

# abcrc 🗘

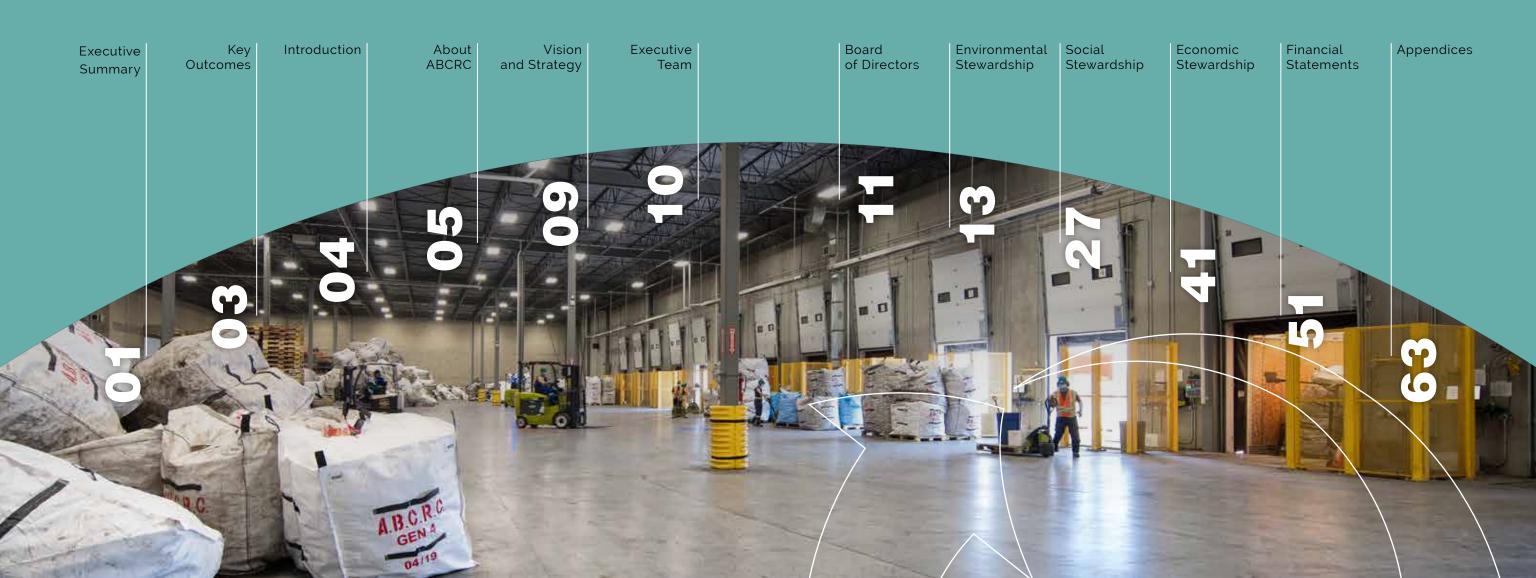


# Welcome

ABCRC is proud to highlight its environmental, social and economic stewardship accomplishments for 2019 in this annual Sustainability Report. As the approved Collection System Agent for beverage containers in Alberta, sustainability is an integral part of ABCRC's daily business operations and is the driving force behind its success. From collection through to processing, ABCRC is committed to operating one of the most innovative and sustainable beverage container recycling programs in North America.

# **Contents**





# r .3 ronomy

In a circular economy, resources are

for as long as feasible, with

sible value being

These further use or regenerated into new products and materials.

# **Executive Summary**

#### **What Goes Around, Comes Around**

Recycling awareness is steadily increasing as Canadians become more conscious of the ongoing battle of waste diversion. Canadian media frequently reported on recycling throughout 2019, publishing information regarding recycling processes and the demand for clean, reusable material.

The ideas of single-use plastic bans, circular economies and EPR programs have also became more prevalent in discussions and publications regarding waste diversion. It is important to remember, though, that Alberta has been recovering and recycling beverage containers for more than 40 years.

Alberta's Common Collection System, which holds beverage manufacturers and distributors accountable for the recovery and recycling of the empty containers that held their products, has been in place since 1972. Nearly two billion beverage containers were returned for refund in 2019,

diverting 99,884,189 kg of waste from landfills and creating reusable and highly sought-after material that can be used by manufacturers to create a variety of products - including new beverage containers.

ABCRC's goals are to work with manufacturers, depots, and other industry stakeholders, realize the highest return rate possible and ensure that beverage containers are given a new life, either as another beverage container or as a different circular economy item.

The return of the deposit paid upon purchasing beverages helps motivate Albertans to return their containers. Albertans are also educating themselves about the positive environmental outcomes that result when beverage containers are returned to Alberta's depots. They are asking questions like "Can an aluminum can really be recycled infinitely?" (the answer, of course, is yes) and are curious

about what happens to the plastic water bottles they return. As ABCRC continues to build on educational advertising campaigns that highlight beverage container lifecycles, Albertans can expect to learn more about exactly what happens to their plastic water bottle when it is returned for a refund, along with the answers to many other important questions.

With a new state of the art processing facility built in St. Albert in 2019 that includes a best-in-class baling system capable of processing enormous amounts of material, ABCRC is well-equipped to continue to accept billions of beverage containers every year. Stringent specifications are met as those beverage containers are bundled into highquality bales that can be sold to market, where they can once again become useful goods for consumers.

Engaging communities and involving Albertans in the process of daily beverage container recycling has always been at the

forefront of ABCRC's goals and objectives. To ensure that children continually learn about beverage container recycling in our province and become the next generation of recyclers, the School Program underwent an extensive update. As well, investing funds back into Alberta communities continues to be an important circular function of ABCRC. Through the Community Champions Program, municipalities and non-profit organizations can apply for a grant that funds up to \$20,000 toward recycling infrastructure to better capture used beverage containers while consumers are out-of-home.

economic kind

Albertans should be very proud to have achieved an 85 percent beverage container return rate in 2019 - it's one of the highest in North America. As Alberta's recycling journey continues, ABCRC intends to encourage public curiosity about the Common Collection System and welcome questions about the individual recycling process that each container goes through. What goes around, comes around - and ABCRC values all opportunities to contribute to a circular economy.

Increased consumer awareness about recycling is changing the way that Albertans think about their waste. Albertans are taking the time to educate themselves on the positive environmental impacts of recycling beverage containers and are taking the action needed to keep this circular process continually flowing."

**Guy West** 



ABCRC is well-equipped to continue to accept billions of beverage containers every year, and to ensure that they are processed into high quality material that can be used repeatedly."

**Ken White** 

# Key Outcomes



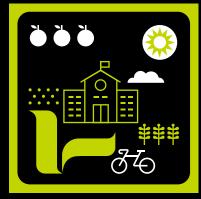
Engaged with 124 community **groups** through Community Champion Program grants, providing 3,223 new recycling bins that were used to promote and facilitate beverage container recycling in Alberta. This resulted in 3,967,595 beverage containers being diverted from landfills.



Achieved 74.8 percent on an internal Health & Safety audit.



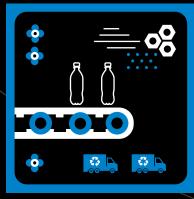
Achieved a return rate of 85 percent. 1,934,928,668 beverage containers were processed in 2019, which diverted 98,958,250 kilograms of material away from landfills.



Updated and relaunched a new version of the School Program.



Built a brand new, state-of-the-art facility in St. Albert to increase Northern Alberta depot servicing capacity and efficiency.



Maintained zero Alberta Depot service disruptions during the move of northern operations from Edmonton to St. Albert.

### Introduction

# Sustainability, by definition, is the ability to meet our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

To accomplish true sustainability, we must ensure that our environmental, social, and economic resources are viewed holistically and used responsibly to find lasting security

> **At Alberta Beverage Container** Recycling Corporation (ABCRC), sustainability is at the forefront of everything we do.

As the operator of the largest Common Collection System for beverage containers in Canada, it's expected that ABCRC focus on operating in an environmentally conscious manner. But we take that one step further. We are proud to take on a leadership role not just within the industry, the province or the country, but in the global sustainability movement, which aims to create a thriving circular economy that benefits everyone within the limitations of our planet. And we take that responsibility seriously.

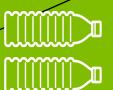


The beverage container recycling industry in Alberta, by its very nature, creates a circular economy. Its basis in Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) means looking beyond the take-make-waste business model to one that designs out waste and pollution, keeps products and materials in use and regenerates natural systems. At ABCRC, we are constantly re-examining our processes and our facilities, not just to ensure that we meet with municipal, provincial, and federal legislation but also to find ways to reduce our carbon footprint, to equitably increase the health and welfare of our staff and to innovate our processes - all while focusing on positive societal benefits and streamlining our finances to keep ABCRC viable well into the future.

This annual report follows Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standards for sustainability reporting and shows ABCRC's commitment to fiscal and social transparency and accountability. It is also our way to renew our own commitment to sustainability each year, by highlighting our environmental, social, and economic stewardship accomplishments. From the smallest ideas - like paper towel composting in washrooms or producing this report on recycled paper - to the largest ones - like ABCRC's new state-of-the-art processing facility in St. Albert that increases process efficiency and economic sustainability, reduces waste, and creates jobs for many Albertans - we know that each change has an impact. And the positive results from our efforts make us want to do more, be better and have an even greater impact next year!

ABCRC's two processing facilities - one in St. Albert and one in Calgary - are responsible for the collection and recycling of more than 150,000 different types of beverage containers sold in Alberta. In 2019, this involved transporting and processing nearly two billion beverage containers from more than 220 independently owned Alberta Depots.

ABCRC operates with not-for-profit provisions as the appointed and approved agent for Alberta beverage manufacturers and distributors whose beverage containers are regulated. ABCRC does not receive funding from any government source.



ABCRC is responsible for the collection and

recycling of more than **150,000** different

types of beverage containers sold in Alberta.

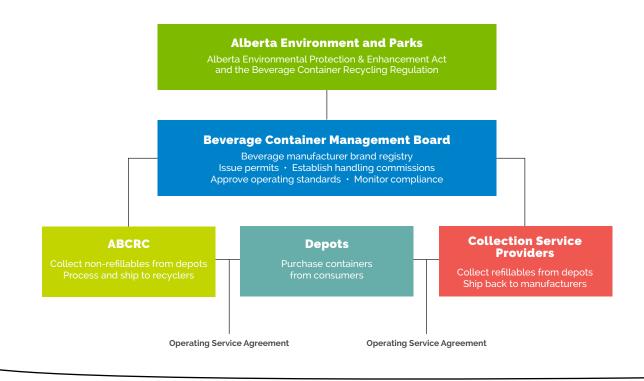


The funds to operate beverage container recycling in Alberta come from three sources: the unredeemed deposits from beverage containers that have been purchased and not yet returned to an Alberta Depot, the sale of recycled scrap material to commodity markets and the Container Recycling Fee.

## **ABCRC Shareholders**



# **Regulatory Structure**



# **Key Industry Focus**



Alberta Depots, ABDA, ABCRC and the BCMB have agreed that the pillars identified in this graphic reflect the key points of focus for the industry.

# **Vision and Strategy**

ABCRC strives for continuous improvement by constantly examining its practices, working collaboratively with its stakeholders and encouraging innovation.

#### Mission

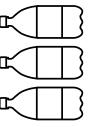
To act on behalf of beverage manufacturers with respect to the operation of Alberta's Common Collection System.

#### Vision

To be the leading Extended Producer Responsibility organization that strategically focuses on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Common Collection System.

In addition to its Mission and Vision, ABCRC operates according to several strategic priorities:

- Provide effective corporate governance
- O2. Communicate ABCRC's value to stakeholders
- O3. Improve fiscal management
- O4. Improve system efficiencies
- 1 Improve the Common Collection System's environmental performance



### **Executive Team**

(for the year ended December 31, 2019)

ABCRC's management is committed to providing effective leadership to ensure the continued success of the organization. ABCRC's Board of Directors and its management are linked through the President; the President is directly supported by the Executive Team who are, in turn, supported by their respective teams.

DEBRIE	MIKE	LORI	COLIN	MIC	GUY
SPEARS	BATISTA	KOEBEL	CARTER	BRENT	WEST
Manager, Human Resources	Manager, Human Resources	Manager, Communications & Marketing	Vice President, Operations	Vice President, Finance & IT	President

In 2019, ABCRC experienced some organizational changes. Debbie Spears joined ABCRC as Manager, Human Resources shortly after Mike Battista's departure mid-year, and Colin Carter left the role of Vice President, Operations late in the year.



### **Board of Directors**

(as at December 31, 2019)

ABCRC's Board of Directors is committed to following effective, transparent and accountable governance practices to ensure that objectives are realized, resources are well managed, and the interests of stakeholders are reflected in key decisions.

