



## Green dot Cyprus launches battery recycling scheme

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A new scheme for recycling household batteries will start operating on 1 May in Cyprus, with the first collections scheduled to start on 1 June, Green dot Cyprus announced this week.

The scheme, which is being jointly run by non-profit organisations AFIS Cyprus Ltd and Green Dot Cyprus, is aimed at fulfilling Cyprus' obligation to comply with the EU's legislation on battery collection and recycling.

Batteries, which were previously dumped in landfills, will now be collected, sorted and sent to one of five EU-based recycling plants for processing. Green dot Cyprus is aiming for the fees for the collection to help finance an awareness-raising campaign.

The target is to achieve a 25 per cent collection rate by 2012, which is the minimum laid down by the EU directive, rising to 45 per cent by 2016. The recycling targets are 65 per cent of collected weight of lead acid batteries, 75 per cent of nickel-cadmium batteries, and 50 per cent of other battery types.

Green Dot Cyprus General Manager Kyriakos Parpounas said that "all batteries and accumulators have been assigned to one of two categories - domestic and industrial - with the domestic category covering batteries up to 2 kilos in weight."

By 1 June, more than 2,500 collection-points for domestic batteries will be set up in a variety of locations across the island, and end-users of industrial batteries will be able to return them free of charge to the supplier or manufacturer.

The Cyprus Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment awarded AFIS and Green Dot Cyprus the country's first ever battery-recycling licence two weeks ago, a year after the two made the application. The delay was due to the fact that up to last month, the regulation in force in Cyprus regarding the disposal of batteries was in line with the older EU directive dating from 1991, rather than the current EU directive, which came into force in 2006 and covers proper waste management of today's batteries and accumulators, including recycling, collection, "take-back" programmes and disposal.

A new national regulation conforming to the 2006 directive came into force on 20 March, allowing the first licence to be issued on 30 March, running from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2015.

So far, 66 companies have joined AFIS, including the island's biggest importers of batteries. The current regulation means that any company importing or using batteries is required to participate in an approved disposal scheme.

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