

Container Recycling Fee

Building a cleaner environment for Alberta
one container at a time.



Alberta has one of the most innovative and effective beverage container recycling programs in North America. Some of the money to operate the system comes from the sale of recyclable material from the returned containers. The rest comes from unredeemed deposits and the Container Recycling Fee. Beverage containers have different recycling fees because they have different costs of recycling.

Recyclable Beverage Containers

Examples of Newly Created Items



CONTAINER SIZE	CRF (\$)	DEPOSIT (\$)	REFUND (\$)
Aluminum Cans			
0 – 1 L	0.00	0.10	0.10
PET Bottles			
0 – 1 L	0.03	0.10	0.10
> 1 L	0.11	0.25	0.25
HDPE Plastic Containers			
0 – 1 L	0.03	0.10	0.10
> 1 L	0.11	0.25	0.25
Polypropylene Plastic Containers			
0 – 1 L	0.03	0.10	0.10
> 1 L	0.11	0.25	0.25
Other Plastic Containers			
0 – 1 L	0.03	0.10	0.10
> 1 L	0.11	0.25	0.25
Glass Bottles			
0 – 1 L	0.10	0.10	0.10
> 1 L	0.11	0.25	0.25
Tetra Brik Containers			
0 – 1 L	0.02	0.10	0.10
> 1 L	0.10	0.25	0.25
Bi-Metal Cans			
0 – 1 L	0.07	0.10	0.10
> 1 L	0.25	--	0.25
Bag in a Box			
> 1 L	0.01	0.25	0.25
Gable Top Containers			
0 – 1 L	0.03	0.10	0.10
> 1 L	0.10	0.25	0.25
Other Plastics			
Pouch 0 – 1 L	0.01	0.10	0.10
Poly Cup 0 - 1 L	0.03	0.10	0.10



What is the fee? The Container Recycling Fee is a fee that beverage manufacturers are required to pay Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation (ABCRC) that covers net costs to recover and process used beverage containers, and to ensure that Alberta maintains an effective and sustainable recycling system.

What does it cost? Costs vary with the material and the size of the container. These costs are monitored regularly and usually change annually on February 1st.

Do the value of the recovered materials and the unredeemed deposits cover the system costs? The commodity value and the unredeemed deposits generally only cover part of the system costs. The Container Recycling Fee covers the rest of the system costs.

Isn't the recycling fee just another government tax? No. None of the Container Recycling Fee or the deposit monies goes to any level of government. The Container Recycling Fee helps to pay a part of the cost of recycling containers as recycling is required by regulation.

Who administers this fee? The Container Recycling Fee is administered by ABCRC, the not-for-profit stewardship agency. The Container Recycling Fee is not a government tax and no funds from the fees are paid to government. The fees are used in their entirety to operate the Common Collection System to the benefit of all Albertans.

Who benefits from this fee? We all do. The Container Recycling Fee simply shows the net costs of recycling left over after other funds like unredeemed deposits and money from the sale of recyclable materials are used.

Where does the money go? The money collected from the Container Recycling Fee, plus the money from the sale of commodities, and any money left over from unredeemed deposits, is used to pay for the collection, handling, transportation and processing of the containers. There are dozens of companies and hundreds of people employed in Alberta as a result of this program.

Why is the recycling fee different on different beverages? The Container Recycling Fee is the net cost of recycling each type of container. Since different containers cost different amounts to recycle, the fee is also different.

Why is the recycling fee separate from the deposit? So that consumers will have a better understanding of the direct net costs of recycling each type of container.

Why do I pay the recycling fee in some stores but not others? The decisions by manufacturers to pass on the CRF to retailers and by retailers to pass on the CRF to consumers are made independently. Some retailers may choose not to pass on the CRF or to show it separately.

For a summary of the container recycling fees visit abcrc.com/container-information or call 1-800-267-4130.

Effective February 1, 2020