ABCRC's Board includes an Audit Committee, a
Governance Committee and a Public Affairs and
Communications Committee, with some non-director
shareholder members also contributing to those committees

The Directors are manufacturer-nominated shareholder representatives from beverage manufacturers and the Alberta Gaming, Liquor & Cannabis Commission (as the deemed manufacturer of all alcoholic beverages). In 2019, the Shareholders' Agreement was unanimously amended to allow the Board of Directors to appoint up to two independent Directors to also serve on the Board. The Directors, and non-director committee members, do not receive any remuneration for the time and talent they provide to ABCRC.

























**Stewardship** 



New Eco-conscious St. Albert Facility

**Zero Waste Initiative** 

**Paper Towel Composting** 

**Irrigation System Updates** 

**Depot Compaction** 

**Environmental Carrier Highlights** 

The Life of a Beverage Container

**Return Summary by Materials** 

**Materials Recycled** 











### **Beverage container stewardship**

began in 1972 under the Litter Act (Alberta), a set of regulations and rules created to combat the growing pollution problem.

In 1993, the Government of Alberta consolidated several pieces of legislation into the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (Alberta). This led to the evolution of the Beverage Container Recycling Regulation (the "Regulation"), which required manufacturers using beverage containers to appoint a Collection System Agent (CSA) to operate a Common Collection System. Shortly after, in 1994, the predecessor company that would become ABCRC was incorporated.

In the years since the appointment of ABCRC as the CSA, Alberta has become more focused on protecting the environment.

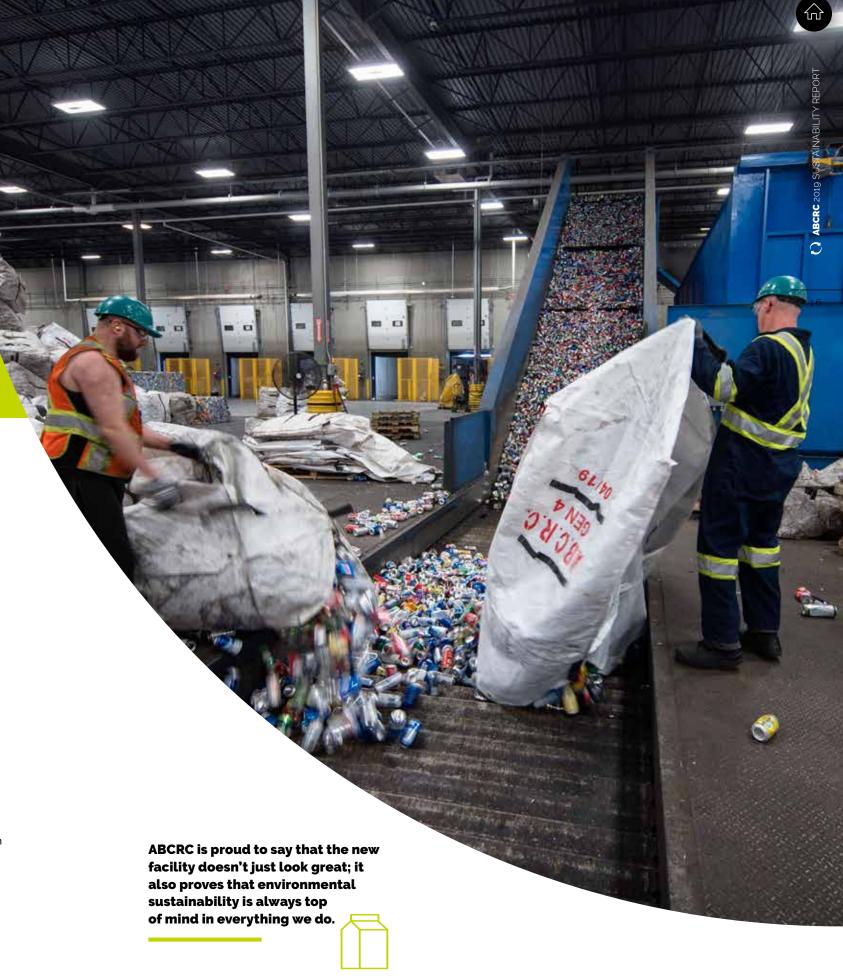
ABCRC endeavors to be an innovator and industry leader, not just by helping municipalities and the provincial government to meet their waste diversion goals, but also by reducing its own environmental footprint and operating in an environmentally conscious manner that exceeds the Regulation's requirements.



# New Eco-conscious St. Albert Facility

Serious consideration was given to the design of the new St. Albert facility to ensure that it was eco-friendly, both in its construction and its operation. Water conservation measures were integrated in the design, including a rooftop rainwater harvesting tank for in plant uses such as floor cleaning and climate-controlled irrigation systems for more efficient landscape maintenance. Motion sensor LED lighting was installed throughout the facility to save energy and extend lighting lifespans.

From an operational perspective, ongoing measures ensure that ABCRC meets stringent ecological targets. Similar to what is used in Calgary, wastewater treatment at the St. Albert facility effectively reduces the corrosiveness and dissolved-metal concentrations that are generated during beverage container processing and ensures that effluent discharge to sewers meets standards outlined in municipal bylaws. As well, all forklifts and motorized pallet jacks used in the plant are electric, which reduces emissions and improves in-plant air quality.



#### **RESOURCE CONSUMPTION OVER TIME**

Water **Electricity** Natural Gas Diesel Fuel 2019 4,946 m<sup>3</sup> 2,947 MWh 5,751 L 27,997 GJ 3,374 m<sup>3</sup> 2,970 MWh 24,991 GJ 3,321 L 2018

Slight increase in overall resource consumption due to the overlap and move from two facilities in Edmonton into a single. larger facility in St. Albert that occurred over several months in 2019. The St. Albert plant also has new equipment (telehandler) that runs on diesel fuel.



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#### **Zero Waste** Initiative

Zero waste events are a great way to show employees and industry guests that ABCRC practices what it preaches when it comes to sustainability. Our parties, barbecues, and other social and business events are consciously planned to ensure that as many of the resources used as possible, from décor to food to utensils, are fully resumed back into the system, supporting a circular economy. Our aim is to reduce what is used, reuse as much as possible, send very little to be recycled, and compost what remains.

Zero waste does not mean zero fun, though! ABCRC's much-anticipated zero waste barbeques, for example, are held annually in both Calgary and St. Albert. They're a great place to connect with fellow employees and guests through fun games and activities, plant tours to show off our operation, and of course great food!

After the events, very little solid waste is sent to landfills, despite having more than 100 attendees at each one. Now that's sustainability!

#### **Paper Towel** Composting

Rather than taking up space in a landfill, many Alberta municipal composting programs advocate placing food- and water-soiled paper towels and serviettes into the compost. Paper products are made from wood, which is an essential "brown" component in the brown (carbon)/green (nitrogen) waste supply that makes up the essential waste-air-water-soil composting ratio. But having a supply of paper products in compost doesn't just mean a good supply of carbon (which reduces the need for woodchips); it also absorbs wetness and acts as a bulking agent for compost piles. This creates clean, effective compost that can be used in place of synthetic fertilizers.

Damp paper towels from washrooms are perfect for composting, as they are not contaminated by chemicals. ABCRC's St. Albert plant was designed with washroom composting in mind, and in 2019 ABCRC integrated it into its Calgary facility, as well. Existing washroom garbage receptacles were converted into paper towel compost containers, and new signage was put up to help facilitate the transition and to prevent contamination. In addition, the highly absorbent, non-bleached paper towel supplied in the washrooms is made from recycled materials. Yet another way that ABCRC reduces, reuses, and recycles every day!

#### **Irrigation System Updates**

To continually reinforce its commitment to being a forwardthinking environmental steward, ABCRC reviews all its systems and processes regularly to improve efficiency. In 2016, ABCRC contacted a local company that assessed the Calgary facility's landscape watering needs (including a zone-by-zone analysis of current water usage for benchmarking) and then installed a climate-controlled watering system that use real-time weather data from specialized water management "weather stations" that automatically adjust watering based on the best horticultural practice of deeper, less frequent root watering.

With the new "smart" system, watering schedules are continually monitored and automatically reprogrammed based on varying landscape needs to prevent over-watering, taking into account slope, shading, root depth, plant type

and sprinkler system precipitation rates. 2019 end-of-season watering analysis shows that the climate-controlled system's management of when, where, and how long to water continues to be extremely efficient. So efficient, in fact, that the system took into account Calgary's uncharacteristically cool, wet summer and only watered when needed, unlike older, timer-based systems that are scheduled to water daily no matter the weather or soil moisture levels.

Watering occurred on only 35 days in 2019, significantly below the annual benchmark of 66 days. Even better, on the days that it did water, it watered strategically (only in areas that needed it). As a result, ABCRC saved approximately 770,000 litres of water compared to benchmark estimations. Not only is that a huge win from a sustainability perspective, but that also translates into a savings of approximately \$2,052 for ABCRC!

#### **MATERIALS USAGE – TOTAL WEIGHT (KG)**

ITEM	2019	2018
White Bags *	152,756	72,711
Blue Bags *	34,375	15,331
C Bills (paper) <sup>‡</sup>	o	85
R Bills (paper)	191	128
<b>E</b> ~ Wire "	142,905	209,777
Blank Bale Tags	156	300
Clear Poly Bags	499	525
Pallets	218,609	202,994
Strapping	4,264	5,670
Airline Tags	7,721	5,157
€ Handwrap <sup>#</sup>	2,205	0
TOTAL	563,681	503,856

- Bag numbers in 2019 remained consistent with standard counts, after lower numbers were reported in 2018 due to the transition from non-serialized to serialized bags
- † Specialized paper for C Bills no longer required due to implementation of NAV.
- \*\* New, more efficient balers in both Calgary and St. Albert use less wire.
- †† ABCRC has added this category to develop more thorough and accurate tracking.

#### TRACKING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

		ITEM	2019	2018
	7	Air	61,639 km	112,890 km
EMPLOYEES	<b>=</b>	Taxi/Transit/Ride Share	374 km	47,133 km
ΓΟ	5-0	Rented Vehicles	67,683 km	,,, GS
Ξ		Company-owned Vehicles	37,102 km	21,748 km
		Employee-owned Vehicles	34,082 km	_
Ŋ		Air	68,022 km	22,746 km
DIRECTORS	<b>\$</b>	Taxi/Transit/Ride Share	584 km	8,581 km
REC	5	Rented Vehicles	1,813 km	
		Owned Vehicles	8,024 km	_
		TOTAL	563,681	503,856

ABCRC has added/changed travel criteria to improve the thoroughness and accuracy of its travel records. As a result, overall travel recorded for 2019 is higher than in 2018.

#### TRANSPORTATION OF PRODUCTS FROM ABCRC TO END DESTINATION

MATERIAL TYPE	DESTINATION	2019 KM DRIVEN	2018 KM DRIVEN
Gable Top	North America*	418,461	364,873
Tetra Pak	North America*	118, 498	111,084
Aluminum	United States	2,694,985	2,345,009
Glass	Alberta	182,966	185,815
PET	Alberta	106,955	107,818
HDPE	Alberta	214,528	213,690
Bi-Metal	Alberta	2674	4,119
TOTAL		3, 739, 108	3,332,407

\*A portion of Gable Top and Tetra Pak containers are shipped to overseas destinations. Shipments from the port of Vancouver to an end destination incurred CO2 emissions of approximately 133,867 kg.

#### TRANSPORTATION OF PRODUCTS FROM DEPOTS TO ABCRC

	2019	2018
 Kilometres Driven	3,028, 005	2,868,349

Mileage was adjusted to account for depot relocation and travel distance

#### **Depot** Compaction

When ABCRC receives beverage containers from an Alberta Depot, they arrive in mega bags sorted and counted by material stream. Some depots compact certain types of beverage containers before sending it to an ABCRC facility.

Compaction occurs when a depot chooses to invest their own resources into compaction technology that will crush the aluminum, plastic and/or gable top beverage containers that they receive. This technology helps with the flow of beverage containers in a depot by reducing the amount of space required to store them and the number of vehicles needed to transport them to ABCRC. Depots are also awarded a small service fee as an incentive for each mega bag of compacted beverage containers delivered to ABCRC.

While compacted beverage containers do save space, they must still undergo the same baling process that is required for all beverage containers. Most depot compaction systems can crush aluminum cans, for example, on an average scale of 3:1. Since this does not meet commodity market specifications, compaction must take place a second time at an ABCRC facility, where the size and pressure of machinery can compact them on a scale of 25:1. While compaction can help improve a baler's efficiency, the true value of compaction is the overall reduction on demand throughout the system, from reduced truck loads to fewer resources required to transport the material.

