

# ECOBAT 2021

Annual Report



**ecob**bat

# 19

ECOBAT has been providing comprehensive battery collection and recycling services in the Czech Republic for 19 years. ECOBAT is a not-for-profit limited liability company funded almost exclusively by producers and importers of batteries. ECOBAT provides the collective system for the take-back of portable batteries and accumulators to:



- ❑ ECOBAT provides free-of-charge collection containers for used batteries and takes care of free-of-charge transportation of collected batteries for sorting and recycling.
- ❑ ECOBAT is a reliable guide, advisor and assistant to its contractual partners and clients in fulfilling their legal obligations.
- ❑ ECOBAT is very active in promoting waste battery sorting and safe battery handling.

# ECOBAT's TOP 5

- 1** Leading battery producers and importers – **Bateria, GP, Panasonic, Varta, Energizer a Duracell** – participated in the establishment of ECOBAT
- 2** ECOBAT has been providing battery collection and recycling services for **19 years**
- 3** For **13 years**, it has actively supported the project Recycle with Fun to Clean Up the World that teaches children from kindergartens, primary and secondary schools to sort waste
- 4** ECOBAT participates in activities of the **Czech Circular Economy Association**
- 5** It is also a member of the European association of national collection schemes for batteries (**EUCOBAT**) and a partner of the European **association RENEOS** which collects, reuses, transports and recycles lithium batteries for battery producers



Dear partners,

We have all been going through a difficult time in the last two years – our businesses, organisations, but also our families and children. After the covid pandemic, a cruel and unreasonable war has exploded in Europe, not far from our borders, which will impact many areas of our lives.

All the more we should appreciate any positive news and even minor achievements. I am very pleased that ECOBAT broke several records in 2021: the absolute amount of batteries taken back, the efficiency of the take-back of portable batteries, but also the amount of revenues generated from our clients – battery producers. Personally, I have been positively surprised mainly by the increasing amount of batteries returned for recycling by Czech citizens. It is evident that even in difficult times our families do not forget to sort their waste. Moreover, ECOBAT is becoming a recognized and sought-after partner for the logistics and recycling of large lithium industrial batteries.

I would like to thank all of you for your cooperation and commitment and I firmly believe that together we will be able to meet the increased requirements that will soon arrive with the new EU Battery Regulation.

**RNDr. Petr Kratochvíl**  
Managing Director

**1,394**

Number of producers that trust the ECOBAT collective system



**47.6 %**

Take-back rate (percentage of batteries returned for recycling from the total yearly amount of batteries sold in 2021)



**74.5 %**

Recycling rate



**27,000**

Number of collection points where used batteries can be returned for recycling



**1,977 t**

Weight of batteries collected within the network of the ECOBAT collective system (take-back)

# Company performance

## Financing structure

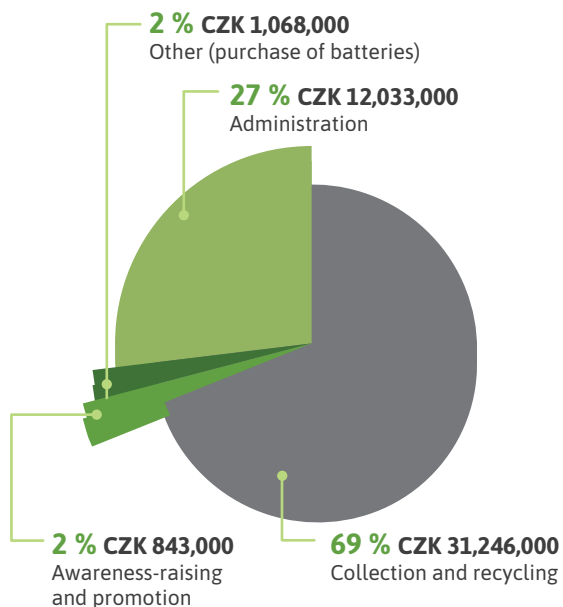
In 2021, ECOBAT reported a profit of CZK **3,611,000**, which is **7.4%** of its turnover.

