

# **Recycling of Used Lead-Acid Batteries in Kiribati**

Presented by  
Alice Leney

Kiribati Solid Waste Management Programme  
**Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural  
Development,  
Kiribati**

# Overview

- Kiribati included Used Lead-Acid Batteries (ULAB) into the Container Deposit Legislation enacted in 2005: the Special Fund (waste materials recovery) Act;
- A \$5 deposit is levied at import on each battery, including when a vehicle is imported;
- A \$5 refund is paid on any ULAB presented at a recycling Collection Point;
- The System Operator (SO) pays out the \$5 refund and claims the original deposit back;
- The SO sells the batteries overseas for recycling.



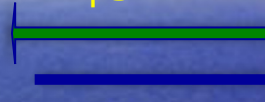
# ULAB Deposit & Refund System



New Battery Imports



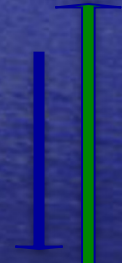
\$5



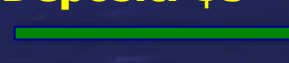
Deposit at import: \$5



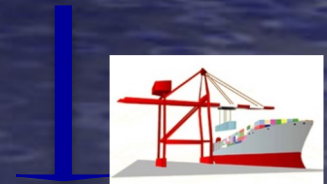
Refund: \$5



Claim full Deposit: \$5



ULABS Exported







# Key Numbers

- Car imports have gone from around 600/yr in 2016 to c.1,200/yr today;
- Every car has a battery;
- Solar systems are now very widespread on outer islands to provide electricity;
- Every solar system has a battery;
- First year (2005) 8,400 ULAB collected inc 'legacy waste', 2023 4,100 collected;
- Since 2005 around 50,000 units collected, approximately 700 tonnes (35 FCL)

# System Operator Contract

- Gov. of Kiribati owns the MRF building and site, all equipment used;
- No payment to SO by GoK, and no payment from SO to GoK;
- ULAB recycling is part of a bigger system handling beverage containers, typical battery numbers 50 – 150/week;
- ULAB recycling too small for a standalone business.





***Kiribati te bobotoo!!***

**Thank You**

**Kam Bati N Rabwa**