In 2019, eight depots in Alberta chose to compact beverage containers before sending them to ABCRC. Aluminum cans are the most common beverage container to be compacted, but each depot determines for itself which material stream contributes the most benefit to its operations.

#### **Environmental Benefits** of Depot Compaction in 2019

Trailer loads reduced by

**1,311** loads

Baler CO2 reduced by

**40,089** loads

Km driven reduced by

**117,474** km

Tractor fuel CO2 reduced by

**127,505** kg

#### **Environmental Carrier Highlights**

Transporting beverage containers from more than 220 depots across a province as large as Alberta requires an extensive and flexible transportation and logistics system. ABCRC relies on truck transportation as the most appropriate solution for carrying beverage containers as efficiently as possible through the recycling supply chain. For example, ABCRC leverages back-haul carriers (trucks that are returning to Calgary and St. Albert that would otherwise have been empty) as much as possible to reduce our environmental footprint.

In addition, several of the carriers that ABCRC contracts are members of the SmartWay Transport Partnership (SmartWay), run in Canada by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), which helps businesses move goods efficiently and competitively while reducing fuel costs and emissions by helping carriers and shippers to benchmark their operations, track fuel consumption and improve their overall performance.

SmartWay's technology program tests the performance of technologies that can decrease the environmental impact of freight transport. Over the last 20 years, the program has developed solutions that include idle reduction systems and aerodynamic technologies, such as low rolling-resistance tires, trailer skirts, trailer tails, speed limiters and designs that minimize the gap between the trailer and tractor. This is especially useful in cold Canadian climates, where the aerodynamic drag in winter can be up to 20 percent greater than in standard conditions.

Companies like RIG Logistics and Manitoulin Transport - the first Canadian transportation and logistics company to be ISO 14001 certified in recognition of its environmental management system (EMS) - have adopted many of the technologies tested by SmartWay, with great success. RIG Logistics prides itself on being a socially responsible company that implements policies, procedures, and technologies that are advantageous to both the environment and the local economy, and Manitoulin Transport has reduced CO2

emissions from transporting beverage containers for ABCRC by 140,818 kilograms since 2016 by focusing on technology that mitigates its carbon footprint.





Every beverage container you return goes through a recycling process to be used in many other commercially useful products.





#### **Manufacturing**







Sale to distributor or retailer



Sale to consumer



**Consumption of beverage** 

Once the customer consumes the

For disposal, the consumer has two choices

container by taking it to an Alberta Depot

b. Place the container into the blue and returned to a depot or



MMMM

MMMM

DePôt

Beverage container processing



**Recycled into useful** 

#### RETURN SUMMARY BY MATERIALS Statistical Analysis. Twelve months ending December 2019

#### December 2019

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#### Increase / (Decrease) vs. 2018

SALES VOLUME (000's)	REDEEMED VOLUME (000's)	RETURN RATE		SALES VOLUME (000's)	%	REDEEMED VOLUME (000's)	%	RETURN RATE
			CONSOLIDATED					
2,278,634	1,934,929	84.9%	Total Consolidated	(2,368)	(0.1%)	(18,109)	(0.9%)	(0.7%)
			ALUMINUM					
1,088,228	969,740	89.1%	Total Aluminum	15,918	1.5%	14,746	1.5%	0.0%
			PLASTICS					
669,010	536,127	80.1%	Plastics 0 - 1L	(6,044)	(0.9%)	(10,734)	(2.0%)	(0.9%)
128,920	115,352	89.5%	Plastics Over 1L	(885)	(0.7%)	(2,051)	(1.7%)	(0.9%)
797,930	651,478	81.6%	Total Plastics	(7,462)	(0.9%)	(12,785)	(1.9%)	(0.9%)
			GLASS					
150,936	140,157	92.9%	Glass 0 - 1L	(7,180)	(4.5%)	(14,320)	(9.3%)	(4.8%)
7,854	6,845	87.2%	Glass Over 1L	(283)	(3.5%)	(273)	(3.8%)	(0.3%)
158,790	147,002	92.6%	Total Glass	(7,462)	(4.5%)	(14,592)	(9.0%)	(4.6%)
					/			
			POLYCOAT					
119,341	87,189	73.1%	Tetra 0 - 1L	(5,480)	(4.4%)	(4,222)	(4.6%)	(0.1%)
684	707	103.3%	Tetra Over 1L	(401)	(36.9%)	(114)	(14%)	27.7%
16,698	8,271	49.5%	Pouches 0 - 1L	3,006	22.0%	1,193	16.9%	(2.2%)
60,616	40,364	66.6%	Gable 0 - 1L	(672)	(1.1%)	(981)	(2.4%)	(0.9%)
30,762	26,228 748	85.3%	Gable Over 1L	626	2.1% 1.1%	(700)	(2.6%)	(4.1%)
1,776 <b>229,878</b>	163,507	42.1% 	Bag-In-Box Over 1L  Total Polycoat	(2.901)	(1.2%)		(2.8%)	(1.2%)
,	220,221			(=,===)	(,	(1,122)	(=10,1)	(
			BI-METAL					
3,094	2,819	91.1%	Bi-Metal 0 - 1L	(1,054)	(25.4%)	(688)	(19.6%)	6.6%
713	382	53.6%	Bi-Metal Over 1L	61	9.4%	(26)	(6.4%)	(9.0%)
3,807	3,201	84.1%	Total Bi-Metal	(993)	(20.7%)	(714)	(18.2%)	2.5%



#### **MATERIALS RECYCLED**

MATERIAL	CUSTOMER	RECYCLING	% OF SOLD CONTAINERS	RETURN RATE	METRIC TONNES DIVERTED
ALUMINUM	Novelis Schupan Recycling	<ul> <li>Recycled back into aluminum cans</li> <li>95 - 99% of weight shipped is recycled, with the remainder being moisture and contaminants</li> </ul>	47.8%	89.1%	13,376.18
POLYETHYLENE TEREPHTHALATE (PET) CLEAR	Merlin Plastics	Recycled into pellets for use in manufacture of new non-food bottles  80+% of bottle recycled with less than 20% being sub-standard material or contaminants  98% of caps recycled with 2% used as alternative fuel source	34.94%	81.6%	19,961.37
HI-DENSITY POLYETHYLENE (HDPE)  POLYETHYLENE TEREPHTHALATE (PET) GREEN		Recycled into pellets for use in manufacture of new non-food bottles  80+% of bottle recycled with less than 20% being substandard material or contaminants			
OTHER PLASTICS		98% of caps recycled with 2% used as alternative fuel source			
GLASS	Vitreous Glass Inc.	• Manufacture of fiberglass 95% recycled with 5% waste including caps, corks and dust	6.97%	92.6%	52,123.52

#### MATERIALS RECYCLED CONT.

MATERIAL	CUSTOMER	RECYCLING	% OF SOLD CONTAINERS	RETURN RATE	METRIC TONNES DIVERTED
GABLE TOP	The Paper Tigers Inc. ICF Global, Inc.	<ul> <li>Fibre extracted and used in the manufacture of paper products</li> <li>80% by weight recycled</li> </ul>	10.00%	74.40/	E 170 00
TETRA-BRIK	The Paper Tigers Inc. ICF Global, Inc. Ace Fibers Ltd. Canada Fibers Ltd. Recyclable Materials Marketing	<ul> <li>Fibre extracted and used in the manufacture of paper products</li> <li>Residual aluminum and plastics – undetermined currently but potential fuel for gasification (energy recovery)</li> <li>80% by weight recycled</li> </ul>	- 10.09%	71.1%	5,179.20
DRINK POUCHES  BAG-IN-A-BOX (BLADDERS)	Merlin Plastics Waste Mgmt. (cardboard from Bag-in-A-Box)	Energy recovery through gasification (incineration) due to low volumes and scarce end markets. Used as an alternative fuel source for coal to power cement kiln      Boxes from Bag-in-A-Box are recycled as Old Corrugated Cardboard	0.08%	42.1%	178.23
BI-METAL	General Recycling Industries Ltd.	<ul> <li>Smelted down for recycling into construction rebar, car parts, and grinding rods for mining</li> <li>95% of weight is recycled with 5% contaminants or moisture</li> </ul>	0.17%	84.1%	179.08
CERAMICS AEROSOL CONTAINERS	Landfill	<ul> <li>No viable recycling markets for this material</li> <li>Ceramics pre-date regulatory requirement for recycling</li> <li>12 aerosol containers in 2016</li> <li>2,073 regulated ceramic bottles in 2016</li> </ul>	0.0%	0.0%	<0.0

# Social Stewardship









**Celebrating Cultural Diversity** 

Health & Safety Audit

**Depot Satisfaction Survey** 

Busch Systems Charitable Partnership

**Advertising & Marketing** 

School Recycling Program

List of School Program Award Recipients

**Community Champions Program** 

List of Community Champions Program Grant Recipients





## **ABCRC's main purpose is to**

divert beverage containers from landfills while supporting Alberta communities and protecting the environment.

ABCRC's social stewardship is key to our purpose; establishing recycling programs, supporting community initiatives and creating local employment opportunities all create a foundation that supports ABCRC's goal of continually improving recycling rates in Alberta.

The Government of Alberta's established goal for diverting beverage container waste from landfills is 85 percent. Awareness and encouragement of recycling are fundamental to ABCRC's success in meeting this goal. Our advertising, promotion, programs and community initiatives help municipalities and other partners to engage Albertans in recycling. As with its other operations, ABCRC is continually tracking its various programs and advertising to further their reach and determine their effectiveness.

ABCRC also believes that community involvement should be reflected in an organization's own practices. ABCRC is proud to contribute to the province's economy, providing a diverse group of Albertans with meaningful work in 2019, as well as generating economic value through its operations.

# A Renewed ABCRC Insider

In November 2019, ABCRC's corporate intranet site – ABCRC Insider – was revamped. Thanks to a platform upgrade and new concepts for employee engagement, the intranet became a better place to recognise staff members through their profiles, contributions and achievements, to experience ABCRC's unique culture through news and stories, and to share ideas, thoughts and feedback.

ABCRC Insider also became a space to help employees work more efficiently. A new organization chart shows the people, roles, and teams that make ABCRC function, while co-worker contact information can be quickly found in the easy-to-use employee directory. Commonly used documents are now stored on the intranet for general use, and each department team now has their own space to share working files.

Employee engagement with the intranet in Q4 jumped an amazing 400 percent from Q3. The number of regular intranet users increased by 160 percent from Q3 to Q4, and the bounce rate (number of times users left from the page opened, without clicking on any other pages or links divided by the total number of visits) dropped from 64 percent to 27 percent - a huge win in terms of user engagement! ABCRC plans to keep this momentum going in 2020; in addition to contests and more original content, the implementation of a new Documentation Management System (DMS) will encourage daily use of the intranet, since many documents necessary to everyday operations will be accessible only on the platform.



# Celebrating Cultural Diversity

ABCRC's workforce is diverse in both background and experience, bringing a wealth of expertise and drive to succeed from many areas of the world. As part of ABCRC's commitment to celebrating the cultural diversity of its employees, more than 30 three-foot-by-five-foot flags were installed in each plant to represent the countries that employees strongly identified with in the 2017 Cultural Diversity Survey. As well, traditional holidays, festivals and observances from a wide variety of cultures and faiths are continually featured on the ABCRC Insider to help everyone learn more about what is important to their coworkers. Both the display and the intranet feature initiatives encourage inclusivity and show employees that they are valued and appreciated.















ABCRC underwent an internal audit in the fall of 2019, during which employees were interviewed based on a set of standard Health & Safety related questions. Overall, ABCRC scored 74.8 percent on the internal audit, which was lower than the 91 percent score received from a 2018 external audit. Out of 507 total points, ABCRC scored 379, with 19 points marked as not applicable.

A clear pattern emerged across all sections regarding opportunities for better scores, which were related to three types of validation criteria:

- Observations ABCRC scored positively on all observation criteria, meaning the information that was found in documentation or from the employee interviews was present.
- Interviews ABCRC scored positively on 81
  percent of all interview sections. This
  suggests that all employees have good
  knowledge related to health and safety.
- Documentation This was the area in which ABCRC has the most room for improvement.

In general, ABCRC documentation was not up to date to reflect audit criteria or validation requirements that have changed with the new audit guidelines. Results suggest that ABCRC is adhering to the guidelines outlined in the audits, but not capturing that information in formal documentation.

Significant strengths from the audit included scoring 100 percent in the First Aid section, where all training and supplies were available to sufficiently respond to a medical emergency and First Aid records were found to be maintained according to legislative requirements. ABCRC also scored very well in the System Administration section as it related to health and safety statistics and information available to employees. Hazard Assessment and Control sections were scored at over 83 percent, although some of the documentation required updating, and ABCRC did well in identifying hazards or controls and ensuring supervisor and worker involvement in the process.

