



Voice of the Recycling Industry™

ISRI is the voice of the recycling industry, promoting safe, economically sustainable, and environmentally responsible recycling through networking, advocacy, and education.

ISRI 2023 Fly-in Talking Points

Maintaining a Stable & Safe Supply Chain for Batteries and EVs

THE ASK:

- Include the recycled materials industry in all conversations related to policy and consumer education surrounding lithium-ion batteries, as well as electric vehicles and their batteries, to maintain a safe and stable manufacturing supply chain.

Topline Message:

- Batteries have become pervasive within manufactured products – from small “button” batteries to large format electric vehicle (EV) batteries. The public must be educated about the safety risks these batteries can pose during their use as well as when devices and products containing these batteries are wrongfully placed into the recycling stream, resulting in fires during transport and in recycling facilities.
- The recycled materials industry recycles upwards of 17 million automobiles annually, and produces the recycled steel, copper, and aluminum needed for both domestic and global manufacturers – **and must be part of any policy discussions occurring around EVs.**
- There is bipartisan support for the U.S. to transition to a decarbonized economy and the recycled materials industry has an integral role in providing the high-quality materials to achieve this goal. Thus, the industry must be a part of policy discussions and decisions related to meeting national commitments to transition to a decarbonized economy to maintain a safe and stable manufacturing supply chain.

Why it Matters:

- Policy makers and other stakeholders are engaged in discussions to make decisions that will impact the recycled materials industry and its operations.
- It is critical that we are part of these discussions so we can offer expertise and also make any needed adjustments to processes and technologies for handling these batteries and vehicles.
- When batteries are improperly managed they may self-ignite and pose serious dangers to the public and our industry.
- Small button batteries can pose serious health risks if swallowed by children.

State of Play:

- As lithium-ion batteries become more prevalent in our everyday lives, fire incidents are increasing due to improper handling and disposal. Most consumers are not aware of the potential dangers when batteries are improperly managed in their homes or end up in the recycling system.
- ISRI is partnering with stakeholders - including the automotive industry, the steel industry, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), EV battery recyclers and others - as well as federal and state policy makers - to raise awareness of the expertise and significant role of the recycled materials industry and to help develop a comprehensive national strategy for managing batteries and EVs.

Political Situation:

- Lawmakers from both political parties are becoming more aware of the need for increased consumer awareness after several large fires at homes, apartment buildings, and neighborhoods, caused by batteries when they overheat, and during transport in collection vehicles and in recycling facilities. They are also unaware of the increased risk to children from accidentally swallowing batteries – visits to ERs due to batteries being swallowed have doubled in the last decade.
- The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is responsible for making the public aware of the dangers associated with consumer devices including the risks of fire and swallowing, among others