

# RECYCLE MY CAR

## What?

Creation of a '**Recycle My Car**' page on the websites of all car brands (importers and, if possible, also the dealers) with the necessary local (Belgian) information on the recycling of vehicles and batteries of electrified vehicles.

## How?

Please name the page 'Recycle My Car' and be sure to include this name also in the url with hyphens (.../recycle-my-car)

If possible, please integrate the page under a 'service' heading. E.g.:

- [citroën.be/en/service/recycle-my-car](https://citroen.be/en/service/recycle-my-car)
- [volkswagen.be/en/owners-and-services/recycle-my-car](https://volkswagen.be/en/owners-and-services/recycle-my-car)

After some time, if we all use 'Recycle My Car', the pages of all the sites will end up higher in the search engine results.

Febelauto will also create a dedicated 'Recycle My Car' page with the same information and links to the websites of the collaborating car brands. We have also purchased the domain names ([www.recycle-my-car.be](http://www.recycle-my-car.be) and variations). We can develop this domain further in the future if the concept catches on. In the meantime, we will take care of the necessary redirects.

## Why?

- Inform consumers clearly about what to do with their end-of-life vehicles and where to take them. Research into the search terms used on car recycling (Google Trends, Ubersuggest, Keywordtool,...) shows that consumers need this kind of information.
- Consumers instinctively look for this information on car brand sites (importers/dealerships), because of the history of recycling and takeover premiums.
- Belgium is one of the world's top players in vehicle recycling - we recycle up to 98% of the weight of a vehicle - and we should be proud of that. Car recycling is therefore a great sustainable topic to boost the sector's image.
- Our content proposal complements your existing international brand pages on recycling projects and sustainable initiatives. Do not hesitate to provide the necessary links between local and international content.

### A small effort

- Below you can find a **text proposal**. You can copy the entire text and adapt it to your brand guidelines. Where **(brand)** is written, you can enter the name of your own brand.
- When writing the text, the most used search terms (SEO) related to car recycling were taken into account. Please keep the terminology as much as possible.
- We will also provide **photos**, free to use, to illustrate the text below and we are working on short **videos** explaining the various recycling steps to replace the text under point 5. You will receive these later on.
- At the moment we do not have any English pages on the Febelauto website to link to, but we will certainly look into this in the future.

## RECYCLE MY CAR

### WE RECYCLE YOUR END-OF-LIFE **(BRAND)** SUSTAINABLY

Your **(brand)** was manufactured to last, but one day there comes a time when it no longer makes sense to continue using your car. What then?

A **(brand)** consists of more than 1 tonne of diverse materials and is therefore a complex product to recycle. Nevertheless, in Belgium we manage to **recycle 98% of the weight of an end-of-life vehicle** ([Febelauto](#) figures). Most materials can be processed safely and sustainably by dismantling to recover the reusable parts or after treatment to recover the valuable raw materials.

Unfortunately, a small proportion of a scrap car is harmful to the environment. It is therefore important that these vehicles are collected by reliable companies and that the hazardous substances are professionally disposed. This is why Europe and the regional governments in Belgium have strictly regulated the take-back and treatment of end-of-life vehicles.

For more than **25** years, **(brand)** has been working with [Febelauto](#), the official management body in Belgium responsible for the sustainable collection, treatment and recycling of end-of-life vehicles (ELV's). Febelauto relies on a network of authorised treatment facilities (ATF's) approved by the regional authorities.

Only the ATF's may process ELV's and are entitled to issue a certificate of destruction, allowing Febelauto to deregister the vehicle at the '[DIV](#)' of the [Federal Public Service for Mobility and Transport](#).

This allows (brand), under the watchful eye of Febelauto, to guarantee that all its ELV's are recycled under the most sustainable conditions. After all, the days of car junkyards are long gone!

1. When is a car 'end of life'?
2. When should I turn in an end-of-life vehicle?
3. What do I do with an end-of-life vehicle?
4. What does vehicle recycling cost?
5. Which categories of vehicles fall under these regulations?
6. Vehicle recycling, how does it work?