Three sections were identified as opportunities to improve, as well as to obtain up to 64 additional points, or 12.6 percent of the overall audit points:

- Other parties at or in the vicinity of the worksite (25 points) – How contractors and visitors to facilities are managed needs to be documented.
- Incident investigations (20 points) The policy requires updating, and work on completing and signing off on investigations quickly and efficiently is needed.
- 3. Training and Competency (19 points) The policy requires updating, and our orientation process is missing some minimum requirements. An important opportunity for improvement in the training and competency section is for all managers and supervisors to receive formal health and safety training related to their role.

A Health & Safety Action Plan is in development to address opportunities for improvement within the internal audit. Results will be published in future ABCRC sustainability reports.



# **Depot Satisfaction Survey**

Each year, the Alberta Depot network is asked to complete a Depot Satisfaction Survey to measure the performance of:

- The Collection Service Agent (CSA) Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation (ABCRC)
- The Collection Service Provider (CSP) Brewers Distributor Limited (BDL)
- The Regulator Beverage Container Management Board (BCMB)
- The Alberta Bottle Depot Association (ABDA)

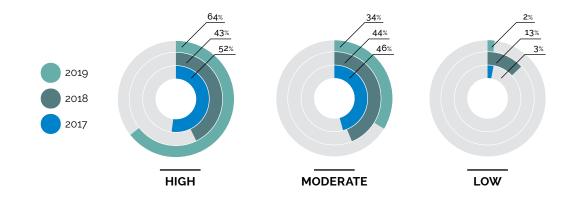
The survey requests responses to a series of service-based questions; results are then used by all four parties to improve depot relations and services.

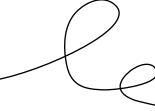
In October 2019, the Alberta Depot network consisted of 219 universal bottle depots. Of those 219 depots, 137 depot

operators completed the web-based 2019 Depot Satisfaction Survey, resulting in a 63 percent completion rate. This was a decrease of survey participation compared to the previous three years (2016-2018), but that can be attributed to it not being available for completion at the October 2019 ABDA Conference as it had been previously.

Overall, Alberta Depot's "high" satisfaction with ABCRC has increased from 43 percent in 2018 to 64 percent in 2019 – an increase of 21 percent – with the majority of ABCRC's required services being given the highest satisfaction rate since this survey's inception. Notably, "high" satisfaction with the quantity of mega bags received from ABCRC has significantly increased from 45 percent in 2018 to 62 percent in 2019 (a 17 percent increase), with "low" satisfaction in this area dropping from 17 percent in 2018 to 7 percent in 2019 (a 10 percent decrease). As well, depot ability to contact staff at ABCRC (74 percent) and the timeliness of ABCRC's responses to depots' requests (76 percent) have both seen significant increases in 2019 "high" satisfaction over 2018's ratings.

#### **DEPOT SATISFACTION WITH ABCRC**







# **Busch Systems Charitable Partnership**

As an ABCRC-approved bin vendor for the Community Champions Program and bin supplier to the School Recycling Program, Busch Systems supplies many Alberta communities and organizations with recycling infrastructure. In 2019, Busch Systems implemented Project RISE (Responsible Initiatives Supporting the Environment), through which it donates up to \$500 for every purchase to one of five carefully selected not-for-profit charities that focus on a different area of environmental stewardship.

ABCRC chose to donate its \$5,241 purchase credit to the Student Conservation Association (SCA). For over 60 years, this volunteer organization's mission has been to build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of the environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land. ABCRC is proud to support the SCA; its goals closely align with ABCRC's with regard to educating the next generation about recycling, environmental stewardship, and sustainability.

# Advertising & Marketing

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ABCRC's 2019 advertising and marketing campaigns were aimed at increasing public awareness of the Common Collection System and the many benefits it provides to Albertans.

2019 campaign objectives included:

- To increase total beverage container return rates, both in-home and out-of-home, among all Albertans, including interprovincial migrants, recent immigrants and visitors to the province.
- To increase awareness, understanding and engagement with messaging directed toward the environmental, economic and social benefits that our system extends to the province and to Albertans.
- To position Alberta Depots, the collection and refund agencies within communities, as an "integral part of the deposit/recycling ecosystem".
- 4. To educate Albertans about the beverage container types that can be returned to the system, as well as their corresponding refund value.



VISIT ALBERTADEPOT.CA TO LEARN MORE



Throughout the year, ABCRC continued to build on the previous years' #ChangeThatCounts campaign across digital, social and traditional platforms. As well, in the spring, we launched "Let's Do Better Alberta" and "Recycling 101". The aim of these campaigns, which ran from February through May, was to create momentum among Albertans to consciously and collectively increase the overall beverage container return rate (from the published statistic of over 85 percent). The educational content, launched via our digital, social and traditional channels, focused on deposit values, refundable and non-refundable beverage container types, key benefits of the Common Collection System, where to recycle and what not to do with empty refundable beverage containers (trash).

Creative content focused on the 327 million lost or missing beverage containers in an effort to create awareness and to inspire thought as to where they might be: stashed around homes, tossed in the trash or maybe even abandoned in the wilderness. The goal for these creative prints was to drive an increased sense of responsibility to do better in 2019 and, as a collective, decrease the number of unaccounted for beverage containers and increase the number of total returns.

Based on the results of secondary research, it was clear that young adults and new Canadians were the least informed

about deposit values and which containers can and cannot be returned, and that these audiences often perceived returning beverage containers to an Alberta Depot as a less than pleasant or convenient experience, so were more likely to toss their beverage containers in the trash. Videos featuring canine characters were produced to educate consumers about the benefits to Alberta when they take the time to recycle their refundable beverage containers.

During the summer, ABCRC continued to remind visitors to and residents of Alberta to keep beverage containers out of landfills when out-of-home. A stop-and-think "Wish you weren't here" campaign was created, as well as a "Protect Alberta – One Container at a Time" campaign. These campaigns took a more forward, negative-active creative approach by featuring tossed or abandoned beverage containers littering our pristine and coveted landscapes in the mountains, forests and along riverbanks.

"The Great Prairie Bottle Harvest" was launched in September 2019 due to a strong participation rate the previous year. The aim of the campaign was to once again engage all Albertans to connect with their local Alberta Depot partner and to remind individuals and groups that bottle drives are an easy and fun way to raise vital funding for just about anything or anyone that matters to them.



#### School Recycling Program

The Alberta Depot School Program is a proven way to get elementary students involved in – and excited about - beverage container recycling. After a hiatus in 2018 to revamp the user experience and refresh outdated elements of the program, it was relaunched in January 2019. The new School Program portal, the website where teachers and principals in charge of their respective school recycling programs log in to report beverage container counts and win prizes, saw immediate success, with 44 schools registering and ordering bins for the second half of their 2018-2019 school year. New, teacher-friendly presentation materials and educational "toolkits" were developed that directly relate to the grade four curriculum; as well, ABCRC secured a new vendor to fabricate outdoor bins. 36 of those bins were sent to various schools across Alberta in the summer of 2019.

In Fall 2019, 80 schools registered for the School Program, ordering a total of 711 class bins, 295 hall bins and 354 boxes of bag liners. Also new was a quarterly newsletter, launched in December 2019, that is being sent to participating schools to bolster excitement. Procurement of new promotional material was started in 2019, such as recyclable sunglasses and cardboard piggybanks, to reinforce recycling themes, and modifications to the online portal were initiated to make beverage container reporting easier for participating schools and to improve the accuracy of data collected through the site.

ABCRC is proud of all the schools that participate in the Alberta Depot School Program and the positive impact they make on the world around them when they actively recycle. Each September, prizes are awarded to the schools that collected the most beverage containers per student during the previous school year. In September 2019, each of the 11 winning schools received a custom-made trophy and a prize of \$1,000.

#### **SCHOOL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**



Total participating schools **107** 



New recycling infrastructure introduced (bins) **1516** 



Containers up to 1 L 619,836 plus containers over 1 L 7,605 Total beverage containers collected by participants **627,441** 



Economic benefit from refunded deposits \$ 433,343.45



Environmental benefit from recycling **202,915 kg** 

#### LIST OF AWARD RECIPIENTS

SCHOOL	TOTAL BEVERAGE CONTAINER COLLECTED	NUMBER OF CONTAINERS PER STUDENT
Harry Gray Elementary	19,061	143.32
Vermillion School	31,677	103.52
Lochhearn Elementary	33,856	97.30
Lindsford Park	14,915	77.27
Vera M. Walsh	22,812	70.19
SW Sears Elementary	21,291	64.91
Coronation School	18,132	60.44
Huntsville School	9,392	54.92
Caledonia Park	16,971	51.74
Onoway Elementary	22,954	48.83
St. Basil Elementary	37,159	43.71















# I wanted to send a quick note to say "thank you"

again for sending the recyclers kit to our school. We received it last week, and my students were SO EXCITED to take a look at the products."

# I can't tell you enough how much we appreciate your generosity

with this. We do have a school program where classes take turns collecting the recycling around the school every day."

# With over 420 kids in our school, we have a lot of recycling

(especially beverage containers). Thank you again! You have seven grade 4 teachers who are very appreciative. I know we will also have 145 grade 4 students who will be extremely excited."

#### **Community Champions Program**

The Alberta Depot Community Champions Program (CCP) offers grants of up to \$20,000 for Alberta municipalities and non-profit organizations to purchase recycling infrastructure. CCP start-up support helps to educate the public about the benefits of recycling, and the bins (indoor and outdoor) that the grants fund make out-of-home opportunities for recycling more accessible and convenient to use. This not only keeps beverage containers out of landfills, but also provides important financial and social benefits to participating communities when the bottles collected are returned for refund. In 2019, 124 CCP grants were given to a variety of qualifying organizations across Alberta.

#### **Community Champion Spotlight: Bottles for Boulet**

In 2018, the tragic Humboldt Broncos bus accident in Saskatchewan horrified the world. Reaction was swift, and charitable organizations sprang up everywhere to help both the crash survivors and the families mourning loved ones

At the time of the accident, Ryker Morrell was a 13-year old middle school student; one of the victims, Logan Boulet, was a local Lethbridge athlete and the son of one of Ryker's teachers, Toby Boulet. Ryker really wanted to help.

After some thought, he told his parents that he wanted to organize a city-wide bottle drive in Logan's honour, with all the money raised going to the Lethbridge & Taber chapter of KidSport, a national not-for-profit organization that helps children participate in organized sport. Like Logan, Ryker is an athlete, and strongly believes that a lack of money shouldn't prevent kids from playing sports. He dubbed the drive "Bottles4Boulet".

> That first year, Ryker reached out to schools and the media, and with just the help of his dad and their truck, he went all over the city collecting donations of beverage containers from residents of Lethbridge Bottles4Boulet raised almost \$2,500 for

KidSport that year, and in 2019, Ryker registered Bottles4Boulet as a non-profit charity. Bottles4Boulet donated \$5,000 to KidSport in its second year. Lethbridge and area businesses now sign up for recurring pick-ups, and along with beverage container and monetary donations, many local companies donate media materials, banners, and storage containers to Bottles4Boulet's spring bottle drives.

In 2019, Bottles4Boulet also applied to ABCRC's Community Champions program for an infrastructure grant. It helped them purchase branded recycling bins, which they placed throughout Lethbridge, including at City Hall. The bins are a huge boost to Bottles4Boulet's efforts and will play an even bigger part in next years' collections.