### Word of the Managing Director

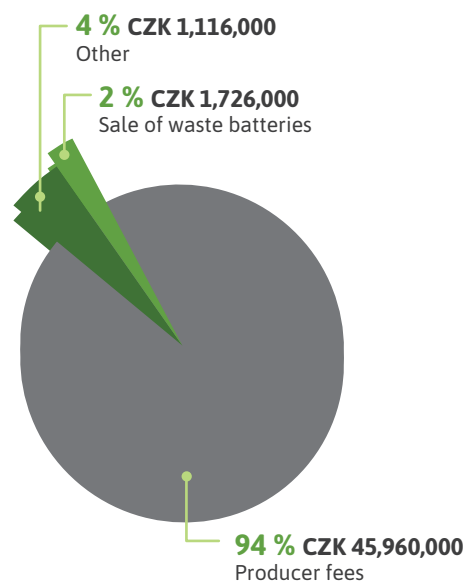
In 2021, the company reported a net profit amounting to CZK 3.611 million, which is 7.4% of its turnover. As in the previous years, the generated profit was not distributed among the shareholders. Together with the savings from previous years, it will serve as a financial reserve pursuant to § 48 of the Act on End-of-Life Products to cover any future costs and risks related to the operation of the collective system. With regard to the increased use of hazardous lithium batteries, ECOBAT has invested a record amount in safe boxes (CZK 1.7 million).

RNDr. Petr Kratochvíl, Managing Director

### Total costs in 2021 – CZK 45,190,000



### Total sales in 2021 – CZK 48,802,000



# 1,397

A total of **1,397** battery producers and importers participated in the ECOBAT collective system in 2021.

## Share of battery producers participating in the ECOBAT collective system per category



## Comparison of the share of battery producers per category in 2020 and 2021 (shown in %)

**Portable** → **26 %** increase    **Industrial** → **97 %** increase    **Automotive** → **483 %** increase

### Producer responsibility principle

In the Czech Republic, the producer responsibility principle, i.e. product take-back, applies to both producers and importers of batteries and accumulators. In this case, their responsibility is “extended” from the period when a product is used by a consumer to the period when the product has reached the end of its usable life cycle and the user wants to dispose of it. To be able to meet this legislative requirement in practice, battery producers founded ECOBAT.

### ECOBAT as a reliable partner

- ☑ Implements producers’ obligation to take back products
- ☑ Communicates with all entities involved in the collective system for batteries
- ☑ Registers and equips partners involved in the system
- ☑ Creates a nationwide public collection network (for all battery categories)
- ☑ Supports research and optimises collection safety
- ☑ Is a partner in meeting collection quotas and recycling requirements
- ☑ Offers expert consultations and analyses
- ☑ Performs awareness-raising and educational activities across society

## Collection points

# 27,000

There are **27,000** collection points across the Czech Republic where you can deposit waste portable batteries. 20,100 collection points are open to the public.

In 2021, over **1,977** tonnes of portable batteries were taken back.

### Take-back in 2021 as per collection channels (in tonnes)



### Number of collection points across the Czech Republic



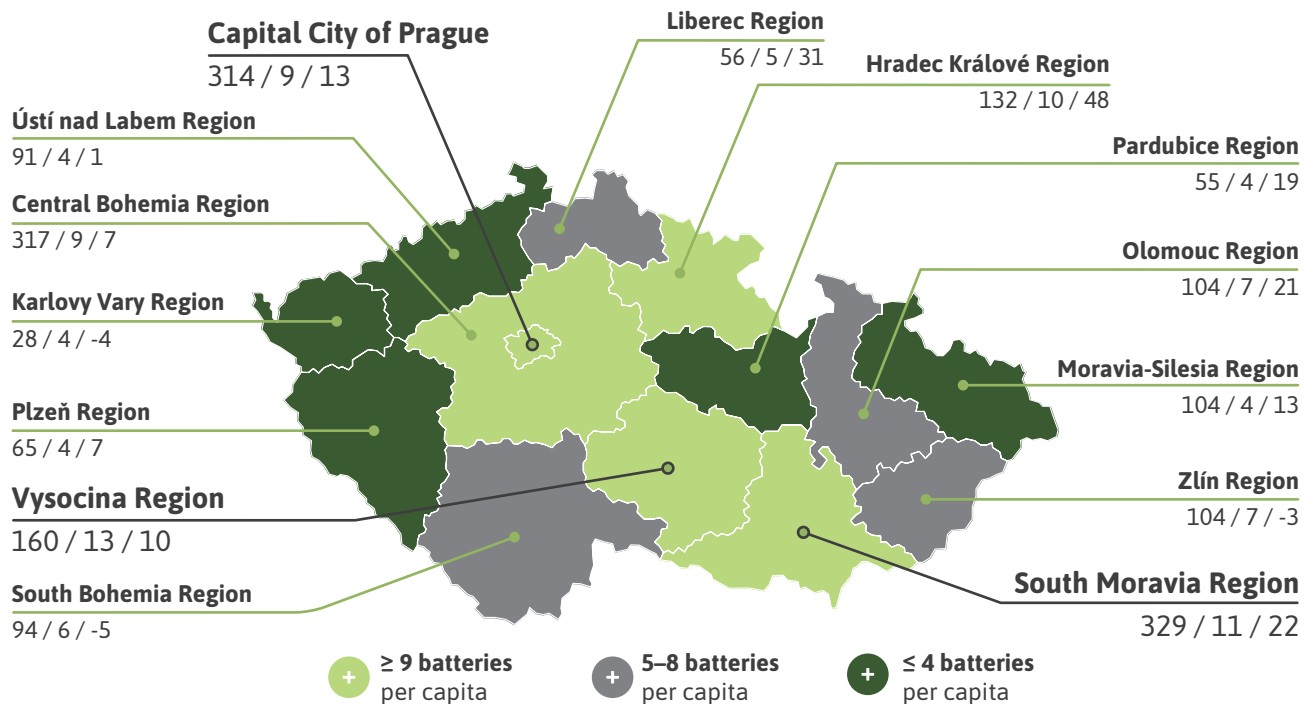
Most often, batteries were deposited at collection points in the COOP, Kaufland and Billa supermarkets, but also in DATART and Planeo electronic shops.

