Phasing out primary batteries will go against the Green Deal.

Primary Batteries

- Alkaline
- Manganese
- Lithium metal
- Zinc
- Carbon

Formats

- 9V
- 4.5V
- Button batteries
- AA
- AAA

Primary Batteries

- Better for the environment in low drain applications
- The higher self-discharge rate and need for repeated recharging of rechargeable batteries makes them less sustainable in low drain devices.

Best choice for low drain devices which require low and constant energy levels

- Not a single use product
- Long shelf life
- Constant low self-discharge level
- Used in different appliances for long periods of time
- Immediate source of energy
- Accetable cost

Convenient

- Immediately ready to be used at all times
- Organised collection and recycling infrastructure exists
- 100% of waste batteries collected are recycled
- Recycled battery material is a contributor to the circular economy
- Acceptable cost

Recycled battery material is a contributor to the circular economy

Phasing out primary batteries will send to waste all devices which are not compatible with rechargeable batteries and would become obsolete.

Low drain devices represent over 50% of the battery-powered devices market.

On average a European household (195 million in EU) has 23,9 battery-powered devices.

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On average a European household (195 million in EU) has 23,9 battery-powered devices.
MANY PRODUCTS HAVE ALREADY TRANSITIONED TO RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES WHERE THIS IS POSSIBLE AND ADVANTAGEOUS BOTH FROM A TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC POINT OF VIEW

RECHARGING IS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE

in some cases there is no alternative to primary batteries:

- Remote areas with poor or no connection to the grid
- Disaster and emergency situations where there is no power
- Small appliances with no space for integrating a charging circuit
- The support function of the product like medical implants, pacemakers, or defibrillators
- Need for accuracy in measurement devices

WHEN TO USE A PRIMARY OR A RECHARGEABLE BATTERY?

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- Wall clocks and watches
- Smoke alarm detectors
- Remote controls

Up to 10 years in operation without need for replacement or recharging

- Digital camera
- Photo flash
- Power tools

Recharging required every few hours of operation

PRIMARY AND RECHARGEABLE ARE BOTH NEEDED!
SAFETY RISKS ARISING FROM DIRECT REPLACEMENT OF ALKALINES WITH LITHIUM ION RECHARGEABLE

A lithium ion rechargeable battery has much higher voltage than a primary alkaline battery. This means that if we place an AA-size lithium-ion battery into a device designed for AA alkaline primary batteries, the higher voltage would destroy the device and could cause a fire or explosion.

Compliance with existing IEC standards is essential.

CONSEQUENCES OF PHASING OUT PRIMARY BATTERIES?

TO THE ENVIRONMENT
- Waste creation due to premature scrapping of an extreme amount of devices which would become obsolete without primary batteries
- The most sustainable solution to power low drain appliances will no longer be available for consumers
- No gains in environmental sustainability or GHG emissions
- Not in line with the objectives of the EU Green Deal

TO THE ECONOMY
- The end of the primary battery industry in Europe and consequently the loss of jobs in related sectors: collection schemes, retail, transport, supply chain, recyclers, just to mention some.
- Impact on products using primary batteries requiring complete re-design, re-validation and re-registration to cater for:
  - Higher self-discharge rate of rechargeables
  - More complicated battery management circuits including complete new mechanical designs
  - More electronics (cables, chargers)
  - Peripheral recharging instruments (extremely inconvenient in some cases such as medical implants)
- As a result, existing manufacturing lines will become obsolete and new custom manufacturing lines will be required.

Phasing out primary batteries is contrary to Europe’s ambitions to create a competitive, circular, sustainable and safe environment and economy. Instead, EPBA supports setting up minimum quality standards which will ensure European consumers have the safest and highest-quality choices available to power their appliances.

EPBA
Avenue de Tervueren 188A, Postbox 4
1150 Brussels - Belgium
Tel: +32 2 761 16 02
epba@kellencompany.com

twitter.com/EPBA_batteries

https://www.epbaeurope.net/