#### **COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**



Total participating communities/sites 124



New recycling infrastructure introduced (bins) **3223** 



Containers up to 1 L 3,723,702 plus containers over 1 L 234,893 Total beverage containers collected by participants 3,967,595



Economic benefit from refunded deposits \$ 433,343.45



Environmental benefit from recycling 202,915 kg

- . .
- · Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society
- Alberta Masters Games
- The Alex
- Alexander First Nation
- Aspen Heights Elementary School
- Athabasca County
- Aventa Centre of Excellence for Women with Addictions
- Banff Elementary School
- Bashaw School
- Bellevue Lodge
- Blood Tribe Administration
- Bottles 4 Boulet
- Bottles for Diabetes
- Boys and Girls Club of Calgary
- Calgary Rugby Union
- · Calgary Soccer Centre
- · Camp Nakamun
- · Canadian Sports Opportunities Foundation
- Castle Mountain
- Cerebral Palsy Association in Alberta
- · City of Brooks
- The City of Edmonton Library Board
- City of Edmonton/ Community and Recreation Facilities
- · City of Leduc
- City of Lethbridge
- · City of Lloydminster
- · Cold Lake Elementary School
- · County of Grande Prairie No. 1

- County of St. Paul #19
- Day Care Society of Edson
- Ecole Elbow Elementary School
- Edmonton Public Schools
- Edson Cycling Association
- Environment Lethbridge Council
- Evergreen
- Father Leduc High School
- Father Patrick Mercredi High School
- FCJ Retreat and Conference Centre
- Forestburg School
- Fort McMurray Airport Authority
- · Four Winds Public School
- George Pegg Botanical Society
- Grande Prairie Centre 2000
- · Grande Prairie Disc Golf Club
- Haysboro Community Association
- Henderson Stadium Society
- The Immigrant Education Society
- Kehewin Health Services
- KidSport Society of Calgary
- Kikino Aboriginal Headstart
- Kings University
- Lac Ste. Anne County
- Lethbridge and District Exhibition Park
- McDougal United Church
- McKenzie Towne Council
- McMahon Stadium
- Métis Crossing Experience Company
- Midnapore Lake Residents Association

- Morinville Community High School
- Mount Royal University
- Municipal District of Greenview No. 16
- Municipality of Crowsnest Pass
- Municipality of Jasper
- The Mustard Seed
- New Brighton Residents Association
- Orchards Residents Association
- Parkland Community Centre
- Parkland County
- Pigeon Lake Renewal League
- Recycle for Life
- Reflections Special Event Recycling
- Renfrew Boys and Girls Club
- Rocky Mountain House
- Skyview Community Church of the Nazarene
- · Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
- St. Mary's Hospital
- St. Bonaventure School
- St. Martin de Porres
- Strathcona County
- Strathmore Hills School Division
- Telus Spark
- Town of Canmore
- Town of Cochrane
- Town of Devon
- Town of Falher
- Town of Hinton
- Town of Lamont

- Town of Legal
- Town of Okotoks
- Town of OldsTown of Smoky Lake
- Town of Tabor
- Town of Valley View
- Town of Vegreville
- Townsite of Redwood Meadows
- University of Lethbridge
- Vecova Centre for Disability
   Services and Research
- Village of Carbon
- Village of Consort
- Village of Cremona
- Warburg Arena
- West Central High School
- Westerner Exposition Association
- Westlake Community Society
- Westlock County
- Wheatland County
- Whitecourt Ag Society
- Wildwood School and Playground
- Winnifred Stewart Association
- Woodlands County
- WSA Foundation
- YC Social Club
- Yellowhead County
- Youth Central Society
- YWCA Lethbridge







# Economic

**Stewardship** 















Direct Economic Value

New Plant in St. Albert

**How Does the Money Flow?** 

2019 Cost per Container

Consolidated Cost per Container Over Time

**Quality Control** 

NAV Update

**QMS Communications** 

2019 System Costs





### Alberta is home to one of the most

innovative and sustainable beverage container recycling programs in North America.

Because ABCRC maintains a self-sustaining recycling system, outside economic factors cause minimal fluctuations in operating costs, with little impact to the consumer.

The combination of the Container Recycling Fee, unredeemed deposits and the sale of recycled scrap material supports the costs associated with collecting, handling, transporting and processing empty beverage containers.

Thus, despite Alberta's economic downturn, Alberta's 2019 return rates remained the highest in Canada, at 84.9 percent.

ABCRC recycles the broadest range of containers compared to any other Canadian province and yet continues to be a low-cost operator by comparison. This is done, in part, by maintaining good relationships with commodity buyers and provincial partners, as well as continuously improving operational efficiency.

ABCRC takes cost management seriously. ABCRC is continuously focusing its efforts to better mitigate risk, improve the quality and accuracy of manufacturer sales reporting, and achieve its targets for net assets and reserves to ensure the ongoing financial sustainability of the Common Collection System.

#### **RETURN RATE OVER TIME**

YEAR	RETURN RATE
2019	84.9%
2018	85.6%
2017	85.1%
2016	85.7%
2015	84.8%
2014	82.7%
2013	81.7%







**Funds** to operate non-refillable beverage container recycling in Alberta

come from

three sources:

#### 1. Unredeemed Deposits

Deposits collected for beverage containers that are purchased and not yet returned to a depot for a refund are used to help offset the costs of recycling.

#### 2. Sale of Processed Materials

ABCRC receives sales proceeds when it sells recycled materials to various recyclers.

#### 3. Container Recycling Fee (CRF)

Beverage manufacturers are required to pay this fee for every non-refillable beverage container they produce. Beverage manufacturers may pass on the costs of the CRF to consumers when they set their prices. ABCRC's Board of Directors establishes the CRF for each container type and covers the difference between the cost to recycle each container type and the revenue generated from both unredeemed deposits and sales of processed materials generated from each of those container types. The CRF is subject to change annually.















#### **DIRECT ECONOMIC VALUE**

DIRECT ECONOMIC VALUE GENERATED	AMOUNT
Net Regulated Deposit Revenue	\$37,451,504
Container Recycling Fees	\$50,653,895
Sale of Processed Materials and Other Revenue	\$35,869,541
Total Economic Value Generated	\$123,974,940



DIRECT ECONOMIC VALUE DISTRIBUTED	AMOUNT
Operating Costs	\$ 117,613,970
Employee Wages and Benefits	\$11,424,401
Payment to Capital Providers	-
Payment to Governments	\$227,767
Community Investments	\$2,625,005
Total Economic Value Distributed	\$131,891,143
Economic Value Generated 2019– Retained Earnings	-\$7,916,203

#### **New Plant** in St. Albert

For 24 years, ABCRC has been meeting the needs of Alberta's continually growing beverage container recycling industry. Beverage container volume in Alberta has now risen to almost two billion per year. In 2013, the Calgary plant moved to a larger facility to better serve the industry, but Edmonton's plant and Quality Control (QC) operations remained in two separate facilities.

In March 2019, almost two years of planning, design, and construction came to fruition as Edmonton processing, quality control and trailer storage moved to a single, custom built, state-of-the-art facility located on approximately 8.5 acres in St. Albert, a municipality just outside of Edmonton. At 98,000 square feet, the new plant is almost double that of the combined square footage of the two previous sites. It has a 20-year lease, with an option to renew for 20 additional years.

ABCRC staff designed the processing plant layout, sourced all the equipment, and supervised the installation of all infrastructure and services. Like its Calgary counterpart, the new plant has two large Sierra balers that are locally serviced to prepare non-glass (paper board, aluminum, PET plastic, gable top, HDPE and bi-metal) beverage containers for transportation and sale in commodity markets. This process involves emptying large mega bags onto conveyor belts that bring the beverage containers into a baler's compaction chamber. This chamber then uses pressure to compress the beverage containers into compact bales that are easy to handle, transport and store.

The new design of the balers prevents product from bubbling up during bale strokes and uses half the wires that older balers did (6 wires instead of 10-12); both innovations lower costs and increase baler throughput. In fact, the new balers are so efficient that ABCRC had to reduce the pressure in the balers to ensure that plastic bales were not too dense and de-baled properly. Bales weights are still higher than industry standard, though, which translates into more value per bale. Bales are regularly 1,400 pounds (635 kg) for PET, 1,700 pounds (771 kg) for HDPE and 1,200 pounds (544 kg) for aluminum.

Glass beverage containers are delivered to the plant in bulk bags, fed to a crusher, and then piled onto a steel floor plate designed to reduce damage to the concrete floor. Outgoing crushed glass is loaded on B-train trucks and shipped to Airdrie to make feedstock cullet (for blowing fibreglass) and is then transported to fibreglass plants located in Innisfail and Edmonton.

3,000 square feet of the St. Albert facility is dedicated to administrative offices and staff gathering areas for the 48-60 (depending on season) unionized employees and 15 salaried positions. There are 14 inbound and six outbound dock doors, all with dock levellers. Annually, approximately 16,000 inbound trucks, containing 1 billion beverage containers (approximately 50 percent of total provincial volume), are received from north and north-central Alberta Depots to be processed at the St. Albert facility. Investment in the new St. Albert plant means that ABCRC's capacity to provide effective service to the beverage container recycling industry and to contribute to the local economy will continue well into the future.









# HOW DOES S S S THE MONEY S S S

FLOW?







THREE INDUSTRY PARTNERS COLLABORATE TO ENSURE A SUSTAINABLE COMMON **COLLECTION SYSTEM IN ALBERTA** 



Management Board





Alberta Depot Network and the ABDA

OUTSIDE OF THE INDUSTRY PARTICIPANTS, MONEY AND BEVERAGE CONTAINERS FLOW AMONG THESE FOUR KEY GROUPS







Recycling Corporation



Beverage Manufacturers

Commodity



At market, purchasers acquire the processed beverage containers and recycle them into Beverage manufacturers are responsible for the end-of-life management of beverage containers. Manufacturers are required to pay both the deposit collected and the CRF to ABCRC. Beverage manufacturers make independent decisions to pass on the CRF to retailers.



ABCRC collects beverage containers from Alberta Depots and pays them for the deposits they refunded to consumers, plus pays them a handling commission established by the BCMB. ABCRC processes the beverage containers and prepares them for sale in commodity markets.

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If the consumer returns the applicable beverage container to a depot, the consumer is refunded for the deposit paid from that depot.



Retailers make independent decisions to pass on the CRF to consumers. Those retailers who do pass on the CRF to consumers may either identify the CRF as a separate line item on a receipt or include the CRF in the price of the product.



Consumers pay the deposit together with the CRF, if included, when a beverage container is purchased.



Depot





MATERIAL	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	RECOVERED VOLUME	COST PER CONTAINER
CONSOLIDATED	\$131,927,929.00	1,934,928,668.00	\$0.068
ALUMINUM	\$41,642,873.79	969,739,834.00	\$0.043
PLASTIC	\$56,694,470.63	651,478,321.00	\$0.087
GLASS	\$17,743,975.95	147,001,876.00	\$0.121
POLYCOAT	\$15,416,906.93	163,507,330.00	\$0.094
BI-METAL	\$429,701.70	3,201,307.00	\$0.134

#### **CONSOLIDATED COST PER CONTAINER OVER TIME**

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
COST PER CONTAINER	\$0.068	\$0.067	\$0.066	\$0.065	\$0.064	\$0.064	\$0.060	\$0.060	\$0.060	\$0.062

#### **Quality** Control

ABCRC operates a rigorous quality control (QC) program. All bags are bar coded, and approximately 1,500 incoming bags per plant, per month are selected randomly by the system for re-count. This statistical quality control measure allows ABCRC to determine the quality of all received loads.

Challenges by Alberta Depots for observed discrepancies must be made within 48 hours of notice of the audit results, and an appointment must be booked within four business days of the challenge. ABCRC can extrapolate audit results to all bags of the same material on a single load if the variance in a representative sample exceeds a minimum standard. Extrapolation is done both for short counts and over counts.

ABCRC works with the BCMB regarding QC issues, which has a progressive-action process for depot compliance. The BCMB may request that ABCRC target a depot that they have concerns about, and can also impose penalties over and above ABCRC deductions based upon audit results. In total, about 1.6 million bags of incoming containers are received each year. ABCRC targets include checking 2 - 2.5 percent of bags through QC audits.





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#### NAV Update

In 2018, a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) application, Microsoft NAV (or "NAV", for short), was implemented at ABCRC. The bag serialization that NAV provided allowed ABCRC to monitor product and supplies more effectively as they moved to and from depots, which increased inventory accuracy on both sides.

By 2019, NAV was fully integrated into ABCRC operations, and the focus shifted to increasing process efficiencies. Administratively, NAV's reporting structure is being used to reduce the time staff spends producing reports, such as bi-weekly Shipping Container Activity Reports that are now generated automatically for Alberta Depots.

In the plants, a new counting system was implemented for glass QC audits that allowed for the depots to be paid for more cullet (broken glass) than the predecessor application allowed. As well, a pilot project began late in the year to decrease bag offloading times by changing NAV's interface to allow for the information from two bags to be entered at a time, rather than one. ABCRC has not yet collected enough data to demonstrate improvement, but initial reports indicate a very promising 12 second per bag increase in offloading speed, which translates to an estimated 8.28 percent increase in overall offload efficiency.

#### **QMS**

#### Communications

Quality Monitoring System (QMS) is an interface created by the BCMB to centralize communication within the industry and to help identify opportunities for improvement. QMS allows members to monitor and resolve issues, create reports and recognize trends.

Since 2013, ABCRC has used QMS to communicate reports to Alberta Depots and resolve issues that the depots encounter. In 2018, the BCMB challenged ABCRC to meet or exceed in 2019 agreed upon service levels that reflect the policies outlined in the service agreements between ABCRC, ABDA, and the depots. Service levels include the time in which agents must respond to and resolve tickets before they are in "breach" of the service agreement. ABCRC is held accountable by the BCMB and is required to pay a compliance fee to the BCMB when service level standards are not met

To take on this challenge, ABCRC created a new position in 2019 that focused on monitoring QMS, ensuring that service levels were met and reporting on compliance matters. Over the course of 2019, ABCRC was able to identify QMS weaknesses, tighten processes and better communicate with the depots, which resulted in no QMS compliance fees imposed on ABCRC by the BCMB for seven consecutive months! ABCRC is determined to take what was learned in 2019 and carry it forward for another streak of no QMS compliance fees in 2020.