Number of collection points: In 2020: **25,711** → In 2021: **27,000** → Increase: **5%**



**7** In 2021, every inhabitant of the Czech Republic sorted seven AA batteries on the average.

Nationwide, the largest quantities of batteries per capita are sorted by population of the **Vysocina Region**, the **South Moravia Region** and the **Capital City of Prague**.



**Caption: Region**

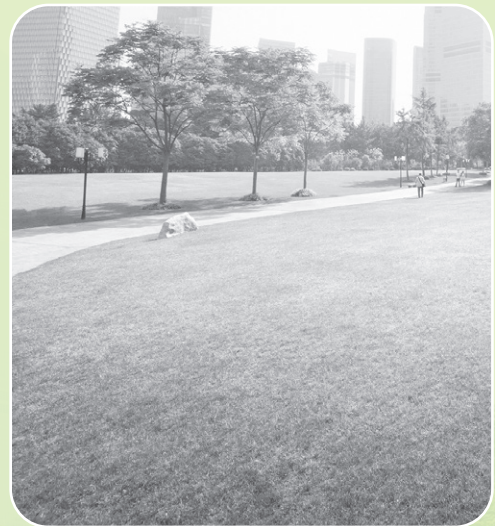
Take-back in tonnes / No. of batteries (AA type) per capita / Y-o-y development (%)

## Awareness-raising projects

### We have presented Environmental Friendliness Certificates

As a token of appreciation for all our partners that participated in the battery collection last year, we have presented Environmental Friendliness Certificates. The certificates indicate the amount of waste batteries handed over by the given facility in the previous year, as well as a conversion to the amount of secondary metal-bearing raw materials obtained by recycling.

We have issued a total of **2,300 certificates: 581** to municipalities, **328** to businesses, **151** to stores and **1,240** to schools.



### We educate at the regional level

For example, in cooperation with the Vysocina Region, in 2021, we implemented regional information and communication campaigns within the framework of the **Intensifying Battery Take-back** project, aiming at the target group of kindergartens, primary and secondary schools and the general public. At the same time, during seminars held by the Vysocina Region, ECOBAT has traditionally participated in training municipal employees and the staff of authorities and organisations responsible for waste management and environmental education.



## Recycle with Fun to Clean Up the World

The Recycle with Fun to Clean Up the World project, of which ECOBAT is the main partner, originated as early as 2008. The purpose of the activity is to inform and educate pupils and students of kindergartens, primary and secondary schools from all over the Czech Republic about environmental issues and the necessity of recycling. Last year, we prepared an awareness-raising task called “Recycled Follow the Arrows Game”. Its principle was similar to that of traditional “Follow the Arrows Game”. However, the tasks to be accomplished by pupils or students focused on the collection and recycling of batteries or electrical appliances and waste prevention.



## How to facilitate battery sorting in households?

How to facilitate used battery sorting in households? A solution can consist of ECOCHEESE, a design box that can be ordered free of charge at [www.ecocheese.cz](http://www.ecocheese.cz). Households gradually collect waste batteries in a box and then, having collected a pile, can take them to a collection point. ECOBAT distributes ECOCHEESE boxes to town and municipal authorities to encourage sorting among their residents. .





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