



The 27th INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTRIC VEHICLE  
SYMPOSIUM & EXHIBITION.

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# THE RECYCLING EFFICIENCY OF Li-ION EV-BATTERIES

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## Why Battery Recycling? Part of the clean mobility global picture

clean mobility

Choice of transport mode

Clean vehicles

Clean energy



Exhaust control



Electrification



Vehicle and battery recycling



Fira Barcelona



AVERE WeA



EVAAAP E



- EHS concern: EV-Batteries = a complex mixture of chemical elements and compounds:
  - Li-ion: H, Li, C, O, F, Al, (Si), P, (Ti), Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, (Sn)
  - NiMH: H, C, O, K, Fe, Co, Ni, La, Ce, Pr, Nd
  - Electrolyte, solvent, plastics...
- Legislative context in EU
  - End of Life of Vehicles Directive (ELV): removal of batteries
  - Batteries Directive: ban on incineration and landfill of industrial batteries
    - To avoid dissemination of hazardous compounds
    - Resource efficiency
    - Quality target: recycling efficiency (RE)  $\geq 50\%$   
 $RE = (\text{battery recycled materials}) / (\text{battery input materials on dry basis})$

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# BD: Producers obligations regarding recycling

- Basic principle:
  - Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)  $\leftrightarrow$  Polluter Pays Principle (PPP)
    - EPR stimulates to include End-of-Life concerns in design phase
  - Producer = *any person in a Member State that... places batteries or accumulators, including those incorporated into appliances or vehicles, on the market for the first time within the territory of that Member State on a professional basis*  $\rightarrow$  for same type of EV, sold in different countries, 'battery Producer' can be different
- (H)EV batteries are 'industrial' batteries, not automotive batteries (= limited to SLI-batteries).
  - no collection target, but take-back obligation ( $\rightarrow$  reuse, recycling)
- Recycling Efficiency target (RE)
  - 50% of battery weight has to be transformed into an *output fraction that has ceased to be waste or that will be used for their original purpose or for another purpose (without undergoing further treatment)*.

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- the Battery Directive's RE is a process efficiency indicator
  - Calculated per calendar year
  - On process/operator level:
    - 2 operators with 'same' process = different processes
    - 1 operator with 2 processes = different processes
    - 1 operator processing different battery chemistries together = same process
  - Refers to 'recycling' only, not including other recovery (energy).
  - Including all steps until the 'end of recycling' (output fractions with a 'purpose' without further treatment)
- ➔ All batteries processed during the same year in the same process generate 1 RE!
- the Battery Directive's RE is calculated on 'battery level'
  - Non-battery materials, e.g. casing of battery packs, are excluded
  - EV-battery assemblies are not considered as 'packs' but as 'batteries'
  - Battery cells are also considered as batteries
- Reporting: responsibility of first recycler (= operator that 'breaks' the battery)
  - ➔ consolidation of all subsequent recycling operations

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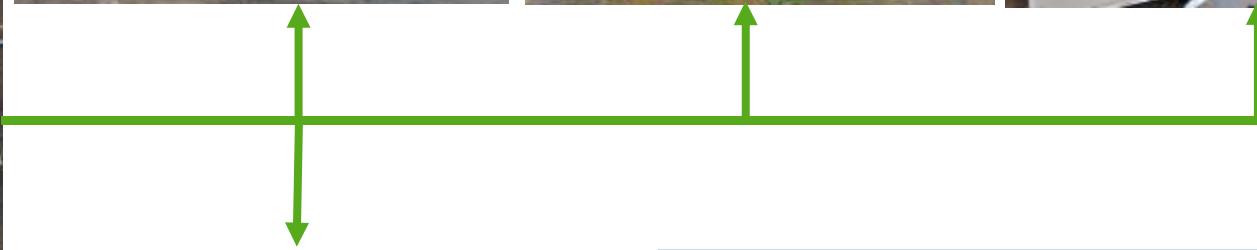
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## Calculation of the Recycling Efficiency

Non-active battery parts recycled according to existing schemes: partial RE (calculated according to BD) to be reported to '1st recycler'

Considered as 'battery':  
breakdown of battery = 1st recycling step; agglomerated RE includes partial RE of all subsequent process steps



Active battery parts recycled according to dedicated battery recycling schemes: partial RE to be reported to '1st recycler'