# Financial

**Statements** 



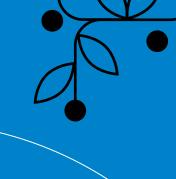
**Independent Auditor's Report** 

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

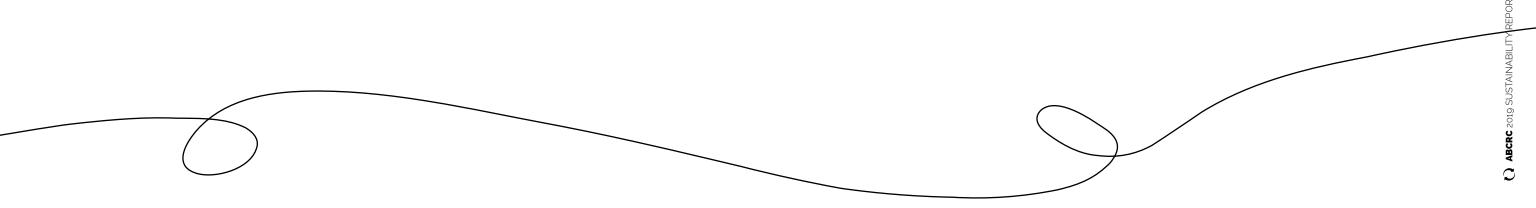
**Statement of Financial Position** 

**Statement of Cash Flows** 

**Notes to Financial Statements** 







#### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Shareholders of Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation

#### **OUR OPINION**

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In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation (the Corporation) as at December 31, 2019 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

#### What we have audited

The Corporation's financial statements comprise:

- the statement of operations and changes in net assets for the year ended December 31, 2019;
- statement of financial position as at December 31, 2019;
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended;
- the notes to the financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies.

#### **BASIS FOR OPINION**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Independenc

We are independent of the Corporation in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

#### **COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

The financial statements of the Corporation for the year ended December 31, 2018 were audited by another auditor who expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements on May 9, 2019.

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF MANAGEMENT AND THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Corporation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Corporation's financial reporting process.

#### AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Corporation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Corporation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

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Chartered Professional Accountants May 13, 2020 Calgary Alberta

## **STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS** FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

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	NOTES	2019	2018
REVENUE			
Regulated deposits		\$ 253,472,797	\$ 253,854,911
Container recycling fees		50,653,886	60,964,628
Deposits refunded		(215,631,057)	(218,796,775)
		88,495,626	96,022,764
Sale of processed containers		35,596,793	40,930,835
Other income and expenses		573,444	443,790
Loss (gain) on foreign exchange		(270,750)	494,043
		124,395,113	137,891,432
REGULATED EXPENSES			
Handling commissions		95,281,498	95,604,913
Beverage container management board fees		1,257,563	1,269,280
		96,539,061	96,874,193
EXPENSES			
Warehouse		14,377,535	14,406,074
Transportation		9,843,065	10,017,706
Administration		5,662,135	4,818,922
Marketing and technology		2,667,014	2,181,657
Amortization		2,065,776	1,720,962
Finance charges		-	78,181
Warehouse moving expenses	4	1,125,920	-
		35,741,445	33,223,502
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses		(7,885,393)	7,793,737
Net assets – beginning of year		38,726,094	30,932,357
NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR		\$ 30,840,701	\$ 38,726,094

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

#### **STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2018

	NOTES	2019	2018
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents		\$ 21,981,519	\$ 27,684,179
Accounts receivable	5	32,416,265	37,010,270
Prepaid expenses		806,296	671,417
		55,204,080	65,365,866
Tangible capital assets	6	18,747,968	17,802,239
		73,952,048	83,168,105
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	5 and 7	43,110,647	44,441,111
Share capital	9	700	900
NET ASSETS			
Investment in tangible capital assets		18,747,968	17,802,239
Unrestricted net assets		12,092,733	20,923,855
		30,840,701	38,726,094
		\$ 73,952,048	\$ 83,618,105

11 Commitments

Approved by the Board of Directors

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

#### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

	2019	2018
PERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ (7,885,393)	\$ 7,793,737
Items not affecting cash and cash equivalents		
Amortization	2,065,776	1,720,96
Loss (gain) on disposal of tangible capital assets	(200)	(260,570
Loss (gain) on foreign exchange	270,750	(494,043
	(5,549,067)	8,760,08
Changes in non-cash working capital		
Accounts receivable	4,594,005	(2,792,581
Prepaid expenses	(134,879)	(458,903
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(1,330,464)	263,61
	(2,420,405)	5,772,22
INANCING ACTIVITIY		
Repayment of mortgage loan	-	(5,502,792
NVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of tangible capital assets	(3,011,505)	(4,025,641
Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	683,75
	(3,011,505)	(3,341,891
Effect of foreign currency fluctuations on U.S. dollar		
denominated cash and cash equivalents	(270,750)	494,04
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents during the year	(5,702,660)	(2,578,419
Cash and cash equivalents – beginning of year	27,684,179	30,262,59
	21,981,519	27,684,17
Cash and cash equivalents – end of year		
Cash and cash equivalents – end of year  EPRESENTED BY		
	558,055	1,878,47
EPRESENTED BY	558,055 21,423,464	1,878,47 25,805,70

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

#### **NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

#### 1. NATURE OF BUSINESS

Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation (the Corporation) is incorporated under the Business Corporations Act (Alberta). The Corporation has a not-for-profit provision, which exempts the Corporation from taxes under Section 149 (1) (I) of the Income Tax Act, subject to certain requirements.

The Corporation has been appointed by participating beverage manufacturers (the Participants) in the Province of Alberta to collect non-refillable registered containers from depots and cause them to be recycled as required under the Beverage Container Recycling Regulation. The Corporation's guiding principles require that container recycling fees are determined so that each container type is self-funding.

#### 2. CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Effective January 1, 2019, the Corporation adopted the new standards of the Chartered Professional Accountants Handbook, Part III - Accounting for Not-for-Profit Organizations (ASNPO) and Section 4433 - Tangible Capital Assets Held by Not-for-Profit Organizations.

The adoption of Section 4433 - Tangible Capital Assets Held by Not-for-Profit Organizations resulted in a change to the Corporation's accounting policies with respect to componentization and amortization of tangible capital assets. The cost of tangible capital assets made up of significant separable component parts is now allocated to the component parts when practicable and when estimates can be made of the estimated useful lives of the separate components.

In accordance with transitional provisions in Section 4433, the cost and related accumulated amortization of those tangible capital assets identified as having significant separable components were not allocated to their component parts as of January 1, 2019, as there is no material impact to the financial statements.

In accordance with Section 4433, the Corporation's accounting policies with respect to impairment of capital assets have also been revised (note 3).

#### SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO) and include the following significant accounting policies:

#### **Revenue recognition**

Container recycling fees and regulated deposits are recognized on the sale of product by the Participants. Revenue arising from the sale of processed containers is recognized when shipped.

#### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include the amounts held in current and money market accounts maintained by the Corporation. Any amount included as cash and cash equivalents will have a maturity of 90 days or less from inception.

#### **Short-term investments**

The Corporation considers certificates of deposit, guaranteed investment certificates and short-term investments with original maturities of one year or less from the financial statement date as short-term investments.

#### Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value on initial recognition. Freestanding derivative instruments that are not in a qualifying hedging relationship and equity instruments that are quoted in an active market are subsequently recorded at fair value. All other financial instruments are recorded at cost or amortized cost, unless management has elected to record at fair value. The Corporation has not elected to carry any such financial instruments at fair value.

Transaction costs related to financial instruments measured at fair value are expensed as incurred. For all other financial instruments, the transaction costs are added to the carrying value of the asset or netted against the carrying value of the liability and are then recognized over the expected life of the instrument using the straight-line method. Any premium or discount related to an instrument measured at amortized cost is amortized over the expected life of the item using the straight-line method and recognized in the statement of operations and changes in net assets.

With respect to financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost, the Corporation recognizes in the statement of operations and changes in net assets an impairment loss, if any, when it determines that a significant adverse change has occurred during the period in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows. When the extent of impairment of a previously written down asset decreases and the decrease can be related to an event occurring after the impairment was recognized, the previously recognized impairment loss is reversed in the statement of operations and changes in net assets in the period the reversal occurs.

#### Tangible capital assets

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Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost and amortized using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Warehouse building 20 years
Plant equipment 5 and 10 years

Warehouse building improvements remaining life of the warehouse building

Computer and communication equipment 3 years
Leased land improvements term of lease
Leasehold improvements term of lease
Office equipment 5 years
Vehicles 3 years

Assets not yet in use are not subject to amortization until development is complete.

Capital assets are tested for impairment when conditions indicate that a capital asset no longer contributes to the Corporation's ability to provide goods and services, or that the value of future economic benefits or service potential associated with the capital asset is less than its net carrying amount. When conditions indicate that a capital asset is impaired, the net carrying amount of the capital asset is written down to the asset's fair value or replacement cost. The writedowns of capital assets are recognized as expenses in the statement of operations and changes in net assets. Writedowns are not subsequently reversed.

#### Liability for unreturned containers

The amount recorded as a liability for unreturned containers is based on management's estimates of future container return rates and associated costs and is included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

#### Foreign currency

Monetary items denominated in foreign currency are translated into Canadian dollars at exchange rates in effect at the statement of financial position date, and non-monetary items are translated at rates of exchange in effect when the assets were acquired or obligations incurred. Foreign exchange gains and losses are included in the statement of operations and changes in net assets against the line item they relate to.

#### Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with ASNPO requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period.

Specific items subject to estimation include the allowance for doubtful accounts, estimated useful lives and potential impairment of tangible capital assets, liability for unreturned containers and accrued liabilities.

These estimates are reviewed periodically and as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in the statement of operations and changes in net assets in the year in which they become known. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### 4. WAREHOUSE MOVING EXPENSES

The Corporation incurred \$1,125,920 (2018 – \$nil) of non-recurring moving expenses related to its relocation into the St. Albert warehouse facility in March 2019.

#### 5. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Of the Corporation's total revenue, 71.14% (2018 – 69.74%) is from the deposits and fees charged and collected by Participants in the selling of their beverages in non-refillable containers.

As at December 31, 2019, the accounts receivable balance included \$29,035,462 (2018 – \$31,916,826) due from the Participants in the normal course of business. As at December 31, 2019, the accounts payable and accrued liabilities balance included \$985,833 (2018 – \$1,210,116) payable to the Participants in the normal course of business.

These transactions have been recorded at the exchange amount, which represents the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related parties.

ACCUMULATED

#### 6. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

The Corporation incurred \$1,125,920 (2018 – \$nil) of non-recurring moving expenses related to its relocation into the St. Albert warehouse facility in March 2019.

COST		RTIZATION		NET
\$ 3,831,850	\$	_	\$	3,831,850
6,895,513		2,046,104		4,849,409
10,800,192		5,201,559		5,598,633
3,896,727		1,016,807		2,879,920
2,211,276		1,613,942		597,334
763,109		452,913		310,196
1,354,819		711,593		643,226
358,121		337,588		20,533
8,400		1,824		6,576
10,291		_		10,291
\$ 30,130,298	<b>\$ 1</b> 1	,382,330	\$	18,747,968
COST				NET
\$ 3,831,850	\$	-	¢	3,831,850
			Ą	0,001,000
6,895,513		1,695,195	ş	5,200,318
6,895,513 7,983,192		1,695,195 4,344,141	Ą	
, ,			¥	5,200,318
7,983,192		4,344,141	<b>J</b>	5,200,318 3,639,051
7,983,192 3,722,756		4,344,141 759,480	•	5,200,318 3,639,051 2,963,276
7,983,192 3,722,756 2,101,194		4,344,141 759,480 1,241,819	•	5,200,318 3,639,051 2,963,276 859,375
7,983,192 3,722,756 2,101,194 763,109		4,344,141 759,480 1,241,819 376,611	•	5,200,318 3,639,051 2,963,276 859,375 386,498
7,983,192 3,722,756 2,101,194 763,109 642,050		4,344,141 759,480 1,241,819 376,611 615,929	•	5,200,318 3,639,051 2,963,276 859,375 386,498 26,121
\$	6,895,513 10,800,192 3,896,727 2,211,276 763,109 1,354,819 358,121 8,400 10,291 \$ 30,130,298	6,895,513 10,800,192 3,896,727 2,211,276 763,109 1,354,819 358,121 8,400 10,291 \$ 30,130,298 \$ 11	6,895,513 2,046,104 10,800,192 5,201,559 3,896,727 1,016,807 2,211,276 1,613,942 763,109 452,913 1,354,819 711,593 358,121 337,588 8,400 1,824 10,291 - \$ 30,130,298 \$ 11,382,330  COST ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION	6,895,513 2,046,104 10,800,192 5,201,559 3,896,727 1,016,807 2,211,276 1,613,942 763,109 452,913 1,354,819 711,593 358,121 337,588 8,400 1,824 10,291 - \$ 30,130,298 \$ 11,382,330 \$  COST ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION

Tangible capital assets not yet in use of \$10,291 (2018 - \$874,725) are not subject to amortization until development is complete.

