

GLOBAL BATTERY ALLIANCE

BATTERIES POWERING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Quarterly Newsletter

IN THIS EDITION: Spotlight on GBA AGM Brussels 2025 | What's Next: The Battery Passport Operational Trials 2026
Overview of the GBA Working Groups | New Resources | New Members | Upcoming GBA and Partner Engagements

Welcome to this first edition of the GBA newsletter for 2026!

The final quarter of 2025 culminated in the **Global Battery Alliance's Annual General Meeting**, which took place in Brussels on 9–10 December. The AGM brought together over 100 members and guests from across the entire battery value chain, providing a valuable opportunity to reflect on a year marked by rapid market changes, geopolitical tensions, and policy volatility.

Meanwhile, the Alliance met major milestones with the Battery Passport programme, paving the way for operational trials to begin in January 2026. These trials will test the functionality of the Battery Passport (BP) in real-world value chains, with 16 consortia of key industry players set to pilot the Battery Benchmarks. They will engage their supply chains and work towards achieving regulatory readiness, working towards a prototype GBA sustainability certification by mid-year with the full scheme scheduled for launch by 2027. These milestones signal a shift from ambition to delivery, reinforcing the GBA's role in turning shared sustainability goals into practical, scalable solutions.

SPOTLIGHT ON GBA AGM BRUSSELS 2025

The AGM provided two days of discussion, peer exchange, networking and practical collaboration. It reflected the multilayered complexity and fast pace of the battery transition through the whole value chain. Consensus emerged from all stakeholders in recognizing the growing strategic importance of the GBA Battery Passport, how it can drive competitiveness as a practical tool for compliance and regulatory innovation.

Below we share the most important takeaways.

Mainstreaming sustainability: The question of how to make *sustainability a measurable competitive advantage in battery value chains* focused on the perceived disconnect between ambition and commercial reality. While demand for low-carbon, circular, and responsibly produced batteries is growing, cost and price still dominate purchasing decisions. What is needed are stronger enabling conditions such as interoperable data infrastructure, clearer governance, aligned requirements across jurisdictions, and incentives that reward leadership. The **GBA Battery Benchmarks** offer a globally applicable framework defining performance expectations and creating comparability.



Spotlight on GBA AGM Brussels 2025 *(continued)*



Circularity: Longer vehicle lifetimes and the export of used EVs impact end-of-life EV battery volumes which contributes to a temporary mismatch between recycling capacity and available feedstock. This highlights the need for circular strategies (reuse, repair, disassembly etc.) to be implemented upstream in design decisions that enable second-life applications before recycling and prioritise extended use. Recycling must increasingly operate as a regional integrated service, as transporting heavy batteries over long distances undermines circularity economics.

Industrial and trade policy: while regulatory uncertainty shapes the battery ecosystem, industry is calling for faster action and predictability. Pragmatic, technology-aware incentives (like IRA-style approaches and new US 45X tax credits) already reshape global sourcing decisions and mineral-producing countries are increasingly prioritising value addition and industrialization. Yet despite the pivot toward supply-chain security, circularity is also rising on the agenda and sustainability still defines market access through major regulations in the EU (e.g., Batteries Regulation, CRMA, CBAM, CSRD, CSDDD), China and the G7 countries - making transparency and harmonised standards essential, and positioning the GBA Battery Passport as a practical “common language” for traceability, due diligence and carbon footprinting on the path to global interoperability.



EU Policy: Senior representatives of the European Commission delivered a consistent message: policy ambition on batteries and critical raw materials remains high, but delivery and speed now matter most. Circularity and sustainability have become matters of strategic autonomy, not only mere environmental policy. With Europe highly dependent on imports for critical raw materials, the EU Battery Regulation and tools like the Battery Passport are designed to improve transparency, strengthen trust in supply chains, enable reliable compliance data while supporting competitiveness and investment certainty.

Just Transition: The electric transition for workers implies the risk of job displacement in traditional automotive manufacturing and concerns about weakening collective bargaining structures in markets where organising is resisted. Achieving a “Just Transition” requires coordinated action between governments, labour unions, and employers. The GBA also serves as a platform to ensure that decent work principles remain embedded in the battery transition.



Finance: Finance-focused discussions addressed how harmonised sustainability frameworks could improve the leverage of investors to ask for ESG performance and reduce the burden of fragmented due diligence. Participants explored how the **Battery Passport** and **Benchmarks** data could support comparable risk assessments, structure ongoing engagement, and allow financing terms to be linked to verified performance indicators - strengthening market signals and rewarding continuous improvement.

