

9th European Lead Battery Conference Berlin

The Green Lead™ Initiative

Last year at the Lead Conference in Frankfurt Mick Roche explained how the vision of a global stewardship program for lead products had developed into concept that could ensure the sound environmental management of lead and lead based products from the mine, through smelting and refining, product manufacture, usage and recovery.

As lead acid batteries account for about 75% of lead consumption, it seemed logical to initially focus on the stewardship of lead acid batteries.

In principle, this means that a Green Lead Program would direct all sectors in the life cycle of a Lead Acid Battery, that is, the Mines, the Smelters, the Battery manufacturers, Consumers and the Recyclers in practices and procedures that minimize or negate any potential adverse impacts on either the environment or the population.

Such a Program on a global scale would be a huge undertaking and beyond current resources. However, a couple of well chosen Pilot schemes to roll out the initiative would be a real test of the scheme and provide valuable feedback for the development of Green Lead.

Nonetheless, such an undertaking would require the participation of the relevant industry sectors, certain government agencies, international non-governmental bodies, consumer groups and environmental NGOs.

London Workshop

In order to promote and structure such a Pilot Scheme and to broaden the participation in any proposal, a Workshop was held in London in April this year.

The aims of the Workshop were:

1. To achieve a shared vision of Green Lead and secure widespread support for the concept.
2. To agree to a program to fully develop the methodology, structure and standards for Green Lead.
3. To agree a management mechanism for the development phases of Green Lead.

4. To secure funding for the key development phases of Green Lead and a mechanism for managing the funds.
5. To identify at least one company in the mining, smelting, battery manufacturing and battery recycling sectors willing to participate in pilot audits as part of the development phase.

London Workshop

At the conclusion of the Workshop, consensus was reached on:

1. A work program to engage additional stakeholders, in particular, battery manufacturers, car makers, and NGOs;
2. A Project Steering Committee to oversee the ongoing work program. Representation would come from [ICMM](#), [ILZSG](#), [UNEP](#), the [LDAI](#), [WWF](#), [SBC](#) and several producer companies, such as [BHP-Billiton](#).
3. A number of working groups were examined and subsequently a small team was established comprising of representation from [EcoFutures](#), [ILMC](#) and [ERM CVS](#). This team would be tasked to design a Green Lead standard, identify Pilot Program opportunities and develop certification options.
4. Funds were pledged for the initial phases by companies and industry associations with an interest in Green Lead and included, the LDAI, the ILZSG, [Anglo American](#) and BHP-Billiton. It was agreed that the funds would be administered by the ILZSG.
5. It was also agreed to convene a second Workshop in Vienna in October to review progress and fast track the development of the certification and audit procedures. Although, this second workshop is now being convened in London in April next year.

Green Lead™ and the Developing World

Whilst none of you will doubt our ability to test the Green Lead concept in any of the OECD countries, some people may wonder how we might set up a Pilot Scheme in the Developing World. Well, there are a number of potential candidates, two of which are certified to ISO 14001.

PRI in the Republic of the Philippines

Part of the RAMCAR Group and fully integrated with the [Motolite Battery Manufacturing Company](#) with over 300 retail outlets.

Fundicion del Centro – Venezuela

Fundicion del Centro is part of the [Duncan Battery Group](#) and is an outstanding example of ESM. ULAB are delivered to the plant from Duncan's 33 retail outlets in accordance with the Basel Technical Guidelines.

Baterias de El Salvador – El Salvador

This Company is not ISO 14001 Certified, but is Environmentally Sound and integrated with the [Record Battery Manufacturing Plant](#).

PRI has already agreed to be considered a candidate for a Pilot Program and their Vice President will be joining us in London next April. Other companies have been approached and are considering the initiative as an opportunity to confirm their green credentials.

Green Lead™ Cycle

We appreciate that carefully selecting integrated companies already environmentally sound will not answer the questions raised by the environmentally unfriendly activities of the “informal smelters and battery reconditioners”.

Nevertheless, an examination of the Green Lead battery cycle will help to explain how the Green Lead code of conduct works in practice and eventually eliminates the threats posed by the “informal” sector.