#### 7. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES

#### Liability for unreturned containers

Included in the accounts payable and accrued liabilities is the amount for a liability of \$38,328,738 (2018 – \$38,717,001) that the Corporation has accrued for. The liability is based on the deposit refunds, handling commissions and beverage container management board fees that relate to the estimated number of containers that have been sold by the Participants as at December 31, 2019. These amounts are expected to be paid after year-end, based on expected return rates.

Management has estimated this liability based on existing knowledge, and changes in future conditions may require a material change in the recognized amount of this liability.

#### 8. OPERATING LINE OF CREDIT

The Corporation has an operating line of credit (including letters of credit) not to exceed the lesser of \$5,000,000 and 90% of certain accounts receivable and 75% of all other receivables value net of over 45-day accounts, from a Canadian chartered bank bearing interest at the bank's prime interest rate plus 0.0% (2018 – 0.05%) per annum. The line of credit is secured by a general security agreement representing a first charge over all of the assets of the Corporation. As at December 31, 2019, the outstanding balance of the operating line of credit was \$nil (2018 – \$nil).

The Corporation has issued a \$100,000 standby letter of credit as security for the Edmonton building lease.

#### 9. SHARE CAPITAL

#### Authorized, unlimited number

Class A shares without nominal or par value. The shares have voting rights but no dividend rights.

Class B shares without nominal or par value. The shares have no voting rights but have dividend rights. The Class B shares may only be issued with the unanimous consent of the holders of the Class A shares.

The authorized share structure results in the Corporation being a not-for-profit corporation as long as no Class B shares are issued and profits are restricted to the operations of the Corporation.

ISSUED AND OUTSTANDING				
	2019	2018		
700 Class A shares (2019 - 000)	\$	\$		
700 Class A shares (2018 – 900)	700	900		

#### 10. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

#### Credit risk

The Corporation is exposed to credit risk on its accounts receivable from its customers. The majority of the accounts receivable are in respect of container recycling fees and regulated deposits. The Corporation generally extends unsecured credit to the Participants, and therefore the collection of accounts receivable may be affected by changes in economic or other conditions. Management believes the risk is mitigated by the size and reputation of the companies to which they extend credit, and the net aged accounts receivable balance greater than 60 days is not material to the financial statements as a whole.

#### Liquidity risk

The Corporation's objective is to have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when due. The Corporation monitors its cash balances and cash flows generated from operations to meet its requirements.

#### Interest rate risk

The Corporation is exposed to interest rate risk on its cash and cash equivalents. Due to the short-term nature of the financial instruments, management believes this risk is not significant. A change of 25 basis points in interest rates would have increased (decreased) the excess of revenue over expenses and changes in net assets, for the year ended December 31, 2019, by \$19,713 (2018 –\$20,885).

#### Foreign currency risk

The Corporation undertakes revenue and purchase transactions in foreign currency and is subject to gains and losses due to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates. Gains and losses due to foreign currency based transactions are not expected to be material to the financial statements. As at December 31, 2019, the Corporation had a net exposure to U.S. currency of CA\$2,493,163 (2018 – CA\$4,708,626) represented by US\$1,919,590 (2018 – US\$3,451,566), and the Corporation has no option or any forward commitments to sell additional U.S. currency. A change of 1% on the foreign currency rate would have increased (decreased) revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2019, by \$19,196 (2018 – \$47,086).

#### 11. COMMITMENTS

The Corporation has lease commitments for a St. Albert plant; the adjacent piece of land to the Calgary plant; and other small operating lease agreements, which are expiring at various dates.

The land lease agreement for Calgary expires in December 2023, and the Corporation has the option to extend the term of the lease for 10 years. The lease for the St. Albert new facility is expiring in February 2029 with two five-year options expiring in February 2034 and February 2039.

Future minimum lease rental payments aggregate \$31,826,315 and the annual lease payments for the next five years and thereafter are as follows:

2020	\$ 1,582,669
2021	1,573,242
2022	1,552,455
2023	1,559,696
2024	1,639,729
Thereafter	23,918,524
	\$ 31,826,315

#### 12. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In March 2020, the World Health Organization characterized the COVID-19 virus as a global pandemic. As at December 31, 2019, the COVID-19 global pandemic had not yet had a significant impact on the Corporation's operations; therefore, no adjustments have been recorded in the financial statements relating to this crisis for the year then ended.

Subsequent to year-end, the COVID-19 outbreak became a significant event in Alberta. To date, the Corporation has not experienced a significant change in its operations; however, depending upon the length of time the pandemic lasts, beverage container sales and return volumes could be impacted. As it is not yet known when public health restrictions will be removed, nor the long-term impact of COVID-19, it is not possible to estimate any financial impact of this event on the Corporation's financial results subsequent to December 31, 2019.



**Active Manufacturers** 

**Glossary of Terms** 

**GRI Organizational Profile** 





#### **ACTIVE MANUFACTURERS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2019**

52 North Beverages Ltd. | 9129-0213 Quebec Inc. o/a Sober Carpenter Brewery | 98951 Canada Inc./Fort International | 598316 Alberta Ltd./Culligan Bottled Water | 996660 Ontario Limited (Molisana Imports) | 1117750 Alberta Inc. o/a Serengeti Edmonton | 1272227 Ontario Inc. o/a CDC Foods | 1612133 Alberta Ltd. o/a The Right Water Bottling Co. | 1629321 Ontario Inc./ITFC Importers & Distributors | 1735221 Alberta Ltd. | 1841082 Alberta Ltd. | 1870437 Alberta Ltd./Made Foods Inc. | 1991248 Alberta Ltd. | 2028708 Alberta Ltd. | 2127367 Alberta Ltd. | A. Bosa & Co. Ltd. | A.G.L.C. | A. Lassonde Inc. | A.M.G. Medical Inc. | ABC Cork Co. | AGT CLIC Foods Inc. | Alpine Water Store Ltd. | Advantage Solutions Inc. | Abbott Nutrition | Acklands-Grainger Inc. | Afod Ltd. | Agropur Cooperative | All Market Inc. | Altra Foods Inc. | Amazon.com.ca, Inc. | Amway Canada Corporation | Anchor Foods International Ltd. | Annex Ale Project Limited | AquaTerra Corporation | Arctic Chiller Ltd. | Arizona Beverages of Canada, ULC | ASEA Enterprises ULC | Atkins Nutritionals Inc | Avalon Dairy Ltd (267338 BC LTD.) | Awakened Living Inc. o/a The Light Cellar | Baby Gourmet Foods Inc. | Bass Pro Shops Canada ULC | Best Brands Marketing | Beverage World Inc. | Bioforce Canada Inc. | BioSteel Sports Nutrition Inc. | Blackbird Cold Brew Coffee Inc. | Bolthouse Farms/Fresh Logistics | Boocha Beverages Inc. | Bow Valley BBQ Inc. | Breakthru Beverage Canada Inc. | Brewsters Brewing Company | British Pantry | Brother Choice Foods Ltd. | Brutus Beverages Inc. | Buderim Ginger Ltd. | Bulk Barn Foods Limited | Bull's Head Beverages Inc. | Buy-Low Foods LP dba Associated Grocers | Cabela's Retail Canada Inc. | Caissen Water Technologies Inc. | Calkins & Burke Ltd. | Campbell's Soup | Canada Dry Motts Inc. | Canada Pure Water Co. Ltd. | Canadian Choice Wholesalers | Canadian Tire | Canda Six Fortune Enterprises Co. LTD | CannaLife USA Ltd. | Canterbury Coffee Corporation | Car-Net Import & Export Corp. | Casseroles Cora Inc. | Central City Brewers & Distillers Ltd. | Cheribundi, Inc. | Cherry Pit Inc. | Clearly Food & Beverage Company Ltd. | Coca-Cola Canada Bottling Limited | Community Natural Foods Ltd. | Concord Sales Ltd. - B.C. | Core-Mark International, Inc. | Corinthian Distributors Ltd. | Costco Wholesale Canada Ltd. | Country Fresh Water (835318 Alberta) | Cows Inc. | Craftwork Spirits & Beverages Ltd. | Crossmark Canada Inc./Select Brand Distributors | Cru Juice Inc. dba JUSU Bars | Cupper's Coffee Co. (1999) Inc. | DSI Food Corporation | Danone Inc. | Dattani Wholesalers | De Simone Farms Ltd. | Distribution Missum | Dole Packaged Foods Co. | Dollarama LP | Dollar Tree Stores Canada | Dong Phuong Group Partnership | Donia Farms Foods Ltd. | Double D Beverage Co. | Dovre Import & Export Ltd. | Dream Products Inc. | E.D. Smith Foods, Ltd. | Earth Water International Ltd. | Earth's Own Food Company Inc. | Eau Claire Soda Company Ltd. | Ecotrend Ecologics Ltd. | Edoko Food Importers Ltd. | Elco Fine Foods Ltd. | Elite International Foods Inc. | ESKA Inc. | Excelsior Foods Inc. | Far East North America Food Ltd. | Fastenal Canada, Ltd. | Federated Coop Ltd. | Ferma Import And Export | Fiji Water Canada Ltd. | Flow Water Inc. | Fok's Trading (Canada) Ltd. | French's Food Company Inc., The | Fresh Squeeze Inc., The | Fukuda Trading Co. Ltd. | Galvanina Canada Ltd. | General Mills Canada Corporation | General Nutrition Centers | Genesis Marketing Group Inc. | Genesis Today, Inc. | Genki Foods | Glencar Food & Beverage Inc. | Global Reach Confections & More Inc. | Good Taste of Britain 1995, A (671086 AB) | Gordon Food Service Canada Ltd. | Gourmet Trading Co. | Grace Foods Canada Inc. | Great Canadian Water Company Ltd. | Greenworld Food Express Inc. | Grimmway Enterprises, Inc. | Grizzly Paw Pub & Brewing Company Ltd., The | Gummi Confections & Novelties Inc. | Guru Beverage Inc. | HP Hood LLC | Hain Celestial Canada Inc. | Happy Days Dairies | Happy Planet Foods Inc. | Harays Natural Inc. | Heart Smart Foods Ltd. | Hell's Basement Brewery Inc. | High Roller Energy Incorporated | Hilary's Salesmaster Inc. | Hillsboro Corp Inc. o/a True Buch Kombucha | Hongdao Business Development Ltd. | Horizon Distributors | Hormel Canada, Ltd. | Hung Gay Enterprises Ltd. | Hutch + Howl Inc. | I.D. Foods Corporation | Ice River Springs Water Co. Inc. | Icy Mountain Water Co. | IKEA Canada Limited Partnership | Impress Foods L.P. | Inform Brokerage Inc. International Marketing Systems Ltd. I lovate Health Sciences International Inc. I Italpasta Limited | ITN Food Corporation | ITO EN (North America) Inc. | JC Bunny Trading Co. Ltd. | JFC International (Canada) Inc. | JR Beverages Ltd. | J.M. Smucker Company, The | Jan K. Overweel | Jardin Foods Ltd. | Jasmine Mediterranean Foods | Jet Trading Co Ltd. | Jeunesse Global Marketing Ltd. | Jiva Organics Mfg. & Dist. Inc. | Johanna Foods Inc. | Johnny B Sweet Inc. | Jones Soda Co. | Joriki Inc. | Juice Because Ltd. | Juice Shop Ltd., The | Jus Dose Inc. | KO & C Enterprises, Ltd. | Karma Culture, LLC | Kennelli Springs Ltd. | Kohl & Frisch Limited | Kombucha Baby Brewing Company Inc. | Kombucheers Brewery | Korea Food Trading Ltd. | Korea Service Solution Inc. | Kraft Heinz Canada ULC | Labatt Brewing Company Ltd. | Laboratoires C.O.P. Inc. | La Mexicana Variety Store | La Molienda Foods Inc. | Revolution Resource Recovery Inc. | Left Coast Naturals | Lekker Food Distributors | Les Aliments Unique Foods (Canada) Inc. | Les Celliers Associes | Les Produits Alimentaires Duran Inc. | Loblaw Companies Ltd. | London Drugs Ltd. | Loop Juices Inc. | MCBSW Creative Services Inc. | MGA Management Ltd. | MW (Canada) Federal Ent. Ltd. | Malinda Distributors | Mamma Chia | Mark Anthony Group Inc. | Marten Brewing Company Ltd. | Martin Brower of Canada |