(Please link to the following paragraphs)

### 1. When is a car 'end-of-life'?

ELV's are all passenger cars with up to 8 passenger seats and light commercial vehicles with a maximum total mass of 3.5 tonnes, that the holder discards or is required to discard because:

- the car has suffered heavy damage: the car's safety cage is deformed, the car has fallen apart in pieces, the car has been destroyed by fire or the car has been submerged in water up to or above the seat level.
- the severe damage has been assessed by an automobile expert as a 'technical total loss',
- the car's on-board documents are no longer valid after the legal regularisation period (see 'When should I turn in an end-of-life vehicle'),
- the car is no longer used as a vehicle (e.g. for dismantling parts).

(\* See also 'Which categories of vehicles fall under these regulations.

### 2. When should I turn in an end-of-life vehicle?

Each ELV must be turned in to a collection point or ATF by the last holder within a certain period of time.

- **Within one month** after the automotive expert has assessed the vehicle as a 'technical total loss'.
- **within two months** if the registration certificate and last valid technical inspection certificate cannot be presented
- **within two years** from the expiry date of the technical inspection certificate,
- **within six years** of the first entry into service of a vehicle that has not yet passed the technical inspection.

Oldtimers, collection and exhibition vehicles are not considered end-of-life vehicles, provided they meet specific legal requirements. This also applies to confiscated, rallycross and didactic vehicles. Other ELV's should therefore never be stored by yourself, unless you have a permit to do so.

But whatever your scenario, **(brand)** relies on Febelauto and the professional network of collection points and ATF's across the country to help you and our planet in the best possible way.

If you want to report a disturbing car wreck in your neighborhood, contact the local police or the environmental department of your municipality. They will find out who the vehicle belongs to and will take the necessary steps to tow the vehicle away.

### **Attention!**

If you do not respect the above deadlines, you commit an **environmental offence** resulting in a **police report**.

### **3. What do I do with an end-of-life vehicle?**

Is it time to say goodbye to your old car? The following scenarios are possible within the network of collection points and ATF's:

1. Your car was labelled **an economic total loss**. Your vehicle can still be sold for repair. When you purchase a new car, the seller will accept your old car at the designated collection point. The collection point will ensure that it ends up at an ATF for end-of-life vehicle processing.
  - > [To the list of \(brand\) dealerships](#)
  - > [To our take-over contact form](#)
2. Your car was labelled a **'technical total loss'**. The car must be treated by an authorised treatment facility and may no longer be sold on the second-hand car market, but it still has many useful parts, which can be dismantled for sale on the second-hand market. Contact an ATF and they will be happy to give the parts of your vehicle **a second life**.
  - > [To the list of authorised dismantling facilities selling used car parts\\*](#)
3. **Your car is in very poor condition** due to a serious accident, fire, flood, neglect or other severe damage and should be treated by an ATF. At your request, they can come and collect your car (against compensation - see '[What does vehicle recycling cost](#)'). An ATF will ensure that your vehicle is professionally depolluted and sustainably recycled so that the **valuable raw materials** can be **recovered** for reuse in the production chain. This completes the circle and nothing goes to

waste.

> [To the list of authorised treatment facilities\\*](#)

(\*) (Brand) can recommend the following treatment facilities: XXX

#### 4. What does vehicle recycling cost?

When buying a new car at a (brand) dealership, you automatically pay an [environmental contribution](#) to guarantee the future sustainable recycling of your vehicle by Febelauto. A collection point or ATF must **accept** your end-of-life vehicle **free of charge\***.

1. In some cases, you can even get a **compensation** for your vehicle.
  - Your (Brand) dealership can offer you a recycling or take-over premium for your vehicle when you buy a new or second hand car.
  - An ATF can offer you a compensation in accordance with the market price of the metal weight and/or according to the market value of the reusable parts.
  - Are you a resident of a LEZ zone (Low Emission Zone)? Then be sure to check with your commune or city to see if you are eligible for a 'demolition premium'.

**(\* Take note!** Collection points are willing to collect and give a refund for your vehicle if your vehicle is complete, contains no waste other than those specific to the vehicle, has a maximum of 8 passenger seats or is a light commercial vehicle with a maximum weight of up to 3.5 tonnes. (Read also [Which categories of vehicles fall under these regulations?](#)). If your vehicle does not meet these conditions or you request additional services, the collection point may charge an additional fee. This amount is proportional to the services and costs of the deficiency(s).

