Appendix: Development of 2026 Tariffs for Portable Batteries

Batteries must always be collected and recycled separately once discarded. In doing so, we jointly help ensure safety within the waste chain, preserve scarce raw materials, limit greenhouse gas emissions, and contribute to a circular economy.
With the introduction of the European Batteries Regulation, manufacturers and importers of portable batteries are responsible for the entire waste phase of their products. This producer responsibility focuses on meeting legal collection targets and recovering critical raw materials such as lithium, cobalt and nickel. In this way, producers actively contribute to a more sustainable battery policy and improved resource management.
Since 2024, Stichting OPEN has fulfilled this producer responsibility for batteries, operating more than 30,000 Wecycle collection points. In this letter, we look back at the past year and provide an explanation of the tariff developments for 2026.

Review and Developments

As of 1 January 2024, the operational organisation of Stichting Batterijen merged with Stichting OPEN. In addition to electrical and electronic equipment and lamps, Stichting OPEN now also manages producer responsibility for batteries. With more than 1,900 affiliated participants, batteries occupy an important position within the organisation of Stichting OPEN.
In 2025, the focus was on safety, continuity of processing and increasing the quantity of collected discarded batteries:

- Investments were made in safe collection containers combined with shorter pick-up frequencies to reduce risks.
- The introduction of transfer hubs and the expansion of contracts with processors have improved the progress of removal and processing.
- To achieve the statutory collection targets set by the Batteries Regulation, significant efforts were made in 2025 to increase the collection of discarded batteries through communication campaigns and projects with processors.

Development of 2026 Tariffs

In 2026, tariffs for the collection, sorting and processing of batteries will increase. This rise is entirely attributable to higher operational costs — specifically the costs of collection, transport and processing. Other costs will remain nearly unchanged, except for some additional expenses related to communication campaigns and projects required to meet the higher collection targets under the Batteries Regulation.
The main causes of the increase in operational costs are:

- **More batteries collected:** To meet statutory collection targets, a higher volume of batteries must be collected.
- **Investments in safety:** Further improving safety by introducing enhanced collection and transport containers, additional information campaigns, and shorter pick-up frequencies.
- **Lower revenues from raw materials:** Declining market prices for cobalt and nickel increase processing costs.
- **Higher partner tariffs:** Increased collection, transport and processing costs due to inflation, rising minimum wages and growing pressure on existing collection and processing capacity.

Stichting OPEN consolidates volumes, shortens transport distances through a more efficient collection network, and actively negotiates to limit these cost increases as much as possible.

Distribution of Costs and Sub-Tariffs
Costs are allocated to batteries based on the chemical systems that generate expenses during the waste phase. Therefore, three sub-tariffs are applied:

- **Lithium Thionyl Chloride (TCL)**
- **Lithium**
- **Other batteries**

Effect on Tariffs
Operational results in 2025 were better than expected, due to lower storage and processing costs than budgeted. Part of the reserve accumulated up to and including 2025 will be used to mitigate the tariff increase for 2026:

- **Lithium and other batteries:** For lithium and other batteries, the tariff increase in 2026 will be limited to **4.2%**.
- **TCL batteries:** Due to high costs for safe storage and processing, a significant tariff increase remains necessary. As announced in the 2025 tariff letter, the increase would be phased in two steps, totalling **165%** across 2025 and 2026. Since OPEN managed to reduce costs in 2025, the tariff for TCL batteries will rise by **15.6%** in 2026. It should be noted that tariffs may rise again in 2027 if costs cannot be offset by lower TCL volumes placed on the market.