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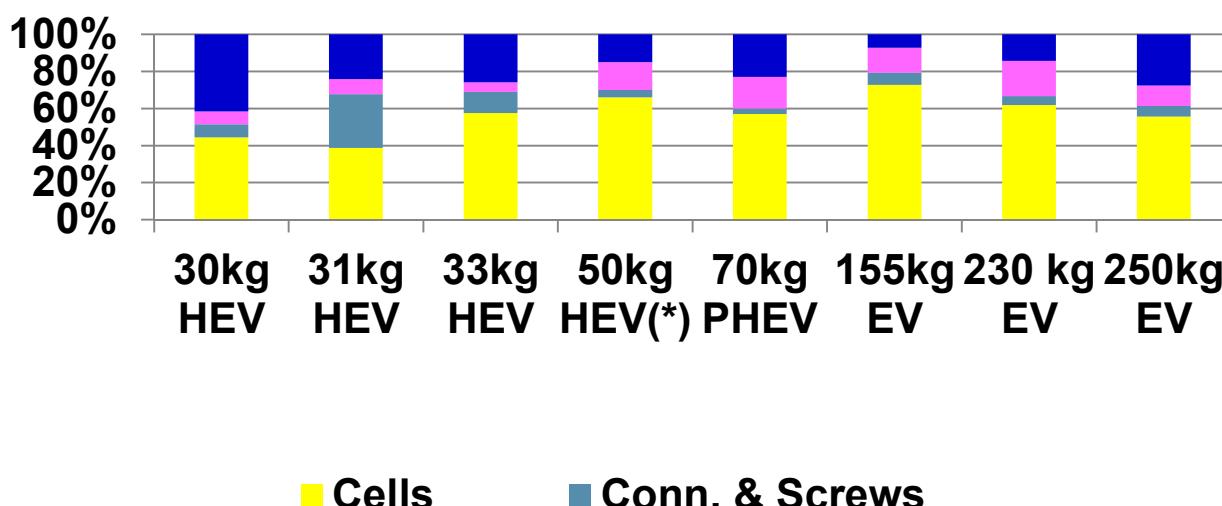
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## Calculation of the Recycling Efficiency

### Impact of material choices of non-active parts

- Based on interviews, Recharge<sup>1</sup> concluded that relative % (w/w) of cells varies between 40-70% of (H)EV battery assembly weight; metals: 15-40%; plastics: 10-15%. Main difference is OEM's choice for protective casing material (metal or synthetic fibres)
- For same partial RE for each material flow, resulting agglomerated RE can vary significantly



	Cells	Metals	Plastics	Agglomerated RE
Partial RE (%)	50	95	10	
Composition (%)	50	40	10	
Partial RE	25	35	1	61
Composition (%)	70	15	15	
Partial RE	35	14.25	0.15	49.40

<sup>1</sup>Recharge is the European sector association for the advanced rechargeable batteries industry (<http://www.rechargebatteries.org/>)

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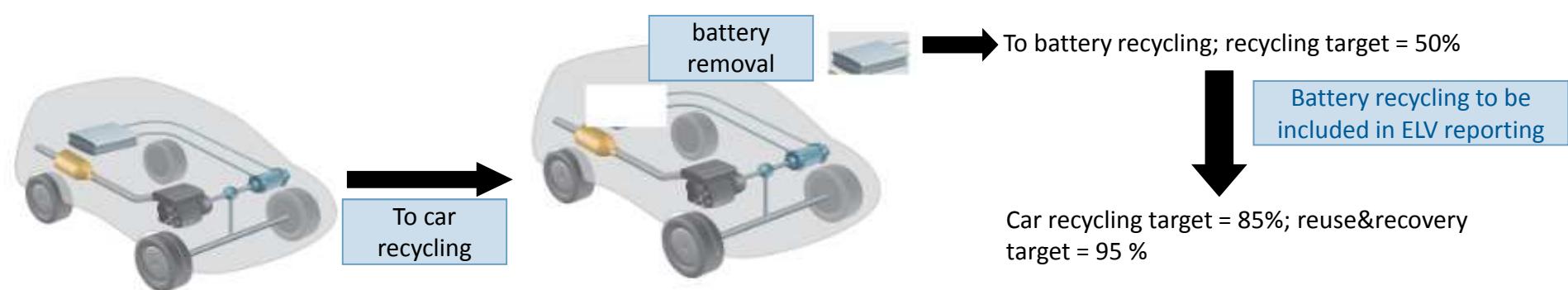