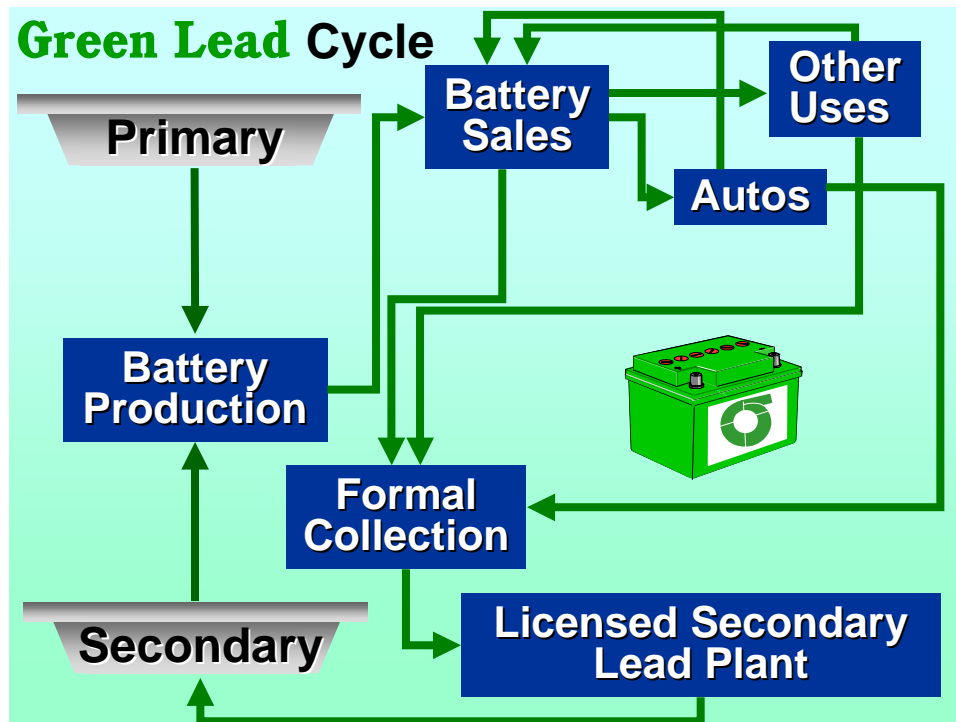
Firstly, primary lead is despatched to the battery manufacturer and subsequently Lead Acid Batteries are delivered to the retailer. As we know, the bulk of battery sales are to the automotive sector, but some will be sold for other uses.

Used batteries are usually returned to the retailer for either a refund or a purchase discount and in turn, the retailer will send the ULAB to a collection center for sorting and packaging. Some consumers will also send their ULAB directly to a collection center.

The collection center ships ULAB in bulk to a secondary smelter for recycling and the refined ingots will be sold to the battery manufacturer for the cycle to begin again.

In those instances where there are unregulated smelters or “informal” battery reconditioners operating, there is the distinct possibility that by offering a premium for a ULAB above that offered under a deposit/refund scheme, that ULAB will find their way into the “informal” sector.

In the informal sector, where possible, the ULAB will be reconditioned and returned to customers looking for a cheap battery.



The **Green Lead Cycle**[⌘]

Used battery plates and those ULAB deemed beyond repair will be recycled without much recourse to environmental and health controls. In many cases, the lead bullion produced is often marketed to battery manufacturers for use as terminal posts.

It is envisaged that under a Green Lead license, battery manufacturers will only be able to purchase lead ingots from a primary or secondary Green Lead supplier and an outlet for the informal sector will be eliminated.

One exception to the principle of not accepting ULAB or reconditioned components from the informal sector will be a Green Lead licensed secondary smelter. Any leaded waste materials offloaded by the informal sector will be accepted as feedstock at a GL secondary plant. The material will be recycled in an ESM and designated as a GL approved product. In this way, ULAB and leaded waste in the informal sector can be recovered in the most environmentally desirable way.

[⌘] Animated Powerpoint Slide Presentation - Use the right mouse button and click on the lead ingot; from the menu select "Presentation Object" and click on "Show" from the drop down menu. Press "ESC" when the animation has finished to return to the Word document.

It is anticipated that in this way those working in the informal sector will either get out of the ULAB business or become legitimate collectors of ULAB.

So a Green Lead regime has tremendous potential in the developing world as model to assist in the elimination of poor recovery practices.

The Green Lead initiative, once in place, will facilitate the development of environmentally sound practices, safe working conditions and create a level of product stewardship at the forefront of any commodity.

London Workshop

April 2005.

Watch the web site for details.

www.greenlead.com

