

Recycling

Ensuring the recyclability of our new vehicles is an important focus of development work at Volkswagen. The Volkswagen Group has developed and implemented processes which ensure that new vehicles are at least 85% recyclable and at least 95% recoverable. Proof that the required ratios are actually achieved in practice has been delivered by recyclability testing of a selection of vehicles built between 2007 and 2012.

Recycling strategy implemented

In May 2007 we adopted a recycling strategy for meeting the above-mentioned recycling and recovery ratios. All the key points in that strategy have been implemented. Using the VW SiCon process for recycling shredder residues, the recovery target for end-of-life vehicles is met in a way that is not only environmentally compatible but also economically viable. A Vehicle Recycling Steering Committee, in which the companies of the Volkswagen Group and all the relevant business divisions are represented, has been set up to direct activities at Group and brand level.

Recycled content of vehicles

For four models of the Volkswagen brand (Polo 5, Sharan NF, Golf 6, Golf 7), calculations have been carried out which show that between 35 and 40% of the new-vehicle by weight is made up of recycled content.

Recycling of batteries

Recycling of end-of-life electric-vehicle batteries containing the light metal lithium is already a focus of our current vehicle development work. Volkswagen was a partner in both the LithoRec I project, completed in 2011, and the successor project LithoRec II, which is currently ongoing. Lithium-ion battery recycling processes developed in these projects are now undergoing extensive trials. These processes cover the battery's entire post-vehicle process chain – from dismantling, transport, collection and storage to recycling and production of new battery cells.

Electric vehicle recycling project

Volkswagen is a partner in the research and development project "Recycling of electric vehicles 2020 – Key component power electronics" (ElmoReL2020), which began work in December 2013. By 2016, the project partners are looking to develop recycling processes for key components of the power elec-

tronics systems of electric vehicles. A particular challenge is to close the current process engineering gap between conventional electronic waste recycling, focused on noble metals, and hydrometallurgical recovery processes for the preconcentrated, high purity materials used in the semiconductor industry.

More information:

Volkswagen Recycling Strategy (PDF)

http://www.volkswagen.de/content/medialib/vwd4/de/Volkswagen/Nachhaltigkeit/service/download/recyclingstrategievonvolkswagen/recyclingstrategievonvolkswagen/_jcr_content/renditions/rendition.file/recyclingstrategie_par_0001_file.pdf