

Outdoor Blue Bins Offer Another Recycling Opportunity

Structured under the ABCRC Community Champions Program, a new partnership with levels of government is underway to place outdoor bins Alberta.

Current partners are Alberta Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture; the City of Edmonton; the Town of Okotoks; and Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation.

The new blue bins were designed for the collection and recycling of non-beer beverage containers and are provided by ABCRC. The bins are bear proof and insect repellent and are designed to discourage their use as a garbage bin. They are equipped with reusable cloth liners that can support more weight than plastic bags and allow for ease of collection. The bins can also be locked in any area that might require it to be.

Alberta Parks was the first partner in June, 2007 with a program to place 140 bins in 50 parks province-wide in strategic areas such as campgrounds, day use areas (beaches and picnic areas) and scenic viewpoints. With each of these locations the bins serve a different user.

The Minister of Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture in June 2007, Hector Goudreau, said, "Maintaining the natural beauty of our parks is important to all Albertans. This new recycling partnership is another step towards cleaner and healthier parks in our province." Rob Renner, Minister of Alberta Environment, said "We're aiming for Albertans to recycle 85 per cent of beverage containers, and this specific initiative will help us move forward on that goal."

Since the installation of bins by Alberta Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture, feedback has been provided by the Provincial Parks Division that indicates the bins have been a great benefit to the parks and have been very well received by staff and contractors.

The Town of Okotoks will place the blue bins in seven strategic locations under a one year pilot project, an initiative undertaken under the banner of "Sustainable Okotoks". Use of the bins will be monitored by town staff and, if successful, Okotoks will then work with a not-for-profit agency to run the program long term. By collecting and returning containers from the bins to local bottle depots, the not-for-profit organization can contribute to their fundraising objectives.

The launch date for the City of Edmonton is May 1st, coinciding with their River Valley Clean Up day. They will be launching both the outdoor bins in the parks and the indoor bins in recreation facilities throughout the city.

Alberta Transportation and Infrastructure has ordered several hundred bins to be placed at rest stops, road side turnouts and visitor information centres. This is a three phase plan with the first phase targeted to be in place for the May long weekend in Northern Alberta. The next phases will follow shortly afterward.

ABCRC is currently in talks with the City of Calgary regarding participation in the program.

A key part of Premier Ed Stelmach's plan to improve the quality of life of Albertans is the promotion of Alberta and stewardship of the environment. ABCRC and the Community Champion Partners are also dedicated to this objective and are very pleased with the response to the outdoor bin placement to date. ♻️



Double Bin Model



Single Bin Model

Caps Off Campaign To Be Launched



One of the posters promoting the Caps Off Campaign

The Caps Off Campaign is one that will encourage customers to participate in the process of removing caps from their bottles. As a result, money earned will go to The Rainbow Society of Alberta, an organization dedicated to fulfilling the dreams of children with chronic or life threatening illnesses.

A partnership between The Rainbow Society of Alberta, the ABDA, and the bottle depots enables beverage container caps to be recycled by shipping the collected caps to ABCRC. ABCRC will sell the caps to recycling companies and the proceeds of these sales will go to the Rainbow Society of Alberta. All proceeds remain within the province and provide the possibility of granting wishes to Alberta's kids.

Removal of caps by customers will also help to improve safety in the workplace. Hazards such as caps that become projectiles when a larger container is crushed, and repetitive strain injuries from twisting off thousands of caps, can be avoided by consistent removal of caps. Caps that are recycled are then reborn to become a variety of durable, useful products, such as reinforced plastic lumber.

What's more, this is additional plastic and other cap material that won't reach a landfill!

A date is to be set around mid to late April for the launch of the campaign. ABCRC is sending out materials to each depot so if they aren't received, call Dawne Pettipas at (403) 264-0170, ext. 223. If you receive your package, please wait for notice to put up the information. ♻️

Welcome Brian Bastien, ABCRC Area Manager for Southern Alberta

ABCRC is pleased to have Brian Bastien join the team as the new Area Manager for Southern Alberta. Brian brings 10 years experience in the beer business with Moosehead and Carlsberg Canada, primarily in marketing and management roles, and he has recently completed an International MBA in the UK.

Brian enjoys travelling, rugby, skiing and hockey in his leisure time and he is excited about being part of the environmental contribution that ABCRC brings to Alberta. ♻️



Brian Bastien joins ABCRC

DEPOTS – Reserve the STREET TEAM!

Decked out with a decaled vehicle, mascot, literature, display and promotional items, the Street Team will be working across the province to promote and provide public education with regard to beverage container recycling.

The Street Team will be available this summer for community events, parades, sports events, etc. It's free to book the team to help promote your depot and container recycling in your community but due to scheduling they will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Why not book them for your community now by e-mailing streetteam@abcrc.com. ♻️

DEPOT REMINDER

Besure to get your community groups to register online for the Community Champions Program. More participants mean more winners!

Deerfoot Bottle Depot Improves Customer Service

Farid Remtulla and Zul Mohamed have seen many changes in depot operations since they opened their business in September 1999. These changes have improved both depot to plant efficiencies and customer service.

However one of the common problems for bottle depots is the customer perception of inaccuracies in deposit refunds. Farid and Zul set out to make changes at their business in an effort to demonstrate to their customers their commitment to accuracy.

In operations where paper is used to record the number and type of containers returned, customers often don't see that paper and don't have a chance to check the numbers. Customer complaints regarding miscounts or underpayment are frequent.

