

B.I.G. News #4 – Hakihea - December 2020 Update from the Chair

Tēnā koutou

What a year! We're lucky that here in Aotearoa we're able to go on our summer break and celebrate Christmas and New Year with our whānau without too much concern about Covid-19. I'm aware our family and friends around the world are not so fortunate and are eagerly awaiting a vaccine. Here in NZ, the B.I.G. whānau is ready for a break after a year of making great progress on co-creating a circular product stewardship scheme for large batteries. Here are the B.I.G. highlights of the year:

April - July

In April, B.I.G. received a green light on funding from the Ministry for the Environment (MfE). This funding, in addition to industry and EECA funding, enabled the Core Delivery Team to kick off work co-designing recommendations for a **circular product stewardship scheme for large batteries**. In July, the Core Delivery Team delivered the **first of three Milestone reports** to the MfE.

The team from Waikato University behind the initiative *Āmiomio Aotearoa: a Circular Economy for the Wellbeing of New Zealand* have a workstream on energy / batteries. They were delighted to see the work B.I.G. had done setting the circular economy context for large batteries in [Vector's New Energy Futures Paper](#) and reached out to us in July. Their five-year MBIE-funded programme 'aims to deliver a transformative multidisciplinary platform that integrates the many essential bodies of knowledge, research communities, novel insights and practical actions that can contribute to circular economy success in New Zealand'. We look forward to exploring synergies in the coming months.

On 29th July, the MfE announced the list of **six priority products for regulated product stewardship** which included **electronic products**. To ensure alignment between electronic product and large battery schemes the B.I.G. Core Delivery Team has been regularly engaging with **Michael Dudley** Senior Policy Manager, TechCollect NZ, who is managing the co-design process for this [E-products scheme proposal](#).

August - September

In August and September, we surveyed B.I.G. members to help us design likely large battery pathways. Member feedback is absolutely vital to designing a scheme that works for us all, so a **massive thank you** to all who took part. In September we launched the two minute [B.I.G. video](#) - do watch and share it. We also welcomed **Hannah Blumhardt** as the B.I.G. Safety & Logistics Researcher (see below for Hannah's update) to support the work of our S&LG Chair, **Peter Wilding** of Fire & Emergency New Zealand.

October - November

Milestone Two has required us to undertake in-depth stakeholder engagement to understand the issues, interactions and potential solutions through the large battery value chain. A massive thank you to all of you who have contributed to this, for example **through the recent battery users' survey on [what do you do if your EV battery finally dies?](#)** If you're a **battery user** rather than an industry expert, **please do complete the survey**.

In November, we launched our third working group: the **Battery Users Group (BUG)** which will play a vital role informing the scheme design and how it is communicated to users. We were delighted to welcome **Mandy Mellor** as Chair of BUG. Mandy is the General Manager of AA Battery Service Ltd and her energy and enthusiasm has been fantastic. Mandy and the Core Delivery Team hosted a kick-off workshop for members online and in person at a Vector substation. See below for more info.

We also refocussed the **Advisory Group** starting with founding member **Mark Lloyd**, National Sales Manager – AA Business Vehicle Solutions. The Advisory Group which will be an increasing support to Duncan as he shapes the proposed product stewardship scheme.

B.I.G. Battery Innovation Hub (BIH) Chair Jo Phillips, Senior Product Manager at Vector, has been doing a fantastic job initiating a trial with B.I.G. members for a potential technical solution to track batteries. Her commitment over the year to BIH and circular economy outcomes for our Scheme has been significant, and much appreciated.

December & 2021

This month we are delighted to introduce our new **Technical Advisor, Priti Ambani** – see below – and would like to give a shout-out to **Basil Issa**, Senior Transport Advisor at EECA who's on our Governance Group, for helping the Core Delivery Team to liaise with Government Agencies so we can proactively remove policy and regulatory roadblocks.

At the start of December, I started a new role as Chief Responsibility Officer at Tourism Holdings Ltd, overseeing risk and sustainability. **THL** has a strong commitment to sustainability and a growing fleet of electric RVs. I'm delighted to continue as Chair of B.I.G. in my new role.

Next year we will deliver the Milestone Two report to MfE at the end of **January 2021** and **Duncan Wilson** in our Core Delivery Team is working hard engaging with B.I.G. members to achieve this. Milestone Three, our **final report** with the proposed recommendations for the scheme design, will be delivered in **April 2021**.

Thank you to all B.I.G. members and Chairs for your hard work so far, particularly to Duncan and Sarah in the Core Delivery Team.

