



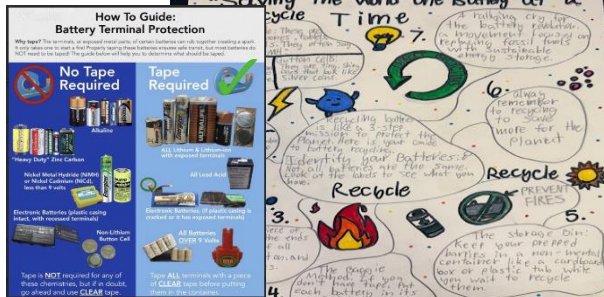


SAVING THE PLANET - ONE BATTERY AT A TIME

By merging [Xplorlabs: The Science of Thermal Runaway](#), ULRI's [Be Nice to Your Device](#) Campaign, and information from [Recycle My Battery](#), I was able to incorporate the phenomena of Thermal Runaway into my Amplify Science Curriculum on Thermal Energy. I followed the students on their self-identified journey to Save the Planet – One Battery at a Time. . We started out learning about thermal energy in the Amplify science platform, then transitioned into community actions to prevent thermal runaway. This unit proved that applied, project-based learning effectively bridges the gap between theoretical science and life-saving real world applications, resulting in a memorable and high-impact educational experience that was shared.

	  	
<p>Week 1 & 2</p> <p>On January 8th, 2026, the Philadelphia Fire Department came to present to the K-6 students about Fire Safety. For the K-4 students they focused on house safety. The 5th and 6th grade the PFD focused on Thermal Runaway with lithium-ion batteries. I started this project at this point of the school year because the Amplify curriculum used in the School District of Philadelphia in 6th grade is Thermal Energy. This was the project I liked most when going through the ULRI Xplorlabs Fellowship Summit summer 2025.</p>	<p>Week 3 & 4</p> <p>After Martin Luther King's Holiday our plan started to take shape. The class started to realize that thermal runaway and collecting batteries could be accomplished. We asked students, teachers, staff and families to bring in old batteries for the 6th Graders to discard. And boy did they! We got a ton of alkaline batteries, old cell phone batteries, old computer batteries and more. We even had someone ask us if we could pick up all the batteries the family had put aside to discard. So, I drove to the house and did a pick up. 6 crates of old batteries.</p>	<p>Week 5 & 6</p> <p>Once we had collected our batteries, it was time to get things going. The students sorted batteries by classification. Then some students volunteered to stay after school for 3 days -- sorting and wrapping batteries in plastic and tape. The assembly line was moving and the students had it done in a rather short period of time. The next step was packing my car. That took a bit as my room is on the 3rd floor. Once the car was packed. I brought the batteries to the closest Home Depot about 3 miles away, where I deposited them into the recycle bins in the very back of the store.</p>