Market drivers: The panellists reinforced that frameworks must go beyond labels: buyers need to use due diligence, supplier dialogue, and procurement leverage to drive remedy and continuous improvement. The discussion acknowledged that cost remains the dominant buyer driver today, but sustainability can become commercially meaningful if trusted “green signals” – like the Battery Passport - are created and consistently rewarded through procurement and financing incentives.

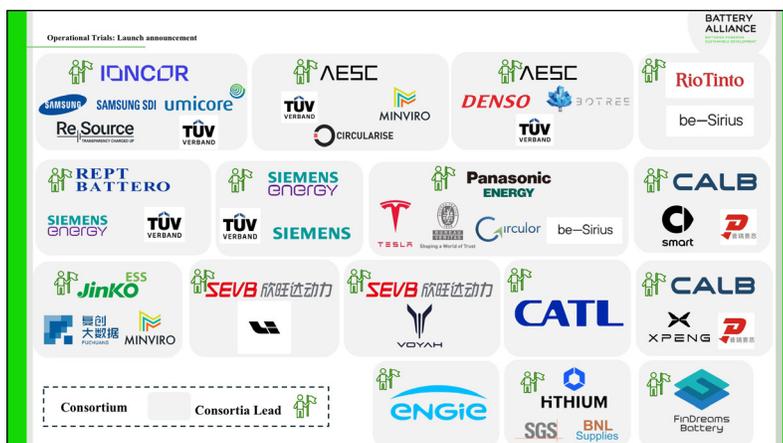
Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS): Fragmented global standards - especially regarding safety protocols, fire testing, performance metrics, and cybersecurity rules, are core challenges for BESS. Circularity can be profitable in long-life storage assets by reducing maintenance costs over a 20–25-year lifespan, but transparency alone is not enough. Tangible incentives such as permitting, insurance, financing or tender advantages are needed to accelerate adoption.

WHAT'S NEXT: UPDATE ON THE BATTERY PASSPORT OPERATIONAL TRIALS 2026

Don't miss this opportunity to shape the Future of Sustainable Batteries

Operational Trials have entered a new phase, moving into active implementation across Q1–Q2 2026 with 16 participating consortia. The trials will help members test core Passport components, develop conformity assessment and assurance frameworks to enable trusted data and future product and facility certification, and advance digital infrastructure and reporting standards (data exchange rules and UNTP extension), implemented through a new [ITC suite of tools](#).

In the coming weeks, the consortia will engage their supply chains so facilities will begin reporting against the Battery Benchmarks and the [GHG Rulebook](#). Leading a piloting consortium and participating in the GBA operational trials working groups is reserved for members only but companies along the supply chain can still join the trials to test the [Battery Benchmarks](#).



CONTACT US to find out how to assess your level of readiness for the EU Batteries Regulation and future-proof your supply chain secretariat@globalbattery.org

OVERVIEW OF THE GBA WORKING GROUPS 2026

The GBA convenes experts from across the battery value chain through dedicated Working Groups. These groups are where technical collaboration translates into practical tools, pilots, and alignment with global standards and regulations. With the exception of the Standard Setter Working Group, participation in the Working Groups is reserved for GBA members. The overview below provides an overview of the scope of work currently underway.

Battery Passport Working Groups 2026

These Working Groups support the development and implementation of the GBA Battery Passport, addressing sustainability benchmarking, data exchange, assurance, and real-world testing.

- **Benchmarks** - alignment of sustainability standards, responsible business practices, and regulatory frameworks.
- **Data Exchange** - interoperability, digital protocols, and chain-of-custody models for trusted data sharing.
- **Assurance** - development of a Conformity Assessment Scheme to underpin trust in the Battery Passport through 3rd party assurance.
- **Operational Trials** - execution of Battery Passport piloting and testing through real-world trials.
- **Greenhouse Gas (GHG)** - development of greenhouse gas accounting rules aligned with evolving regulatory requirements.

By invitation

- **Standard Setter Working Group** – cross-recognition and alignment between voluntary sustainability standards and the GBA frameworks.

Circularity & Critical Minerals Advisory Group (CCMAG)

The CCMAG is a pre-competitive dialogue space which provides strategic insight on circularity- and other relevant critical minerals related topics, with particular attention paid to mineral producing countries and upstream value-chain perspectives. The group ensures that GBA initiatives are informed by real-world conditions and global diversity.

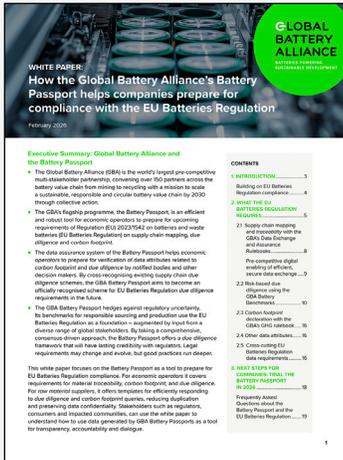
Engagement through Membership

Working Group participation is a core benefit of [GBA membership](#), enabling organisations to contribute expertise, shape global approaches, and collaborate on implementation.

