

# GET INVOLVED MAKE A DIFFERENCE



## DEAR PARENTS,

Your child's school has signed up for the Ontario Schools Battery Recycling Challenge (OSBRC) by Raw Materials Company. The Challenge officially starts on October 16, 2017 (Waste Reduction Week) and runs until April 20, 2018 (Friday before Earth Day).

## WHAT IS THE OSBRC?

The OSBRC is a recycling competition between 125 elementary and secondary schools across Ontario. Its purpose is to teach children and their families about the proper way to handle, store and recycle batteries at home and at school. Since 2014, students and their families have recycled more than 3 million single-use batteries. The OSBRC prize pool has paid out more than \$37,000 to winning schools and every year, 10% is donated to SickKids Children's Hospital on behalf of all schools.

## STUDENT MISSIONS

With your consent, your child can sign up for Student Missions. If they complete 3 missions they will be entered into a draw for one of ten \$50 VISA Gift Cards. If they complete all 5 missions by Family Day, they'll have a chance to win a family trip to Great Wolf Lodge in Niagara Falls! For more information and to register, please visit:

[www.rawmaterials.com/ontario-school-recycling-challenge/student/](http://www.rawmaterials.com/ontario-school-recycling-challenge/student/)

## YOU CAN HELP!

For Mission 1, we ask students to make a battery recycling container. If your child completes Mission 1, bring that recycling container to work and tell everyone everyone about it. When it's full, bring it home so your child can bring it to school. We'd also encourage you to learn more about how to store batteries in your home and how to prepare them for recycling. To learn more, please visit: [www.rawmaterials.com/page/education/prepare-batteries/](http://www.rawmaterials.com/page/education/prepare-batteries/)

Remember, this program is for primary single-use batteries (non-rechargeable). They are the typical household batteries that come in various sizes including AA, AAA, C, D, 6V, 9V and button cell.

Sincerely,

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# STUDENT CHECKLIST FOR SUCCESS!



Do you want to recycle a bunch of batteries? Recycling is easy, but sometimes letting people know they need to recycle can be a challenge. Help spread the word and use this checklist to keep on track!

**SPREAD THE WORD!** Every chance you get, tell your family and friends about battery recycling. Ask everyone to give you their old batteries so you can recycle them at school.

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**CREATE!** Make your own battery recycling bin for your home! Find a plastic container with a lid (reuse an old yogurt tub). Decorate your container and make sure that it's clearly marked BATTERY RECYCLING! Be sure to store your recycling container in a cool dry area and out of the reach of small children.

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**READY SET DRAW!** Create a recycling poster to hang up at school! Include a battery recycling fact on the poster to remind your classmates, teachers and parents how important battery recycling is!

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**INVESTIGATE!** Where are the batteries in your home? Complete the Battery Recycling Activity Sheet to find out! You will be surprised to find batteries in every room!

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**CHECK IT OUT!** Check out the OSBRC Leaderboard to see the Top 10 schools competing for prizes in Ontario. How many more batteries does your school need to recycle to be at the top?

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**ASK YOUR PARENTS FOR HELP!** Ask your parents to bring home the batteries they use at work so that you can recycle them at school. Don't forget to ask them to register you for the Student Missions for a chance to win one of ten \$50 VISA gift cards or a family trip to Great Wolf Lodge in Niagara Falls!

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If you are reading a printed copy of this checklist, please refer to [www.rawmaterials.com/ontario-school-recycling-challenge/student/](http://www.rawmaterials.com/ontario-school-recycling-challenge/student/) to access each of the resources mentioned above.



# 8 BATTERY RECYCLING GREEN FACTS



1. Did you know that the average Canadian uses 20 single-use batteries each year?

Think about all of the electronic gadgets you have. Most gaming controllers use at least two AA batteries. Do you have a camera or an optical mouse for your computer? Take an inventory of all of the batteries that you use and make the responsible choice to recycle them when they no longer hold a charge.

2. Did you know that metal is infinitely recyclable?

It is, and when you choose to recycle it you're saving up to 90% of the energy it takes to mine and refine metal from ore. The average alkaline battery is 25% steel and nickel. 100% of the steel and nickel recovered from alkaline batteries is used in the manufacture of cars and appliances.

3. Did you know that some batteries contain heavy metals?

Some batteries contain heavy metals such as mercury, lead, cadmium, and nickel. When a battery is put into the garbage, the casing breaks down and the insides leach into the soil at the landfill and contaminate the aquifer below. When batteries are incinerated along with household garbage, some of the metals escape into the atmosphere and concentrate in the ash that remains after the combustion process.

4. Did you know batteries make up less than 1% of all waste in the landfill?

It's true, but that 1% is responsible for more than 80% of all the heavy metals found in the landfill.

5. Did you know that Ontario recycles more primary single-use batteries than any other province in Canada?

In 2016, there were 6,647,000 kilograms of primary single-use batteries available for recycling in Ontario. Ontario residents recycled 3,226,000 kilograms or 49% of what was available.

We've come a long way since 2009, when Canadians were only recycling 5% of what was available.

6. Did you know that 35% of Ontarians improperly dispose of their used batteries?

A Stewardship Ontario survey (2009) discovered that among those people that do not recycle their batteries properly:

- 47% did not know where to recycle them
- 39% were not aware that batteries needed to be recycled.

So, even though you know that batteries can be recycled, not everyone does. Please help spread the word by telling your friends and family that all batteries must be recycled.

7. Did you know 100% of the materials in each alkaline battery you recycle in Ontario is recovered and reused in new products?

Its true! Using a mechanical process to break alkaline batteries apart, Raw Materials Company is able to recover 100% of the steel, zinc, manganese, potassium, paper and plastic. All of the materials are reused locally without additives or refinement.

8. Did you know zinc is one of the world's most commonly used metals?

Approximately 30% of the zinc today comes from recycled sources... like recycled batteries. Raw Materials Company is able to recover the zinc from the batteries that you recycle and reuse it as a micro-nutrient additive in fertilizer.

Farmers that use our micro-nutrient additive are able to increase their crop yields. This is important considering our growing population and the need to make efficient use of our existing farmland.

