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Green Party  
*for the South East of England*

Joan Ruddock MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
DEFRA  
Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London SW1P 3JR

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Dear Joan,

As I am sure you are aware, EU Directive 2006/66/EC, also known as the Batteries Directive, comes into force in autumn 2008. It aims to tackle the problems associated with the disposal of batteries and accumulators in two key ways: Firstly, by removing products below a certain standard from the market and, secondly, by promoting a high rate of collection and recycling of spent items. Priority is also given to making environmental improvements throughout the life cycle of batteries and accumulators.

The UK, in common with other member states, has a recycling target of 25% to be reached by 2012 and of 45% by 2016. Given that one of the biggest challenges is to encourage consumers to separate batteries from the waste stream, what measures is the government putting in place in preparation for this autumn to improve access to battery recycling facilities and to change public behaviour?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.