsibility, UK waste electrical (WEEE) regulations

Insights

We **identify, produce and share insights** to improve the system

Investments

We **identify and fund projects** which make it easier to reuse and recycle; and ones which encourage circular design

Inspiration

We **inspire, educate and encourage the UK public** to fix, donate, sell and recycle their unwanted electricals

Vapes

The issue



E-waste is the **fastest growing waste stream in the world**

We are **buying 7.7 million** single-use vapes per week, (doubled vs 2022)

We are **binning 5 million** single-use vapes per week

That's **8 per second** (quadrupled since 2022)

Hidden batteries inside vapes can **cause fires if crushed or damaged**

Littered vapes **harm wildlife, land and waterways**

Source: Material Focus vape tracking



All vapes, including 'single-use' vapes are actually **recyclable**

Up to **80% of materials** within vapes can be recycled



5,000 electric vehicle batteries worth of lithium being thrown away per year*

*Source: Material Focus
vape tracking

Government update October 2024

Ban on the sale of single-use vapes

Government update - ban on the sale of single-use vapes

Single-use vape ban across **the UK from 1 June 2025**

- Includes all single-use vapes across the UK
- Businesses can not sell any single-use vapes after **1 June 2025**
- Retailers must continue to **take-back and recycle customers' single-use vapes** post 1st June 2025
- **Producer and retailer obligations are unchanged**

Government update December 2024

Response to the producer responsibility
consultation

Government update - producer responsibility consultation

Consultation on reforming the producer responsibility system for waste electricals held between December 2023 and March 2024.

Update to the regulations to be introduced in the UK from **2025** onwards.

1. A new category for vapes

Separate data reporting and collection targets to be established for vapes.

2. New obligations for online marketplaces

Online marketplaces will be required to take on producer obligations.

A new category for vapes

- Vapes are currently reported under category 7 of the regulations which covers toys, leisure, and sports equipment.
- A new category for vapes and vape-related products means that separate collection targets for these products will be set under the WEEE reporting obligations.
- **Vape producers will need to report the weight of products placed on the UK market under this new category.**

New obligations for online marketplaces

- **Online marketplaces will take on obligations that currently apply to companies defined as producers within the existing regulations.**
- The new requirements will apply to online marketplaces only in respect of equipment placed on the UK market by their overseas based sellers.
- This means that they will contribute to the cost of collection, treatment, re-use, and recycling of waste electricals.

Local authorities

How we can help

Current recommendations and advice

1. **Ask your producer compliance scheme or partner waste management company** for local guidance to give to residents about recycling vapes. Drop off points differ by area.
2. **Display our vape recycling poster** at HWRCs, advising on the safe disposal and recycling of vapes
3. **Create social media posts** using our **vapes communication toolkit**. It includes ready to use social media assets with suggested copy.

Not yet created an account? **It takes 2 minutes to do** - just sign up as a local authority

Vapes communication toolkit

RECYCLE VAPES HERE

Batteries inside vapes can cause fires when binned

Can you remove the battery* from your vape?

*Some rechargeable vapes only. Do not try to remove the battery from single-use vapes.

YES: recycle battery in batteries bin, vape in electricals bin

NO: put the whole vape in the electricals bin

Thank you for recycling your vapes safely.



No vapes here

Scan the QR code to find your nearest vape recycling drop off point please



Mae dros
5 miliwn+
o fêps untro yn cael eu taflu i'r bin bob wythnos

INDUSTRY BRIEFINGS

Vapes recycling: An industry briefing for retailers and producers

Recycle your vapes here

If you have old vapes, you can recycle them in-store for free

Vapes, and anything else with a plug, battery or cable, can be recycled and turned into something new.

Simply drop off your old vapes for recycling here.

To find out more, scan here or search recycleyourelectricals.org.uk/recyclehere

Recycle your electricals here

Buying a new electrical item? Recycle the one you're replacing in-store, for free

Anything with a plug, battery or cable can be recycled and turned into something new.

Simply hand your electricals to a staff member, and they'll do the rest.

To find out more, scan here or search recycleyourelectricals.org.uk/recyclehere

Materials in single-use vapes thrown away every year could power

5,000 electric vehicles

5 million+ single-use vapes are binned every week

Never bin them, recycle your vapes

Free collection and recycling of vapes from HWRCs

Free collection and recycling of vapes from LA HWRCs - funded by **The Producer Balancing System, regulation 34**

1. **Contact** your Producer Compliance Scheme for advice to set it up
2. **Register** with Anthesis PBS system
3. **Collect** vapes in separate recycling bin at HWRC
4. Clearly **communicate** separate recycling bins to the public



Battery fires

The issue

Battery fires higher than ever

- Battery fires in UK bin lorries and waste sites **increased 71% last year**
- From **700 to 1,200 fires** in 2022 vs 2023
- **1.6bn batteries binned** in the last year, **over 3,000 a minute**
 - Including **over 1.1bn electricals** containing hidden lithium-ion batteries
 - Almost **50m loose batteries** binned in the last year

Source: [Material Focus research](#)