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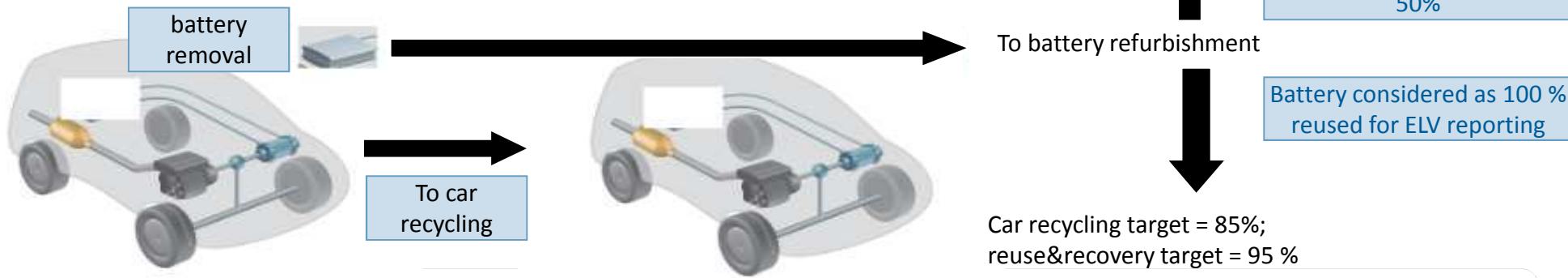


## Consolidation of batteries RE in ELV reporting

### 1) Battery to recycling



### 2) Battery to refurbishment for reuse



Car recycling target = 85%;  
reuse&recovery target = 95 %

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# Consolidation of batteries RE in ELV reporting

- BD RE and ELV recycling rates are other concepts

BD	ELV
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Process focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Including process steps until end of recycling of all fractions</li> <li>• Possible to treat also non-vehicle batteries in same process</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Recycling only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Product focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Materials flow reporting (weight fractions to recycling or landfill)</li> <li>• Does not include recycling steps until the 'end of recycling' as defined for batteries</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Also reporting reuse and energy recovery</li> </ul>

Suggestion: to consider batteries as 100 % recycled if delivered to compliant battery recycler

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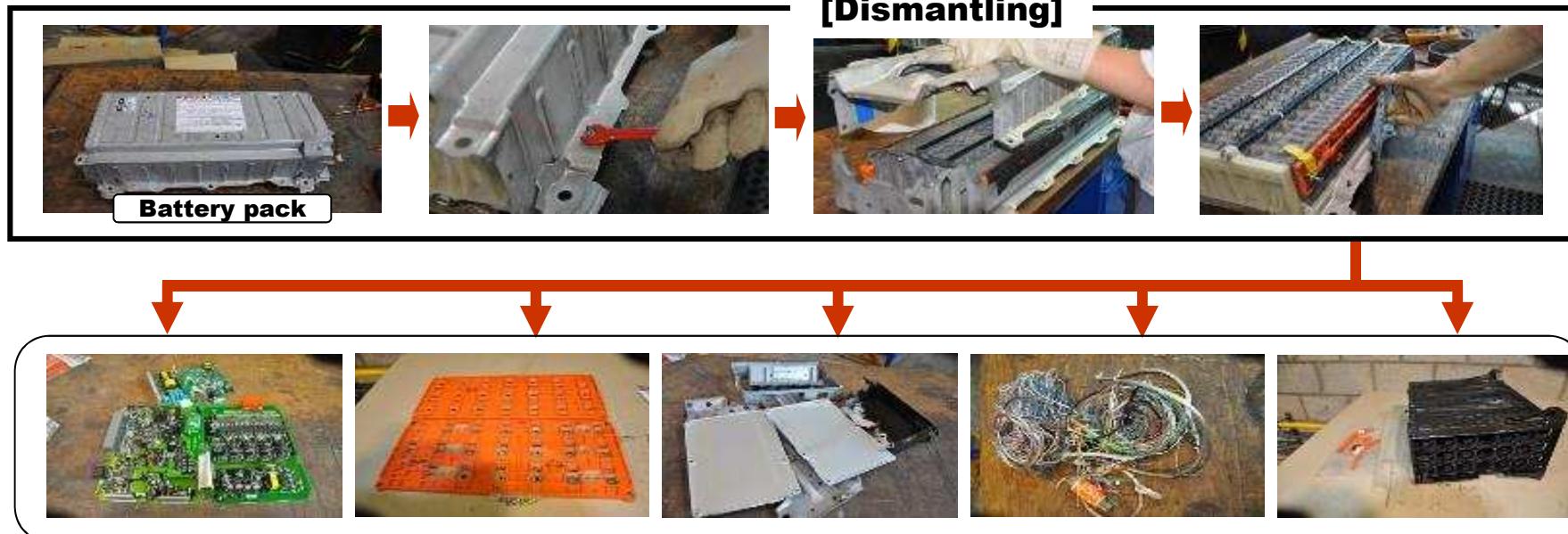
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Umicore battery recycling technology

## Umicore Process description - Dismantling



- Dismantling/discharging facility for (H)EV in Germany since January 2011.
- Another dismantling/discharging facility in US is operational since mid 2012.
- Industrial-scale UHT smelter in Hoboken, Belgium. Operational since mid 2011.



