



Keeping the “Know” in Nova Scotia: The facts about lithium mining & battery recycling

Lithium mining is low yield

- Nova Scotia's lithium concentrations are too low to make mining viable. Studies show the median concentration in groundwater is just 8 µg/L, far below what is economically useful. Extraction costs would outweigh any potential benefit.

Lithium mining is harmful to the environment and agriculture

- Mining requires large amounts of water and energy, leading to pollution, habitat destruction and soil degradation. Most of Nova Scotia's lithium deposits are located in areas like the Annapolis Valley — the province's top agricultural region. Mining would put food production and local ecosystems at risk.

Nova Scotia's geology makes mining more difficult

- The province's thick glacial till makes reaching lithium deposits expensive and destructive. Drilling through this till demands more resources and energy and causes greater land disruption.

There's no financial benefit to the province

- Nova Scotia doesn't collect royalties on lithium, meaning it would gain little to no direct revenue from mining activities. Meanwhile, taxpayers would still face environmental and infrastructure costs.

Lithium battery recycling is a cleaner alternative

- Recycling recovers up to 95 per cent of valuable battery materials like lithium, cobalt and nickel. This reduces waste, protects land and supports a circular economy with lower environmental impact.

Recycling can create jobs and boost innovation

- Nova Scotia is already a global leader in battery research. Recycling infrastructure would support innovation at places like Dalhousie's Renewable Energy Storage Lab and create long-term, high-quality jobs in a growing sector.

Recycling protects farmland and rural communities

- Focusing on recycling protects valuable farmland and rural economies. The Annapolis Valley contributes \$2.2 billion to the province's GDP and should not be jeopardized for short-term mining gains.

Other provinces are leading the way

- Quebec and B.C. are supporting battery recycling with policy, infrastructure and mandates for automakers. Nova Scotia has the chance to join this national shift and lead in green innovation by investing in battery recycling.

For the full fact sheet and reference list please visit:
ecologyaction.ca/Keeping-theKnow-in-NS

