



U.S. DEPARTMENT
of **ENERGY**



Battery Workforce
InitiativeTM

Battery Workforce Initiative

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The Battery Workforce Initiative (BWI) achieved several meaningful milestones over the past year, from the establishment of new National Guideline Standards to the successful launch and completion of Pilot Training Projects with U.S. battery manufacturers. As we move deeper into 2026, our focus turns to the next chapter: expanding our recycling workforce curriculum and deepening industry partnerships.

The battery manufacturing sector continues to evolve at a remarkable pace, and BWI is committed to ensuring American workers are at the forefront of that transformation. With new site visits, emerging collaborations and expanding standards on the horizon, BWI is proud to be a steadfast partner to industry, labor and education as we collectively power the next chapter of America's battery manufacturing future.

The BWI team has been active in the field this spring. The team recently attended the Battery South Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, connecting with industry stakeholders and reinforcing BWI's role at the forefront of battery workforce development.

The team also visited Cirba Solutions' battery recycling facility in Wixom, Michigan. Cirba is one of the nation's leading processors of end-of-life lithium-ion batteries. In operation for more than three decades, the company has processed hundreds of millions of pounds of batteries, recovering critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel and manganese and returning them to the domestic battery manufacturing supply chain.



BWI visits Cirba Solutions

The visit gave the BWI team a first-hand look at the full arc of battery recycling operations: from the intake and chemistry-based sorting of batteries collected

from consumer programs, industrial partners and EV manufacturers, to onsite alkaline battery processing that recovers steel, manganese and zinc as raw material feedstocks. The team also observed Cirba's distinctive approach to EV battery handling, spoke with facility personnel and discussed critical safety-focused workplace practices and risk mitigation procedures.

Visits like this one, where the realities of the shop floor directly shape the standards we set, are exactly what makes BWI's approach to workforce development distinctive. We look forward to deepening this and many other partnerships as we build the recycling workforce of the future.

Warm regards,

The Battery Workforce Initiative Project Implementation Team

[Contact the Team](#)

Momentum & Milestones: Where We've Been, Where We're Headed

The Battery Workforce Initiative was built on a simple premise: America's growing battery manufacturing sector needs a workforce ready to meet it. From the earliest Job Task Analyses to the development of National Guideline Standards and the launch of real-world Pilot Training Projects, each phase of BWI's work has built on the last. Here are some of the milestones that brought us to where we stand today:

National Guideline Standards for Battery Machine Repairer

In a major step forward, BWI established **National Guideline Standards (NGS) for the Battery Machine Repairer** occupation. Building on the earlier machine operator NGS, released by the Department of Labor in 2024, the new battery machine repairer standards reflect a comprehensive analysis of the skills, knowledge, and abilities required to support battery manufacturing, from safety practices and blueprint interpretation to mechanical troubleshooting and preventive maintenance. The NGS provides employers and educators with a robust framework to design targeted training programs aligned with the needs of the rapidly growing battery sector. To learn more, visit the [Battery Workforce Initiative webpage](#).

Pilot Training Projects: From Blueprint to Workforce

Three companies—StarPlus, Lyten and Soelect—were selected for BWI's Pilot Training Program, receiving funding and tailored support to test and validate the NGS-aligned machine operator curricula in real manufacturing environments. Session I and Session II training orientation sessions were completed with all three sites, with positive feedback reinforcing the practical value of the BWI courseware.

“The BWI course was extremely valuable, even for those of us with prior experience. It provides a broad, well-structured foundation and brings everything together in a clear and cohesive way.”

Industry Pilot Training Participant

Battery Recycling Curriculum: What's Next

Building on the success of the machine operator curriculum and the new machine repairer NGS, BWI is actively developing a dedicated **battery recycling curriculum**. The curriculum development team is comprised of instructional designers building content across key modules designed to prepare workers for the specialized demands of battery end-of-life processing. The instructional designers are supported by subject matter experts from industry and academia who will ensure that this new curriculum is as comprehensive as possible.

Partner with Us

Together, with our partners across industry, academia and beyond, we are laying the foundation for a future powered by a highly skilled and dynamic workforce. Your partnership helps shape the future of talent in this growing industry. Visit [our web page](#) or email us at Batteryworkforceinitiative@netl.gov to learn more about how together we can power the battery workforce to lead America's energy future.

In the News

- [Energy Department offers \\$500M to scale critical minerals production](#)
- [EGI Battery plans to start battery manufacturing in Michigan in Q3 US](#)
- [government confirms Tesla and LG Energy Solution's \\$4.3 billion battery deal](#)
- [The Ecosystem Effect: Why Battery Companies Are Betting Billions on North Carolina](#)
- [BlueOval SK delays layoffs at Kentucky battery plant](#)
- [CATL launches battery innovations to strengthen global market leadership](#)

- [Inlyte Energy, Ervin Industries ink deal to strengthen US battery storage supply chain](#)

Upcoming Events

[2026 Recycling & Lifecycle Management Workshop](#)

Troy, MI | July 7-8, 2026

NAATBatt International will host its 9th Annual Recycling & Lifecycle Management Workshop on July 7–8, 2026 at the Michigan State University Management Education Center in Troy, Michigan. The two-day event will cover lithium battery recycling strategies from major automotive OEMs, emerging recycling technologies, second-life battery use, and regulatory considerations.

[Critical Minerals, Battery Recycling & E-Waste Expo | North America](#)

Atlanta, GA | October 28-29, 2026

Held at the Cobb Convention Center, the event combines three co-located expos covering e-waste, battery recycling and critical minerals recovery. The expo draws 150+ exhibitors and 60+ speakers and addresses topics including national battery recycling strategy, AI and robotics in recycling supply chains, and public-private recovery initiatives.

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[Questions or comments?](#)