I wish you all a **fantastic holiday break**, a **Happy New Year** and **all the best for a better, transformative 2020** for us all.

- **Juhi Shareef**, Chair, B.I.G.



Mandy Mellar launches BUG in Auckland

B.I.G. Product Stewardship Research Work Programme

Milestone two deadlines are fast approaching, with the report due on 29 January (and Xmas holidays in the middle!). The focus of milestone two has been to understand in depth the issues, interactions and potential solutions through the large battery value chain. Our research tools have mainly been engagement of stakeholders through surveys, workshops and interviews. Thank you to everyone who has provided input so far (but we are not done yet, so there are still going to be opportunities for input).

The work so far has focused on what happens when batteries are imported, what happens when they reach end of use, and what happens when they reach end of life.

Key themes that have emerged include:

- how to define what a 'large battery' is
- how data can be managed through the value chain
- how to structure and distribute fees and payments under the scheme
- how to educate and communicate with all the stakeholders effectively
- how to ensure consistency with the e-waste product stewardship scheme.

The milestone two report will set out all the key issues that we have canvassed, and which will inform the next and final phase of the project - which is the proposed scheme design.

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

S&LG Update

The research for the Safety and Logistics Guidelines for the handling, collection, storage and transportation of large, used batteries is ticking along nicely. Hannah Blumhardt has conducted a thorough review of literature and regulations and completed 10 interviews, with a handful more planned for. The draft guidelines and a spreadsheet of the research and reports referred to will be with the S&LG for feedback and review in early January.

- Peter Wilding, Chair S&LG

B.I.H. Update

The Battery Innovation Hub (B.I.H.) members have been hard at work in their respective areas and we're anticipating more updates on the member's activities in the new year. In the last newsletter, we requested volunteers from the BIH to participate in a chain of custody tracking workshop and those BIH members participated in the Battery User Group workshop to start to develop the view of who is the custodian of the battery at each stage of its lifecycle. This work will not only help the development of the product stewardship scheme but will also inform the work to establish how to track the batteries through their lifecycle. Two of our BIH members are working on a proof of concept to trial a potential technical solution for tracking batteries with results to be shared in the new year.



In BIH member updates, Relectrify has just announced a collaboration with Counties Power to deploy New Zealand's largest battery system repurposing EV batteries to-date. Read more about this initiative here <https://www.relectrify.com/newsblog/counties-power-collaborates-with-relectrify-to-deploy-ev-battery-system>.

- Jo Phillips, Chair B.I.H.

Meet Mandy Mellar, Chair of B.U.G.

Mandy Mellar is the General Manager of the AA Battery Service and has accepted the role of Chair of the newly launched Battery Users Group. A workshop was held in Auckland on November 20 with 13 stakeholders attending in person and another 5 joining in via Zoom. Stakeholders included advocates and owners of EVs, EV fleet managers, EV rental car companies, owners of stationary energy systems and metal recyclers. The stakeholders worked through a series of questions relating to the end of life of batteries and the information needed to ensure their battery's life is extended or recycled.

You can meet Mandy Mellar, the Chair of B.U.G. in this short [video](#).



Introducing Priti Ambani - Technical Advisor

Priti is a strategic business technologist and evangelist for women in business and technology. An engineer by education and training, Priti has 18+ years of experience in various roles across environmental engineering, business, strategy, consulting and education. She has worked with organisations in Asia, North America and Europe to leverage emerging technologies with business model innovation. She is a specialist on platform and collaborative business models that harness the power of networks to solve business, social and environmental challenges.

Priti is the Director of New Business and Innovation at Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), and is working with University of Auckland on a Digital Sustainability Index, a world first study that aims to understand how organisations might create, use and regulate digital transformation, innovation and resources to deliver value for our society today and in the future.

Priti sits on the boards of Auckland Business Chamber and Super Diversity Council and part of the Advisory Board at Tech Futures Lab.

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 and webinars.

Priority product to regulated product stewardship

Regulated product stewardship is new to Aotearoa, although it has been a measure available to the government since the Waste Minimisation Act was introduced in 2008. Under the WMA once a product is announced a priority it goes through several steps before a regulated product stewardship scheme is implemented for it.

WasteMINZ' Product Stewardship Sector Group Committee (which B.I.G Chair Juhi Shareef was re-elected onto this year) has produced some information about priority products which can be viewed [here](#). Included in this information is the infographic below which outlines the steps a priority product must go through.



*Meri kirihimete, ā,
ngā mihi o te tau hōu*