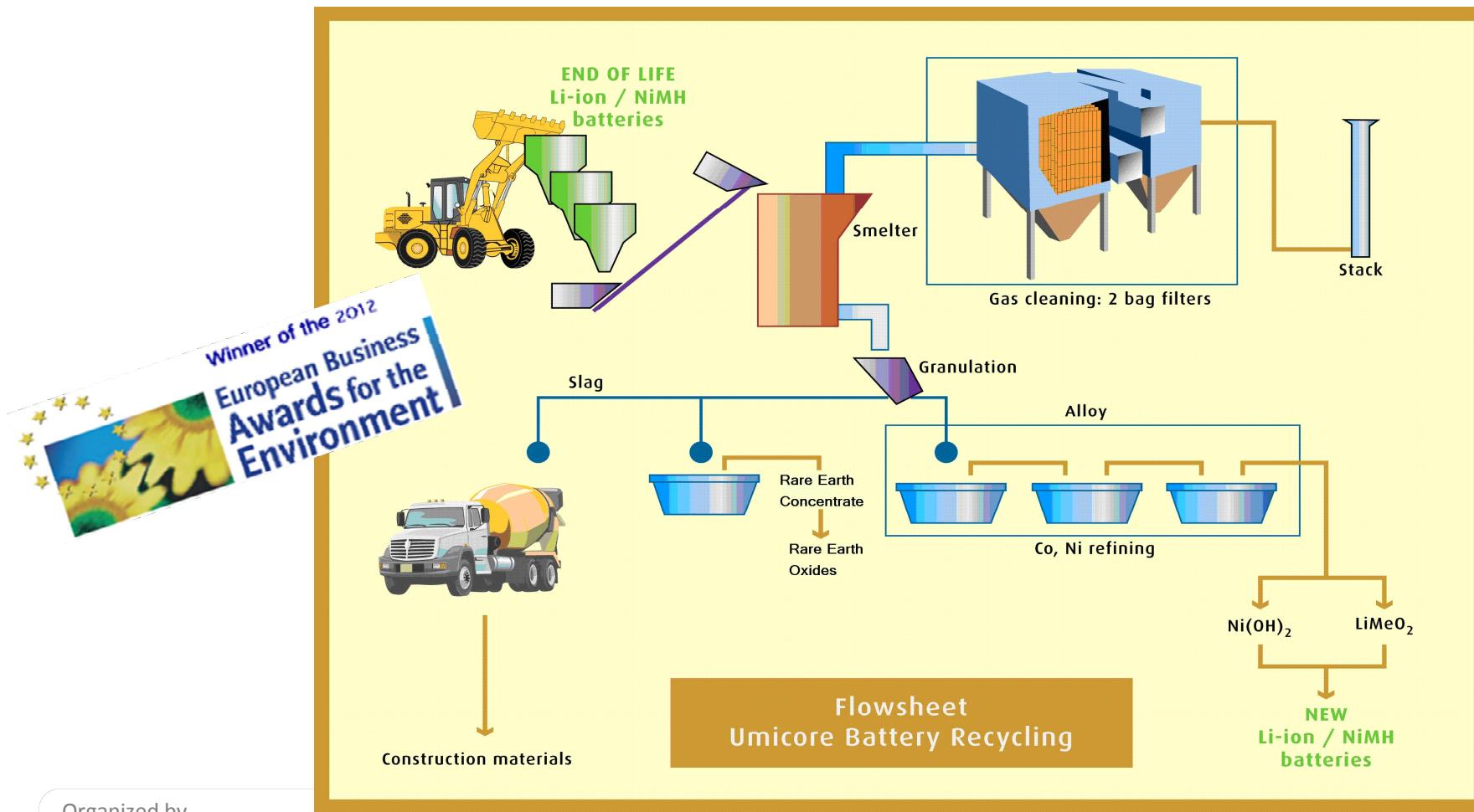
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## Umicore Process description - metallurgy



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- Huge diversity of Li-ion battery chemistries requires a robust recycling process
- The Batteries Directive is the first EPR-directive that includes recycling efficiency targets until the final stage of recycling
- The Umicore recycling process complies with the BD's RE target

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