McClelland Premium Imports Incorporated | McKesson Canada Corporation | Mead Johnson Nutrition (Canada) Co. | Mexican Family Store | Minute Maid Company, The | Molson Canada 2005 | Monashee Spring Water Distributors Ltd. | MoodWater Corp. | Morgan Williams West Inc. | Morinda Canada Co. | Mother Dairy | N.A.I.M. Canada Inc. | Nanton Water & Soda Ltd. | National Dry Company Limited | National Importers Canada Ltd. | Nationwide Natural Foods 2000 Inc. | Natural Assembly Ltd. | Nature's Sunshine Products, Inc. | Naturo Group Investments Inc. | Naya Waters Inc. | Nestle Canada Inc. | Nestle Waters Canada | Niagara Bottling, LLC | No.22 Foods Inc. | Noble Meadows Farm | North Hydration Ltd. | Northern Bottling | North West Company LP, The | Nutrifresh West Ltd. | Nutrisoya Foods Inc. | Nutrition Zone Products Inc. (736027 Alberta Ltd.) | Ocean Spray International Inc. | Office General des Eaux Minerales Ltee (OGEM) | One For The Road Brewing Company Incorporated | Ontario Natural Food Co./Black River Juice | Orana Canada Inc. | Otis McAllister, Inc. | Overwaitea Foods | P.A. Fine Foods & Distributors Ltd. | PKE Water Store & More | Pacific Bottleworks Company | Pacific Western Brewing Company Ltd. | Pak National Foods Ltd. | Paradise Mountain Organic Estate Coffee Ltd. | Parmalat Canada | Peavey Industries LP | Pepsi Bottling Group (Canada) Co. | Phillips Brewing Company Ltd. | Phoenicia Group Inc. | Pic a Pop Inc./Canadian Gold Beverages (2012) | Pilotsfriend West Inc. | Pinnacle Distribution Inc. | Pom Wonderful | Pratts Ltd. | Precision Design & Manufacturing | Premier Brands, Ltd. | Premier Nutrition Corporation | Premium Near Beer Ltd. dba Partake Brewing | Pressed Juicery, LLC | Prism Kombucha | Pulp & Press Juice Company Inc. | Purearth Organics Inc. | Puresource Inc. | Pure Maple Water Company Ltd. | Pure Water Oasis 2013 | Purity Organic | RE7 Global Industries Inc. | RW Consumer Products Ltd. | Rafters Home Store | Rajdoot Imports Ltd. o/a United Distributors of Canada | Red Apple Stores Inc. | Red Bull Canada Ltd. | Red Crown Ventures Ltd. | Refresco Canada Inc. | Reinhart Foods Limited | Remedy Drinks Canada Inc. | Ripple Foods, PBC | Ripple FX Water Inc. | Roar Beverages Canada Corp. | Rock Ridge Dairy Ltd. | Rosa Foods, Inc. | Rocky Mountain Roasters Ltd. | Rona Inc. | Royal Import & Export Ltd. | Rubicon Food Products Ltd. | Rviita Inc. | S.J. Decoys & Other Treasures Ltd. o/a Dovetale Collections | SA Meat Shops Inc. | Safari Meat Shops Inc. | Santa Maria Foods Corp. | Saputo Dairy Products | Saveurs Balatti Inc./Balatti Flavors Inc. | Seoul Trading Corp. | Sequel Naturals ULC | Shoppers Drug Mart | Sky Blue Water | Smucker Foods of Canada Corp. | Sonray Sales Ltd. | Spa Springs Mineral Water Company Ltd. | Splash Juicery | Starbucks Coffee Company | Star Marketing Ltd. | Stars Trading Co. Ltd. | Station Cold Brew Coffee Co. Inc. | Steve & Dan's Fresh B.C. Fruit Ltd. | Sun Orchard, LLC | Sunrise Markets Inc. | Sun Rype Products | Sun-Rype Products (USA), Inc. | Sunterra Quality Food Markets Inc. | Superior Natural ULC | Sweet Fusion/Yuzda Investments Inc. | Sysco Food Services of Calgary | T-Brothers Food and Trading Ltd. | T & T Supermarket Inc. | TDL Group Limited, The | TFB & Associates | TFI Foods Ltd./Les Aliments Ltee | Talking Rain Beverage Co. | Temple Lifestyle Inc. | Terra International Food Inc. | Thai United Food Trading Ltd. | Thee Baker's Catering Ltd o/a Stoyles Wholesale | Thomas, Large & Singer Inc. | Ti Foods (Thai Indochine Trading Inc.) | Tonsell International Inc. | Tree of Life Canada, ULC. | Tree Top, Inc. | Tri-Pure Water Ltd. | Trivita Living, Ltd. | Troubled Monk Brewery Ltd. | UAI Canada Imports Inc. | UNFI Canada Inc-Grocery West | Ultima Foods Inc. | Universal Impex Corporation oa Cool Runnings Foods Ltd. | Uno Foods Inc. | Untapped Trading Incorporated | Usana Canada Co. | Uva Collections Inc. | Vancouver Water Enterprises Canada Co., Ltd. | Van Dyk's Health Juice Products Ltd. | Vergers Paul Jodoin Inc. | Veritiv Canada, Inc. | Village Brewery Ltd. | Vital Green Farms | Waisa Mama Organic Beverage Co. Inc. | Wallace & Carey Ltd. | Wal-Mart Canada Inc. | Watermark Beverages Inc. | Water Pure & Simple - Lethbridge | Water Pure & Simple - Minilake Dist. | Water Pure & Simple - Westlock | Water Pure & Simple - Wetaskiwin | Weil's Food Processing Ltd. | Well Juicery | Whistler Water Inc. | Wholesome Nourishments Inc. (Happy Belly Kombucha) | Wild Brewing Company | Wild Tea Kombucha | Wismettac Asian Foods, Inc. | Worldwide Specialty Foods Ltd. | Ying Fat Food | Yorkshire Rose Imports | Young Living Canada ULC | YYoung Water Limited | Zevia, LLC





# Glossary of Terms



#### **Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation (ABCRC)**

A stewardship corporation operating within not-for-profit provisions. As the CSA for beverage manufacturers, ABCRC operates the Common Collection System and promotes the economic and efficient collection of beverage containers

#### Alberta Bottle Depot Association (ABDA)

Industry representative for more than 220 depots operating in Alberta.

### **Beverage Container Management Board**

Established as a management board under Alberta's Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, the BCMB regulates Alberta's beverage container recycling system and leads the development of policies and programs that further enable the recycling of beverage containers in Alberta.

#### **Beverage Container**

A used, non-refillable container, as defined by the Regulation, previously sold and distributed in the province of Alberta.

#### **Collection System Agent (CSA)**

The agent appointed by manufacturers/distributors of beverages sold in Alberta to act on their behalf as operator of the Common Collection System.

#### Common Collection System

A container collection system that does not distinguish beverage containers of similar size and material from each other based on the manufacturer of the container.

#### Container Recycling Fee (CRF)

A fee that beverage manufacturers are required to pay to ABCRC that covers the net costs of recovering and processing beverage containers.

#### Deposit

Money paid at the time of beverage purchase that is refunded to consumers upon the return of empty beverage containers.

One of more than 220 independently owned and operated collection sites that refund deposits to consumers, then count, sort, and assemble shipments of beverage containers for recycling.

#### **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**

An environmental policy approach in which a producer's responsibility for a product (e.g., automobiles), product category (e.g., electronics) or waste stream (e.g., packaging) is extended to the post-consumer stage of that product's life cycle.

#### **Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)**

An independent international organization that developed and maintains a framework for disclosing sustainability information to aid in accountability, identification and management of risk, and identification of opportunities to improve and innovate. GRI Standards are the first and most widely adopted global standards for sustainability reporting.

#### **High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE)**

Also known as Plastic #2, HDPE is a type of plastic commonly used in beverage containers like milk jugs, water bottles and juice boxes.

#### Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET)

Also known as Plastic #1, PET is a type of clear plastic that is most commonly used in water bottles and other clear plastic beverage containers.

#### Polypropylene (PP)

Also known as Plastic #5, PP is a tough waterproof plastic that is resistant to heat. It is commonly used in plastic bottle caps.

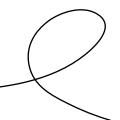
#### Regulation

The Beverage Container Recycling Regulation under Alberta's Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.

#### **Quality Monitoring System (QMS)**

An electronic interface that centralizes communication within the beverage container recycling industry.

# GRI **Organizational Profile**



#### **Awards**

ABCRC was not the recipient of any awards in 2019.

#### **Reporting Period**

ABCRC's 2019 Sustainability Report is limited in scope to performance between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019.

#### **Point of Contact**

Lori Koebel, Communications and Marketing Manager (403) 264-0170 EXT:234 | lkoebel@abcrc.com

#### **Boundary of Report**

The report includes all entities over which ABCRC exercises control and/or that generate significant sustainability impacts. ABCRC also considers its organizational boundary to include its transportation suppliers, who are wholly independent of ABCRC but significant to overall organizational performance.

#### **Re-Statements from Previous Reports**

ABCRC does not have any re-statements to provide from previous reports.

#### **Significant Changes from Previous** Reports

ABCRC does not have any significant changes from previous reports to disclose.

#### **Name of Organization**

Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation

#### **Primary Services**

ABCRC is a provincial product stewardship corporation incorporated under the Business Corporations Act (Alberta) and operating within not-for-profit provisions. Its mandate is to be the agent for the beverage manufacturers<sup>1</sup> to operate the Common Collection System, to be responsible for recycling beverage containers, to comply with the Regulation and BCMB bylaws and to promote the economic and efficient collection of beverage containers.

ABCRC is responsible for the collection of beverage containers from more than 220 independently owned depots located throughout Alberta. Processing activity is conducted in ABCRC-operated facilities located in St. Albert and Calgary. ABCRC outsources one hundred percent of transportation services to facilitate this collection.

#### **Location of Headquarters**

901 57 Avenue NE, Calgary, Alberta

#### **Geographic Scope**

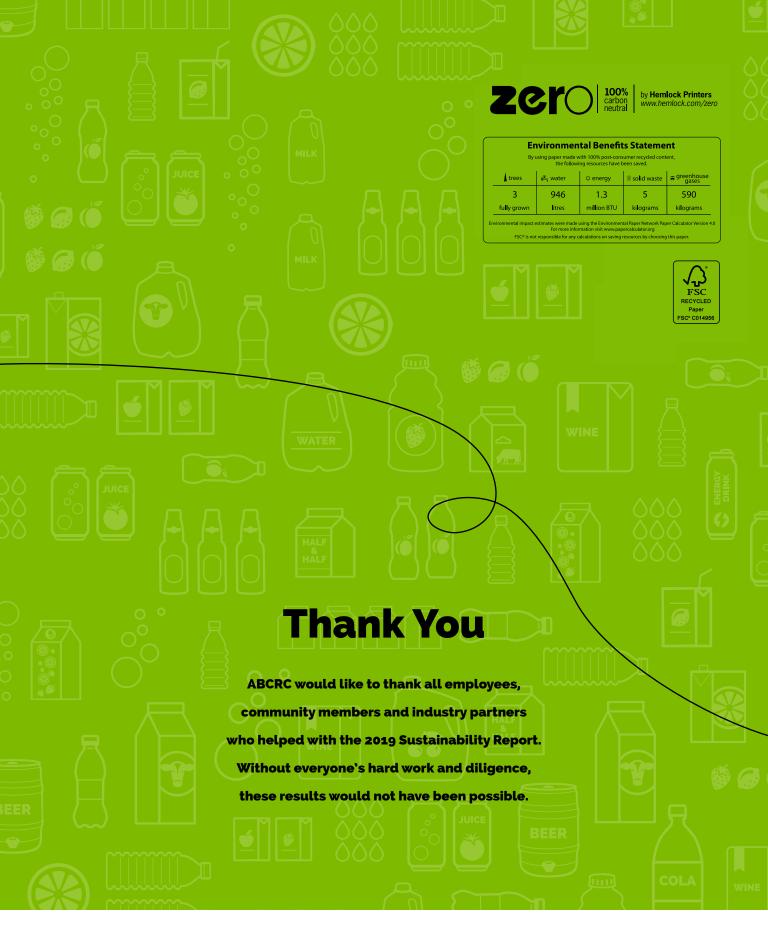
ABCRC operates solely within the province of Alberta, Canada.

#### **Markets Served**

ABCRC serves Alberta's beverage container recycling market.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Refer to list of Active Manufacturers of regulated, non-refillable beverage containers.



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