

B.I.G. News #3 – September 2020 Update from the Chair

Tēnā koutou

I hope you are all keeping well. The Core Delivery Team was hard at work during the most recent Covid-19 lockdown in Auckland which we found tougher than the first, but we're keeping hopeful for Level 1.

Check out our new [video](#) summarising our work to-date to help inform people about B.I.G.'s activities. Feel free to share it via your comms channels and on social media.

I was also invited to talk about product stewardship in a circular economy in a [webinar hosted by consultancy thinkstep](#). I used B.I.G. as the case study. View the webinar [here](#).

We have three milestones to deliver to the Ministry for the Environment and we're pleased to have delivered the **Milestone 1 report** which you're welcome to read [here](#). **Milestone 2** is due at the end of January and **Milestone 3**, the final proposed product stewardship scheme design, is due at the end of April 2020.

We're also going to be setting up a final B.I.G. sub-working group: the Battery Users Group (BUG) so see the section from Duncan (Eunomia) below for more info.

Finally, we are delighted to bring you our first *B.I.G. conversation*, with UBCO CEO and Managing Director Tim Allan, talking about UBCO's new product stewardship scheme. If you'd like your organisation to be featured in a B.I.G. Conversation, please contact sarah@big.org.nz

- Juhi Shareef, Chair B.I.G.

Key action for B.I.G. members

Please complete [this survey](#) on large batteries by Friday the 18 September. This survey is the first opportunity to have input into designing a scheme that works for your organisation. If at first glance the survey does not seem relevant to your organisation please persist with completing it as the last set of questions about scheme design is definitely relevant to everyone.

B.I.G. Product Stewardship Research Work Programme

The research work programme is progressing well. We submitted the milestone one report on schedule, and we are now into milestone two.

In many ways milestone two is where the guts of the research work will happen. The biggest part of this is gathering the views of all the stakeholders. The first step has been putting together an online survey ([see item on the previous page](#)).

The survey should give us an overall picture of who is doing what in the large battery space as well as providing an initial indication of views on a product stewardship scheme design. Your views are very valuable so please take the time to complete the survey. We will collate the responses we receive and reflect the key findings back out to everyone.

As milestone 2 progresses there will be other opportunities to engage, and we may be in touch with some of you to have deeper discussions or participate in workshops.

The Ministry for the Environment released their product stewardship scheme design guidelines at the same time they announced batteries as one of six priority products on 29 July. The confirmation of batteries as a priority product together with the design guidelines provides a clear focus and structure for building a compliant scheme, and this will help streamline the research work.

Finally, we are working on some Terms of Reference to establish a Battery Users Group (B.U.G. of course). The focus of this group will be on end users/consumers to find out what characteristics of a scheme are important for them to ensure high consumer participation.

- Duncan Wilson, Eunomia, Lead Researcher for B.I.G.

BIH Update

We've just held our second Battery Innovation Hub (BIH) meeting with more than 30 attending. We have welcomed many new members to the group since that first meeting and there has been a lot of work behind-the-scenes between these two opportunities to talk face-to-face or screen-to-screen in this case. The key BIH updates include:

Metalman NZ have partnered with Envirostream Australia (Melbourne) to establish an effective end-of-life solution for lithium and nickel based batteries. An export permit application has been submitted to the NZ EPA to export these batteries to Envirostream. Metalman will update the group once the license has been granted.

Technical issues prevented member ITRecyla providing an update during the meeting but they are pleased to announce plans for their end-of-life battery processing facility in Seaview, Wellington which they hope will be operational by the end of this year.

We are still looking to connect any organisations that have end-of-life/use batteries with those that are developing second-life battery products. Following our request in the last B.I.G. News we connected Astara Technologies with the owner of a used battery for their ongoing product development.

Trialing the tracking of batteries from when they enter NZ through to end-of-life helps to inform the B.I.G. milestone two, Dynamics of the Value Chain. To help inform this milestone, we will hold workshops to identify: stakeholders in the battery chain of custody; enabling features; challenges and to make recommendations. We are requesting volunteers to participate in these workshops who represent:

For EV batteries:

- New vehicle importer
- Used vehicle importer
- EV battery refurbisher
- Second-life battery developer

And for stationary or electricity storage batteries:

- Battery importer
- Battery reseller
- Battery installer
- Logistics
- End-of-life processor

Please email jo.phillips@vector.co.nz by Friday 18 September if you or someone in your organisation can participate. Please get in contact if your role isn't listed above but you can contribute to workshopping tracking batteries. - **Jo Phillips, Chair of BIH**

S&LG Update

The B.I.G Safety and Logistics Group is grateful to have received research funding support from Vector. We have now confirmed the parameters for our research and have a researcher, Hannah Blumhardt (see below), starting on this project to collate international knowledge to identify safe handling, transport and storage practices for large batteries after first use.

We note with concern the increasing number of fire incidents involving batteries in New Zealand and internationally and we are looking forward to being able to provide well informed guidance for industries, local authorities, regulators and communities involved in managing the risks of large batteries after their initial use.

- Peter Wilding, Chair S&LG

Introducing Hannah

Hannah has a background in law, policy, history and international relations and professional experience working in all branches of government, as well as NGOs and academia. She is active in the zero waste community through The Rubbish Trip, which she co-founded with her partner, Liam Prince. Hannah is really excited to be drafting the guidelines for the Safety and Logistics Group as she has a passion for product stewardship - she is Coordinator of the New Zealand Product Stewardship Council and is on MfE's Technical Advisory Group for the Container Return Scheme Design Project for beverage containers.



If you know of any health and safety guidance that may be helpful for Hannah's work please contact her on hannah@eunomia.co.nz

Sharepoint links

To access the resource library click [here](#)

To access the stakeholders list click [here](#)

And don't forget to check out the [B.I.G. website](#) which has past newsletters and news item, plus videos.

Seeking 2ndlife batteries!

Teina Boasa-Dean is a wahine with a mission. Along with other wāhine in their kāinga of Rūātoki, Te Uruwera, Teina is working on an expansion of the māra kai (food gardens) to encourage self-sufficiency, access to healthy kai, and the passing on the knowledge of tūpuna.

Part of the vision is to install a micro-hydro system to power greenhouses in order to keep nurturing seedlings over the colder months.

Teina has now been offered expertise in this area and at a later date, once the scheme is designed, will be looking for some secondlife batteries. To find out more watch the video [here](#).

DO YOU HAVE ANY NEWS OR RESOURCES TO SHARE?

Please email sarah@big.org.nz if you have any news to share or to upload anything to the resource library. We'd love to hear from you!