

# Research on macroeconomic policies of lithium battery for energy storage

Is there a circular economy for lithium-ion batteries?

There is a potential for a circular economy for lithium-ion batteries (LiBs) in the United States. LiB reuse/recycling efforts can reduce negative environmental impacts associated with the lifecycle of a battery and lead to new and expanded markets and job creation. However, there are many technical, economic, and regulatory factors that currently inhibit this circular economy.

Why are lithium-based batteries important?

Lithium-based batteries power our daily lives from consumer electronics to national defense. They enable electrification of the transportation sector and provide stationary grid storage, critical to developing the clean-energy economy.

Is the volume of spent lithium-ion batteries increasing in the US?

As large-format battery energy storage capacity increases in the US, so will the volume of spent lithium-ion batteries (LiBs). (Bade 2019)

Are lithium-ion batteries critical materials?

Given the reliance on batteries, the electrified transportation and stationary grid storage sectors are dependent on critical materials; today's lithium-ion batteries include several critical materials, including lithium, cobalt, nickel, and graphite.<sup>13</sup> Strategic vulnerabilities in these sources are being recognized.

Should lithium-based batteries be a domestic supply chain?

Establishing a domestic supply chain for lithium-based batteries requires a national commitment to both solving breakthrough scientific challenges for new materials and developing a manufacturing base that meets the demands of the growing electric vehicle (EV) and electrical grid storage markets.

Are high-capacity lithium-ion batteries sustainable?

While achievable goals, they are contingent on reliable and sustainable supplies of large quantities of high-capacity lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries.

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