In November, 2007 Deerfoot installed a POS system to service six stations. At each station there is a double sided screen or monitor that displays the count and refund for each type of container so that the customer can see the input as it takes place. There is also a printer shared by two stations that prints out the receipt once the container count is completed. The customer then takes that receipt to the cash desk for the refund, a receipt that matches the count they watched on the monitor.

Changes at the depot started with one station for testing. Lots of technology was involved and the pilot station was adjusted in the process as they worked with the software vendor to get a system that met their objectives.

It was a slow process to refine the system, but the Deerfoot Bottle Depot has seen a positive response from customers and has heard fewer complaints. Although the count is still manual and human error is still possible, the system helps customers see the process and have a chance to make corrections before receiving the receipt that finalizes the transaction. ♻️



New POS system at double station,
Deerfoot Bottle Depot



Customers receive receipt produced from on
screen information

ABCRC Commitment to Industry Improvement

ABCRC is continually looking for ways to improve operations efficiencies for both the depots and the plants.

A pilot project that began in January saw the distribution of pink mega bags to a number of depots. These bags have been redesigned from the white mega bags to include a double bottom. The blue mega bags which are currently in use for glass have double bottoms and sides. By doubling the bottom for non-glass bags it is believed the life of the bags can be significantly extended over the life of the white bags. It is not expected that results can be measured before the fall of this year but if attrition of the bags slows the resulting larger inventory will also be available to handle the increase in volume over the summer period.

Also on trial are a number of different types of compaction equipment being tested at the ABCRC plants. Compaction would help to address space and shipping issues being experienced by depots within the province.

ABCRC is always receptive to comments and suggestions from depots regarding ways to improve industry operations. Contact ABCRC by calling (403) 264-0170 or via their web site at www.abcrc.com if you have ideas to contribute. ♻️

Remember to Register for E-Delivery

ABCRC is encouraging registration of your e-mail address so that newsletters and other information can be sent electronically. There is no cost for this service and you can request that the list include as many e-mail addresses as you wish. By having more people in your organization receive updated information they can keep current with what's going on at ABCRC and within the industry.

Probably an even more important reason to register is our common goal to reduce environmental impact. Electronic delivery is not only cost effective, it helps to reduce the amount of paper used. ♻️

Please send your e-mail addresses to
dpettipas@abcrc.com

Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation Statistical Analysis - Weight Diverted (KG)						
Twelve Months Ending February						
2007				2008		
Sales (KG)	Recovered (KG)	Diversion Rate	SUMMARY TOTALS	Sales (KG)	Recovered (KG)	Diversion Rate
			Material			
7,325,222	5,446,132	74.3%	Aluminum	7,474,262	5,635,338	75.4%
13,417,894	8,972,146	66.9%	PET Plastic	14,661,494	10,125,851	69.1%
53,214,896	40,067,364	75.3%	Glass	54,290,066	42,283,836	77.9%
3,950,572	2,113,203	53.5%	Polycoat	3,842,868	2,201,115	57.3%
541,809	291,572	53.8%	Bi-Metal	546,481	294,727	53.9%
79,218,240	57,306,728	72.3%	Consolidated	81,579,257	60,993,942	74.8%

Service Awards and New Staff...

In Calgary Marissa Majauskas is now permanent in the Calgary office. Yohannes Obul Obany and Daniel Mamo-Kassa have joined the Calgary plant and Paul Vallesiers Baptiste and Gorden Mayeop Buk will be joining the Calgary plant in April.

Daniel White is new to the Edmonton office and Erwin Echavez and Al Echavez are new to the Edmonton plant.

Staff Service Awards have been presented to staff at both the Calgary and Edmonton Plants.

In Calgary, Derrick Mason, Derek Chagnon and Dawne Pettipas celebrate 5 years with ABCRC and Jia Zhen Zang, Lorraine Zwicker and Umed Lodhia have reached their first anniversary.

In Edmonton, congratulations for long service to Kong Kan who celebrates 26 years and Souk Cheung who celebrates 25 years. Rolando Victoria celebrates 15 years and Savath Chuon celebrates 10 years. Mao Yoeun, Brent Bauman and Thach Son all reached their fifth anniversary while Thol Phat, Bo Kruey, Troy Brown and Trevor Brown have reached their first anniversary.

ABCRC values the loyalty and commitment of all the people who contribute to the success of the company's vision and mission in beverage container recycling in Alberta. ♻️

Regional Meetings Held

The annual Regional Meetings took place recently with the best turnout to date in all locations. Each meeting included updates from the BCMB, ABCRC and ABDA and a session on the Uniform Code of Accounts.

Coming Events

- April 22 Earth Day 2008
- April 21-23 Alberta's Environment Conference, Edmonton
- May 12-15 Waste - The Social Context '08, Edmonton
- June 1-7 Environment Week
- June 3 Alberta Emerald Foundation Awards Gala, Edmonton
- June 3-4 City of Calgary, Mayor's Environmental Expo
- Aug 15 Opening of ABCRC 2008/2009 School Recycling Program
- Oct 8-10 RCA Conference, The Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge, Jasper

Round & Round

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Round & Round welcomes any comments.

Please direct them to:

Guy West, President, ABCRC
3617 Ogden Road S.E., Calgary, AB T2G 4N6,
Tel: 403.264.0170, fax: 403.264.0179

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Quick Print Graphic Services,
2753 - 17 Avenue S.W., Calgary, AB
Tel: 403.242.3113, Fax: 403.246.7832

Written by Sandra Millar, Envision
1938 29 Street S.W., Calgary, AB T3E 2J8
Tel: 403.243.6674

Please recycle. ♻️

