

Significant Battery Recycling Results

RECOVERED HIGH PURITY BATTERY ANODE MATERIAL SUPPORTS THE GLOBAL EFFORTS TO INCREASE RECYCLING OF LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES

EcoGraf Limited (EcoGraf or the Company) (ASX: EGR) is pleased to announce the results from its ongoing customer recycling program's using EcoGraf™ proprietary purification process to recover high purity battery anode material from lithium-ion battery materials.

Key Highlights

- Significant results up to 100% carbon achieved from EcoGraf™ purification of production battery anode scrap generated through the manufacture of lithium-ion batteries support the potential to re-use in the battery to reduce battery production costs
- Further positive results confirm the recovery of high purity anode material of up to 99.6% carbon from a range of 'black mass' material from recycled end of life lithium-ion batteries
- Results demonstrate potential to re-use recovered high purity battery anode material in the higher priced industrial natural and synthetic graphite markets
- Testwork remains ongoing with significant interest from customers, including leading electric vehicle manufacturers, battery manufacturers and battery recyclers
- EcoGraf™ results confirm the opportunity to support electric vehicle (EV) and battery manufacturers achieve sustainable closed-loop manufacturing
- World Bank report highlights the importance of recycling to support the transition to renewable energy, with Bloomberg forecasting recycling market to be worth US\$18 billion by 2030

In conjunction with the extensive growth in lithium-ion battery use and manufacturing for electric vehicles and energy storage, recycling of batteries and battery materials has become a major environmental and economic concern for both government and industry.

Most of the focus to date has been on the recycling and recovery of cathode minerals with little attention being paid on the recycling of the graphite anode material.

In testing undertaken in collaboration with potential customers, the EcoGraf™ proprietary purification process has now been applied successfully to recycling of both 'production scrap' and 'black mass' materials.

PRODUCTION SCRAP

is the graphite material which is a waste product generated from each stage of the battery anode manufacturing (refer Figure 2).

BLACK MASS

is the residual graphite material remaining after hydrometallurgical processes have recovered the high value cathode metals from end-of-life lithium ion batteries.

Presently the black mass is considered waste and is relegated to landfill, which is a practice that is now inconsistent with environmental and sustainability objectives of major electric vehicle (EV) and battery manufacturers.

The results of recycling programs have demonstrated that excellent recycling recoveries can be achieved from both Production Scrap and Black Mass material using the company's EcoGraf™ purification process.

Table 1 displays the carbon grade ranges of the recovered anode materials before and after purification using EcoGraf™ proprietary purification process for the product samples representing both 'Production Scrap' and 'Black Mass' material.

Table 1 - EcoGraf™ Recycling Results

	PRODUCTION SCRAP (%C)	BLACK MASS (%C)
Product Sample	98-99.85%	30-50%
EcoGraf™ Purification	98.6%-100%	98-99.6%

Carbon (%C) grades determined by Loss on Ignition (LOI) method.

The carbon grades achieved for the recovered anode material support the potential for re-use of both the production scrap into the lithium-ion supply chain and 'black mass' graphite into the higher priced, high purity industrial markets for natural and the synthetic markets.

The purification of the production scrap provides an exciting opportunity for EcoGraf™ to participate in returning this material directly back into the supply chain, supporting the recycling imperative while at the same time potentially reducing battery production costs.

The high purity graphite market is considered greater than 99% carbon with the synthetic market commencing with grades from 98% carbon as shown in Figure 1.

