

Lifecycle of a Lithium ion battery

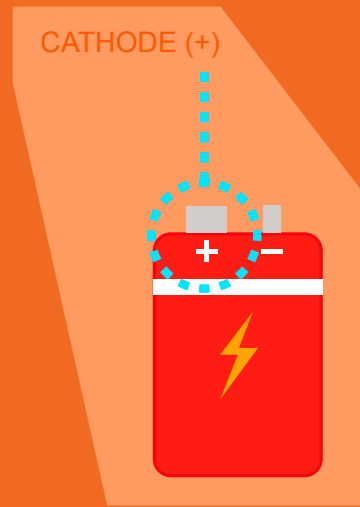
1.

A Lithium-ion battery uses cobalt, which is mostly mined in the Congo in Africa and in Tibet. It's the battery that powers most of the high tech devices you enjoy playing with; miners search for the mineral by looking for a plant with small blue flowers called la fleur du cobalt. It is often small children who mine for the cobalt.



2.

The cobalt is then processed and made into the cathode, the part of the battery where electrons enter and which takes a negative charge.



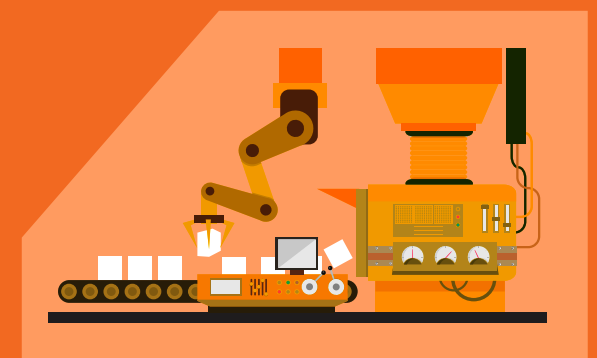
3.

The company making the final battery takes the cathode and joins it with the anode and electrolyte solution, all made at different companies.



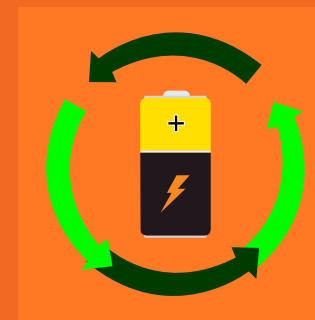
4.

The company inserts your lithium ion battery into the computer, smart phone, gaming device that you use to enjoy playing games or learn about new things.



6.

Places that are able to recycle lithium ion batteries use large machines to hammer the battery into pulp and then separate the elements from what can be reused, like cobalt, and what cannot. Thus feeding back into the system, otherwise all this toxic waste material will get dumped into a landfill.



5.

Once that battery can no longer be recharged, it should be ideally taken to an e-waste facility so it doesn't wind up in a landfill! This means that parts of it will be recycled, and other parts will be disposed of in a less harmful way than if it was sent out with your garbage.

