

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 deposit and the Container Recycling Fee. Beverage containers have different recycling fees because they have different costs of recycling.

CONTAINER SIZE	CRF (\$)	DEPOSIT (\$)	REFUND (\$)
Aluminum Cans			
0 - 1 L	0.02	0.10	0.10
> 1 L	0.09	0.25	0.25
Plastic Bottles and Containers			
0 - 1 L	0.04	0.10	0.10
> 1 L	0.07	0.25	0.25
Glass Bottles			
0 - 1 L	0.09	0.10	0.10
> 1 L	0.09	0.25	0.25
Gable Top Containers			
0 - 1 L	0.06	0.10	0.10
> 1 L	0.12	0.25	0.25
Tetra Brik Containers			
0 - 1 L	0.04	0.10	0.10
> 1 L	0.11	0.25	0.25
Bi - Metal Cans			
0 - 1 L	0.08	0.10	0.10
> 1 L	0.08	0.25	0.25
Pouches / Bag in a Box			
0 - 1 L	0.04	0.10	0.10
> 1 L	0.04	0.25	0.25

What is the fee? The Container Recycling Fee (CRF) is a fee paid by beverage manufacturers to Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation (ABCRC) for every beverage sold in Alberta. It ensures that Alberta maintains an effective and sustainable recycling system by covering the net costs associated with recovering and processing used, non-refillable beverage containers.

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 money go to any government level. The CRF helps to pay a part of the cost of recycling containers, as is required by regulation.

Who administers the 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 the government. The fees are used in their entirety to operate the Common Collection System to the benefit of all Albertans.

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

Where does the money go? The money collected from the Container Recycling Fee, plus the money from the sale 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 vary for different beverage containers? The Container Recycling Fee is the net cost of recycling each type of container. Since different containers cost different amount 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 for the recycling fee in some stores but not others? The decision by manufacturers to pass the CRF on to retailers, and in turn for retailers to pass the CRF on to the consumer, is made independently. If the retailer chooses to add the CRF onto the cost of the beverage at the time of sale (rather than including it in the posted price of the beverage) the consumer will see the CRF on their receipt.

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

Effective February 1, 2023



ALBERTA BEVERAGE CONTAINER
RECYCLING CORPORATION