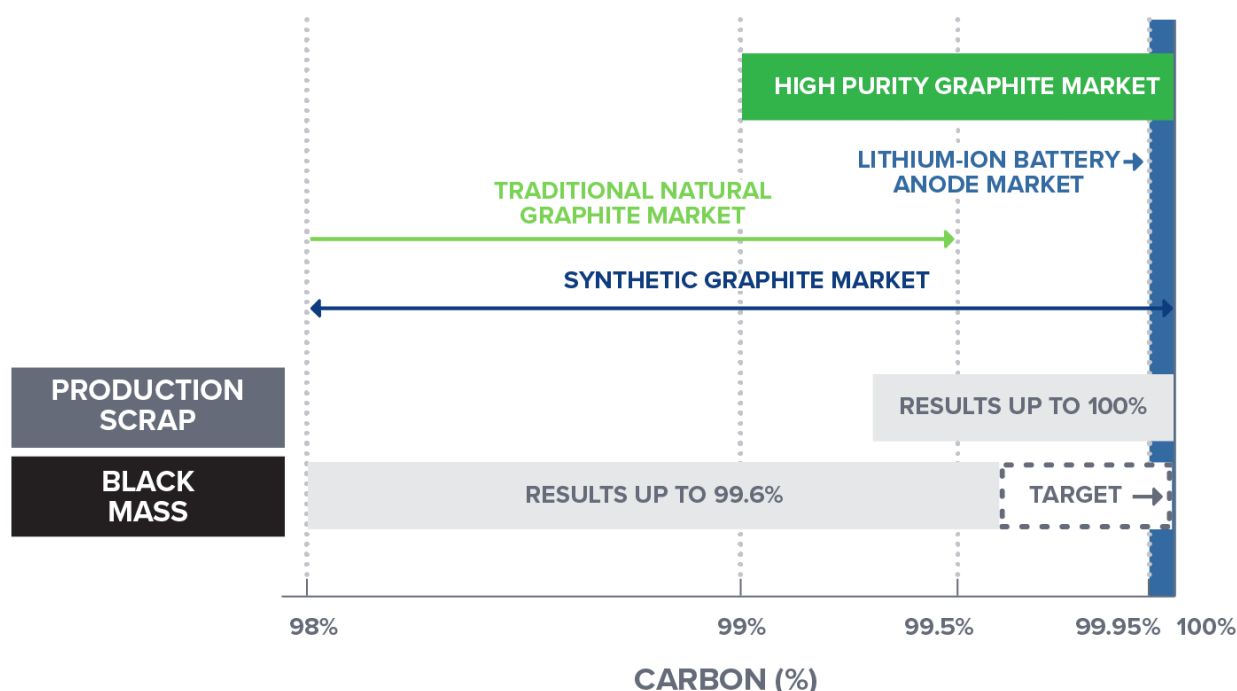


Figure 1 - Illustration of battery anode recycling result shown with high purity graphite markets
(Source: Benchmark Minerals and company research).



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graph TD
    A[LITHIUM-ION ANODE CELL MANUFACTURING] --> B[COATING]
    B --> C[GRAPHITISING]
    C --> D[CELL MANUFACTURING]
    D --> E[BATTERY MANUFACTURING]
    E --> F[LITHIUM ION BATTERY]
    F --> G[ELECTRIC VEHICLES]
    G --> H[LITHIUM ION BATTERY]
    H --> I[HYDROMETALLURGICAL PROCESS]
    I --> J[CATHODE METALS  
Ni, Co, Li, Cu]
    J --> K[BLACK MASS]
    K --> L[GRAPHITISED ANODES]
    K --> M[RECYCLING]
    M --> N[PRODUCTION SCRAP]
    M --> O[TRADITIONAL NATURAL GRAPHITE MARKET  
SYNTHETIC GRAPHITE MARKET]
    N --> A

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Results are encouraging, however additional work in collaboration with customers is continuing to further refine the process.

Recent reports provide the importance of battery recycling.

- Natural and synthetic graphite are major battery anode materials in the lithium-ion battery and the recovered anode material is a composite of both synthetic and natural graphite. There are good markets in both natural and synthetic graphite markets for the recycled materials.

