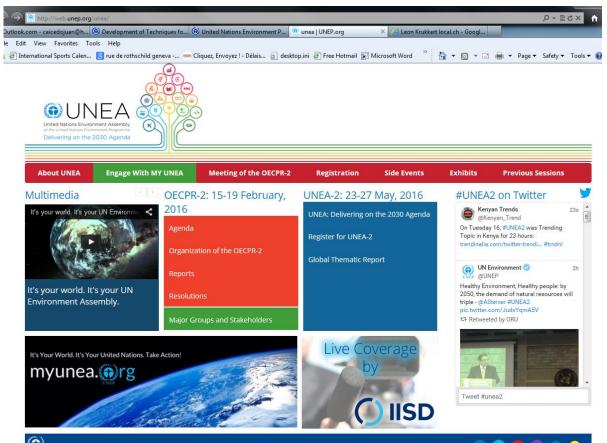


Workshop on Sound Management of Used Lead Acid Batteries: An Introduction

Guatemala, Ciudad de Guatemala, 24-25 Febrero 2016
UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch and Regional Office for
Latin America and the Caribbean









Promoting Environmentally-Sound Lead Battery Recycling

- Deeply concerned about the health and environmental impacts from used lead battery recycling, the involvement of the informal sector in smelting lead batteries particularly in developing countries, and the lack of adequate infrastructure needed to safely recycle the rapidly growing supply of used lead batteries in low and middleincome countries,
- Recalling the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and the goal that by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment,

- Recalling the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and the goal that by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment,
- Welcoming the progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach to
 International Chemicals Management and its vision to reduce the adverse effects of
 chemicals on human health and the environment and noting the importance of
 achieving the 2020 goal of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World
 Summit on Sustainable Development,

- Recalling the Geneva Statement on the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste
 of the Conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm
 conventions expressing the Ministers' willingness to ensure that chemicals and
 waste aspects of sustainable development are appropriately considered and
 reflected in the outcomes of the post-2015 sustainable development goals,
- Noting the decisions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its
 first session, including a call for an increased role for the United Nations
 Environment Programme in promoting air quality as a priority to protect public
 health and to work to further the goal of reducing environmental emissions and lead
 exposures,

- **1.** <u>Affirm</u> its strong determination to promote environmentally-sound lead battery recycling in all regions to create an exemplary sustainable industry;
- **2. Strongly encourage** member states to:
 - a) Adopt laws and regulations to develop national collection schemes encouraging extended producer responsibility to effectively consolidate used lead batteries to ensure that an adequate supply are directed to highly efficient, large-scale plants with appropriate pollution controls.
 - b) Adopt regulatory mechanisms to govern emissions, ambient air standards, wastewater discharge criteria, occupational exposure standards, and requirements for capital reserves for environmental cleanup following plant closures.

- c) Work cooperatively on adopting multilateral agreements to consolidate used lead batteries for processing at regional recycling facilities including plants located across international borders especially for countries and island nations with smaller battery markets in accordance with provisions of the Basel and Bamako Conventions;
- **3.** <u>Requests</u> the Executive Director to work cooperatively with governments and other stakeholders in a multisectorial and multistakeholder approach to build capacity in low and middle-income countries to implement regulatory frameworks and programs to encourage modernization of the lead battery industry by:
 - a) Fostering dialogue with governments to help usher in more comprehensive regulatory frameworks to bring needed improvements to the industry.

- b) Encouraging and sponsoring technical training, including the use of peer-topeer courses utilizing specialized staff from environmental agencies to work with counterparts in low and middle-income countries.
- c) Encouraging international cooperation for the development of tracking systems to trace shipments of used lead batteries from generators to recycling facilities abroad through a system that is transparent with public reporting on government websites.
- d) Helping to develop and promote independent third party certification for lead battery recycling plants that is based on industry-specific measures of quantifiable performance targets to encourage verifiable improvements;

- e) Coordinating a multistakeholder group to develop lending guidelines outlining minimal environmental and occupational standards for lead battery recycling facilities and then working with private and multilateral lending institutions to adopt the resulting guidelines to be incorporated into lending policies and underwriting standards;
- f) Investigating opportunities to encourage increased investment and financing for developing modern. large-scale national and regional lead battery recycling facilities with specified minimum environmental and occupational safety standards; and
- **4.** <u>Requests</u> the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the activities listed above at the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.