#### 5. Which categories of vehicles fall under these regulations?

- Vehicles for passenger transport (M1):  
Motor vehicles intended for passenger transport, with at least 4 wheels and a maximum of 8 passenger seats. Three-wheeled vehicles with a maximum weight of more than 1 tonne also belong to this category.
- Vehicles for the transport of goods (N1):  
Motor vehicles intended for goods transport, with at least 4 wheels and a maximum weight of 3.5 tonnes. Three-wheeled vehicles with a maximum weight of more than 1 tonne also belong to this category.
- Three-wheeled motor vehicles:  
All motorised vehicles with three wheels that participate in road traffic and have a maximum speed of more than 45 km per hour. Three-wheeled motorcycles are not included.

## 6. Vehicle recycling, how does it work?

Wrecks go through several steps at our authorised treatment facilities. Only this process can guarantee safe and environmentally friendly treatment. How does it work?

(Several short videos will replace the text regarding the different recycling steps at a later stage)

### *STEP 1: Collection request and deregistration*

The last owner brings his ELV into a [\(Brand\) dealership](#) or has it collected by an [ATF](#). After checking the condition of the vehicle, the collection point issues a 'certificate of delivery' or, in the case of an ATF a 'certificate of destruction'. Febelauto needs this last-mentioned document to guarantee the sustainable recycling of the vehicle and to ensure deregistration at the DIV (so that you, the owner, are definitively discharged from all liability).

### *STEP 2: Depollution*

Although an ELV is full of recyclable raw materials, it starts its recycling journey as a hazardous waste. Therefore, the first step in the recycling process is depollution or the careful removal of all fluids and parts that are harmful.

For example, fuel, windscreen washer fluid, motor oil, air-conditioning gas or lead starter batteries. These hazardous liquids and parts are stored in special containers until they are collected and recycled by ATF's.

At this stage, all batteries and tyres are also removed. For an electrically powered vehicle, the high-voltage battery is dismantled and taken away for discharge and treatment. The still usable modules in the batteries (63% on average) are given a second life, either through remanufacturing or in second life applications such as stationary energy storage systems. The remaining 37% defective modules are recycled to recover the valuable raw materials.

### *STEP 3: Dismantling for reuse*

After the depollution, mechanical or body parts and electrical or electronic components are dismantled for reuse - accounting for 23% of the vehicle weight on average. These parts are thoroughly checked and re-enter the market as secondhand car parts. These reused parts not only save valuable raw materials, but also a lot of CO2 emissions (80% on average!).

#### *STEP 4: Compacting*

Then, follows the physical destruction of the vehicle, which guarantees that it can never be used in traffic again. Most cars are first compacted in a hydraulic press into a cube or pancake. The aim is to make the wreck as compact as possible, to facilitate transport to the shredding plant, because that cube or pancake is certainly not the end of our recycling story.

#### *STEP 5: Shredding and sorting*

The wrecks or compacted vehicles are then sent to a shredder, which shreds them into pieces of a few square centimeters in seconds. Those remains are shredded again and further sorted in several stages using as many as more than 40 automated processes (magnets, eddy current, flotation, artificial intelligence, etc.), that use the physical properties of the material to skillfully separate them. Thanks to these so-called post-shredder technologies, a lot of materials can be recovered.

#### *STEP 6: We come back full circle*

After sorting, the various material fractions (steel, aluminium, copper, zinc, plastics, fibres, glass and many other materials) are transported to various processing plants, which treat them and then bring them back into the production chain in the most diverse industries. Some of it (4.2%) is also used as alternative fuel for energy and heat recovery (cement plants, district heating plants, power plants, etc.).

<p>The full recycling process allows up to 98% of a vehicle's weight to be reused, recycled and recovered. So, at the end of your (brand's) life, opt for sustainable recycling and leave your vehicle at a collection point or bring it to an authorised treatment facility.</p>
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[Recycle My Car](#) is an initiative of [Febelauto](#) and the Belgian car importers