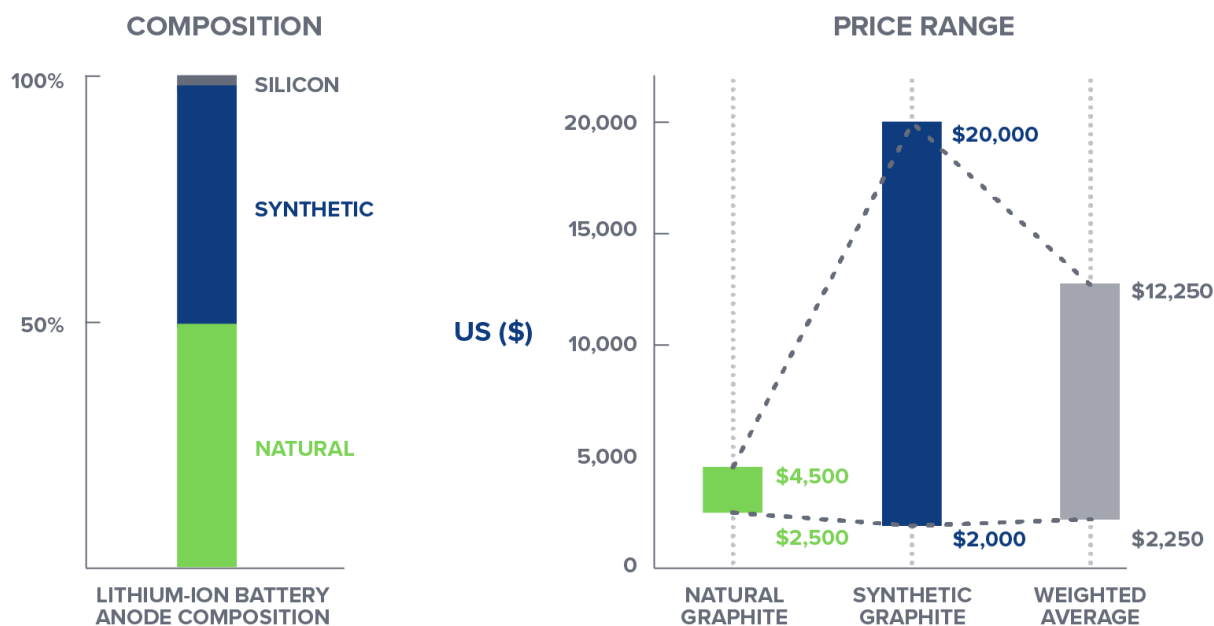


Figure 3 - Composition and Battery Raw Material Price Range

(Source Benchmark Minerals and market sources)

The Company looks forward to providing further updates as the testwork remains ongoing with over six expressions of interest from customers, including leading electric vehicle manufacturers, battery manufacturers and battery recyclers interested in evaluating the application of company's EcoGraf™ purification.

This announcement is authorised for release by Andrew Spinks, Managing Director.

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ENGINEERING CLEAN ENERGY



About EcoGraf

Founded on a commitment to innovation and sustainability, EcoGraf is building a vertically integrated business to produce high purity graphite for the lithium-ion battery market.

The new state-of-the-art processing facility in Western Australia will manufacture spherical graphite products for export to Asia, Europe and North America using a superior, environmentally responsible purification technology to provide customers with sustainably produced, high performance battery anode graphite. In time the battery graphite production base will be expanded to include additional facilities in Europe and North America to support the global transition to clean, renewable energy in the coming decade.

In addition, the Company's breakthrough recovery of graphite from recycled batteries using its EcoGraf™ process will enable the recycling industry to reduce battery waste and use recycled graphite to improve battery lifecycle efficiency.

To complement the battery graphite operations, EcoGraf is also developing the TanzGraphite natural flake graphite business, commencing with the Epanko Graphite Project, which will supply additional feedstock for the spherical graphite processing facilities and provide customers with a long term supply of high quality graphite products for industrial applications such as refractories, recarburisers and lubricants.

EcoGraf, a unique vertically integrated graphite business, positioned for the future of clean energy.



A video fly-through of this new facility is available online at the following link:

<https://www.ecograf.com.au/#home-video>

