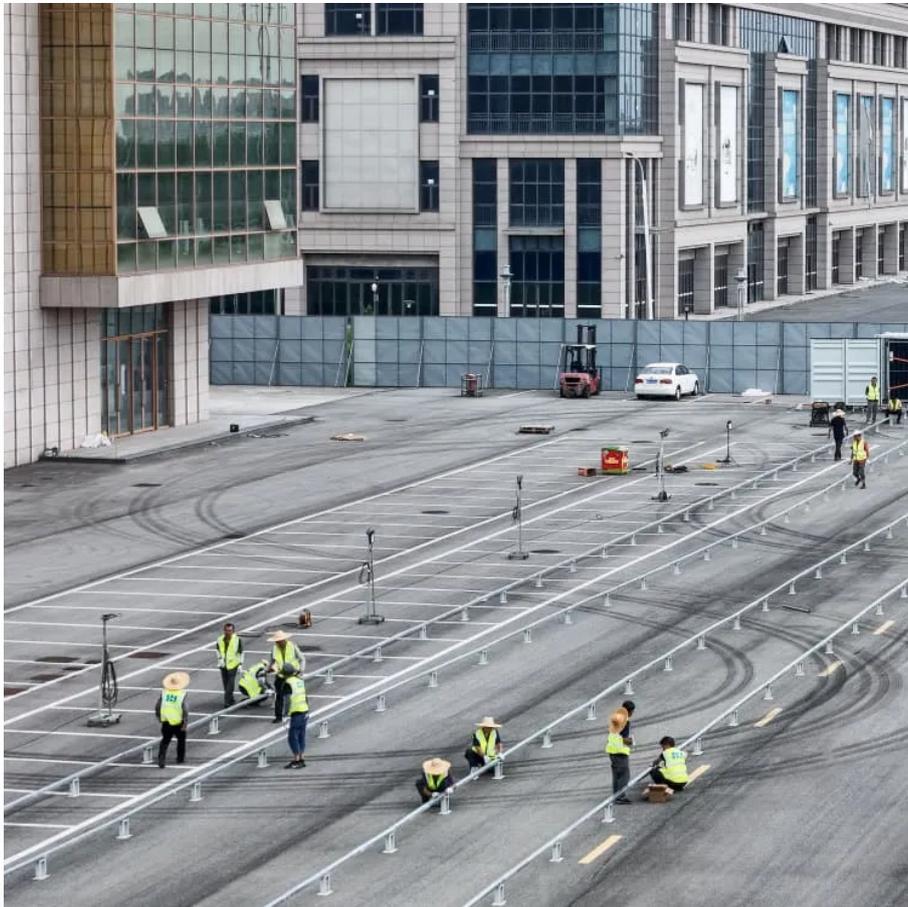


Kongres Container

Costa Rica lithium battery energy storage battery



Overview

How are batteries used in Costa Rica?

“The batteries that arrive from Asia, Europe or the United States to Costa Rica are used here, end their useful life, are recycled, the materials are recovered and sent, for example, to Europe for the production of new batteries in a circular economy logic,” said Kruse.

Can a battery be used for urban mining in Costa Rica?

Daniel Rivas, technical manager in charge of batteries at Fortech, said that they are looking to “recover the materials to be able to carry out urban mining” and not have to “go to a mine to do more damage to the environment”. Mining is prohibited by law in Costa Rica.

How do lithium batteries work?

When the lithium batteries arrive at Fortech’s industrial plant, they pass through a mechanical belt that feeds them into a shredder to generate a scrap of various metals. When these metals are separated in the lab, they result in “blackmass,” a grayish powder composed of cobalt oxide, nickel, manganese and lithium.

How much does lithium cost a ton?

This mineral, called “white gold” or “oil of the 21st century,” has seen its price soar from \$5,700 a ton in November 2020 to \$60,500 in September 2022 thanks to the rise of electric vehicles, in the race to abandon fossil fuels. But the dark side of lithium recovery is that each extraction plant consumes millions of liters of water per day.

What happens to discarded lithium batteries in 2028?

The University of Aachen in Germany estimates that by 2028 the amount of discarded batteries will exceed the recycling capacity in Europe. When the lithium batteries arrive at Fortech’s industrial plant, they pass through a

mechanical belt that feeds them into a shredder to generate a scrap of various metals.

Is mining illegal in Costa Rica?

Mining is prohibited by law in Costa Rica. This Fortech plant “makes Costa Rica a pioneer in Latin America in the valorization of used lithium batteries,” notes the German Development Cooperation Agency GIZ. The University of Aachen in Germany estimates that by 2028 the amount of discarded batteries will exceed the recycling capacity in Europe.

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