Are you interested in joining the working groups?

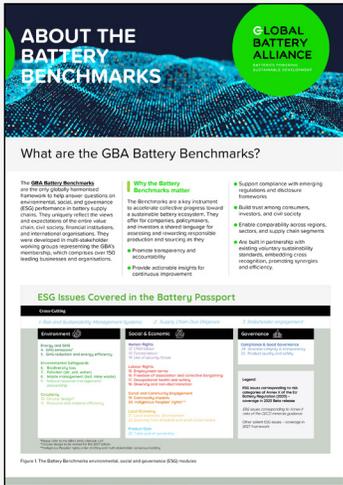
Contact the secretariat and join the GBA community

OUR NEW RESOURCES



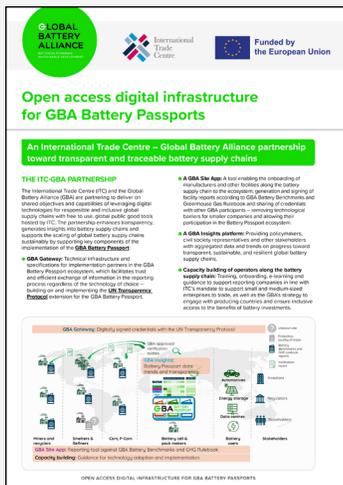
White Paper on GBA Battery Passport as a tool for preparing for EU Batteries Regulation: From market access to market asset

White paper on the **EU Batteries Regulation** outlines how the **GBA Battery Passport** supports preparing for compliance with the EU Batteries Regulation. For *economic operators* the Battery Passport facilitates material traceability, carbon footprint, and due diligence reporting. For *raw material suppliers*, it offers templates for efficiently responding to due diligence and carbon footprint queries, reducing duplication and preserving data confidentiality. *Buyers, investors, regulators, consumers and stakeholders*, can use the briefing to understand how to use data generated by GBA Battery Passports as a tool for transparency, accountability and dialogue. **Review the briefing and join the Operational Trials to conduct a gap assessment of your organisation's readiness – one year to go to the entry in effect of the battery passport requirement.**



The Battery Benchmarks Explainer

The **Battery Benchmarks Explainer** will showcase what the Battery Benchmarks are and how they work: available in different languages on the GBA website, they are the first ever set of global metrics to assess sustainability in battery value chains. They are a tool for harmonisation and comparability, building on existing voluntary standards. Directly aligned with major international frameworks, including the EU Batteries Regulation (EU BR) and OECD Due Diligence guidance.



COMING SOON The GBA-ITC Gateway Explainer

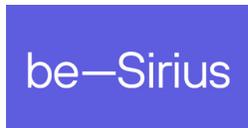
This flyer explains the digital infrastructure to operationalise the Battery Passport, under development with the **International Trade Centre (ITC)**. The cooperation with ITC will:

- Develop the Battery Passport 'data platform', for analysis of global data trends, a free-to-use digital tool to lower entry barriers for smaller companies
- Create a data gateway for supply chain participants in the BP programme to upload and share reported data with selected parties.
- Provide technical infrastructure and capacity building for implementation partners
- Create tools for conversion of Excel reporting templates to machine-readable format
- Digital signing of reports and credentials, aligned with the United Nations Transparency Protocol

Keep an eye on our website: our next blog article is coming soon

NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome our new members: be-Sirius, Bureau Veritas, Global Solar Council, Jinko ESS, Kurz Digital, and Volta Foundation.



UPCOMING GBA AND PARTNER ENGAGEMENTS

Giga Europe 2026

11-12 March, Brussels, Belgium

OECD Meeting

27 April, Istanbul, Turkey

Nordic EV Summit

6-7 May, Oslo, Norway

Cobalt Institute's Annual Meeting

12-13 May, Madrid, Spain

SMM Indonesia Critical Minerals Conference

3-5 June, Jakarta, Indonesia

Battery Show EU

9-11 June, Stuttgart, Germany

EITI Global Conference

24-26 June, Manila, Philippines

Hamburg Sustainability Conference

29-30 June, Hamburg, Germany

IAA Transportation 2026

15-20 September, Hannover, Germany

IGF Annual General Meeting

12-15 October, Geneva, Switzerland

EU Raw Materials Week

18-20 November, Brussels, Belgium

Save the Date

Virtual GBA Annual General Meeting

4 June

In-person GBA Annual General Meeting

8-9 December, Brussels, Belgium

Want to make a difference?

Become part of the largest global battery value chain network. **Join the GBA.**

Go to www.globalbattery.org

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