Key stats and findings

- UK adults admitted that on average they'd **binned at least 24 batteries**, this included fifteen electricals containing batteries and 9 loose batteries
- This included **260m vapes**
- Nearly half of UK adults unaware that electrical items containing chargeable built-in batteries can catch fire if crushed or damaged

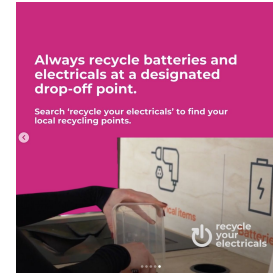
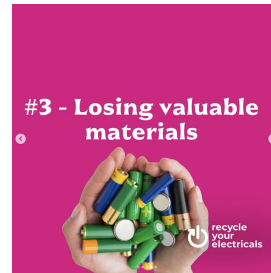
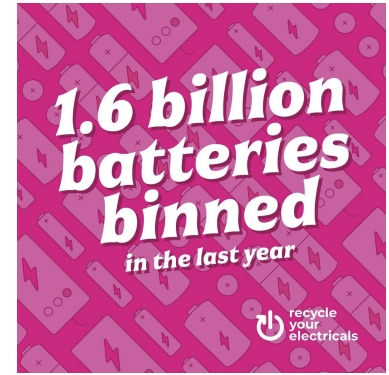
Source: [Material Focus research](#)

***'Stop Battery Fires'* campaign**

Battery campaign summary



Mark Andrews
National Fire Chiefs Council Waste Fires Lead



National Fire Chiefs Council video

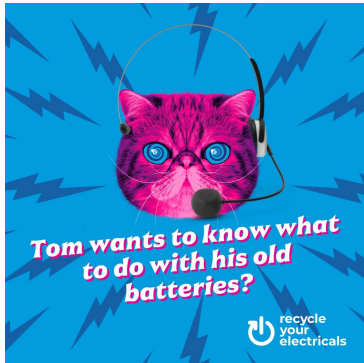
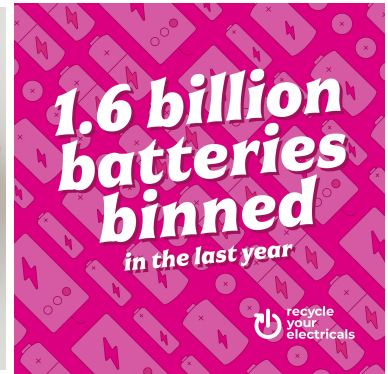


Mark Andrews

National Fire Chiefs Council Waste Fires Lead



Social media



Billboards



**Never bin
hidden batteries**

Hidden batteries in electrical items can spark dangerous fires when crushed in recycling and bin lorries.

Search 'recycle your electricals' to find your local drop-off points.

recycle your electricals

Together with

Poster, leaflet, bin sticker

HUMANS OF THE UK

Never bin hidden batteries

Electricals like cameras, vapes and even kids toys all have batteries hidden inside. But if these batteries are thrown in the bin, they can get crushed in bin lorries and recycling centres which can spark dangerous fires.

Repeat after me my furless friends — never bin loose or hidden batteries. Always recycle them separately from your household rubbish or recycling.

Search 'recycle your electricals' to find your local battery and electrical drop-off points.

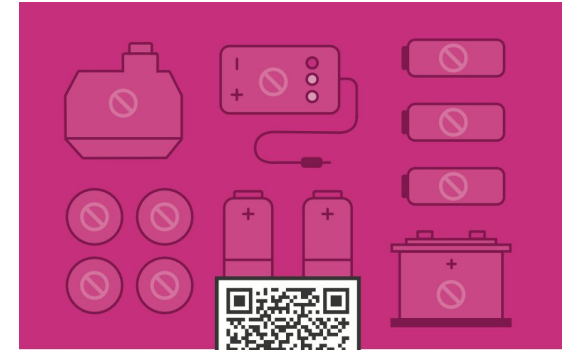


HUMANS OF THE UK

Never bin hidden batteries

Hidden batteries in electrical items can start fires when crushed in recycling and bin lorries. Always recycle electricals and batteries separately from household rubbish or recycling.

Search 'Recycle Your Electricals' to find your local electrical and battery drop off points.



No loose batteries here

Scan the QR code to find your nearest battery recycling drop off point please



HWRC posters



Download any of these from our [Material Focus Partnerships website](#)

Print and online coverage

416

Pieces of media coverage

376m+

Total Reach

The Guardian

UK public warned after huge rise in fires caused by binned batteries

Fire chief says incorrect disposal of devices powered by lithium-ion batteries are 'disaster waiting to happen'



INDEPENDENT

Battery fires from discarded electronics on the rise, study warns

Recycling campaigners have urged the public to properly recycle their old electronic devices.

Martyn Landi • Friday 10 May 2024 00:01 BST



Broadcast coverage

202
Pieces of coverage

164m+
Total Reach



Any questions?

Contact

The 'Recycle Your Electricals' campaign is led by Material Focus

Material Focus is a not-for-profit organisation - our vision is of a world where materials are never wasted

Please follow us and share our content on social media



facebook.com/recycleyourelectricals



[@recycleelectric](https://twitter.com/recycleelectric)



[@recycleyourelectricals_](https://instagram.com/recycleyourelectricals)



www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk



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