

container recycling fees

Alberta has one of the most innovative and effective beverage container recycling programs in North America.

Some of the money to operate the system comes from the sale of recyclable material from the returned containers, some comes from unredeemed deposits, and the remainder comes from Container Recycling Fees (CRFs).

The cost of recycling each type of beverage container is different, depending on the size and material, so CRFs vary by container type.

CRFs Effective February 1, 2025

CONTAINER	CRF (\$)	DEPOSIT (\$)	REFUND (\$)
Aluminum			
O - 1 L	0.01	0.10	0.10
Plastic			
O - 1 L	0.03	0.10	0.10
> 1 L	0.06	0.25	0.25
Glass			
O - 1 L	0.07	0.10	0.10
> 1 L	0.07	0.25	0.25
Gable Top			
O - 1 L	0.05	0.10	0.10
> 1 L	0.11	0.25	0.25
Tetra Brik			
O - 1 L	0.04	0.10	0.10
> 1 L	0.11	0.25	0.25
Bi-Metal			
O - 1 L	0.08	0.10	0.10
> 1 L	0.08	0.25	0.25
Pouches/Bag-in-Box			
O - 1 L	0.04	0.10	0.10
> 1 L	0.04	0.25	0.25

collecting Alberta's non-refillable beverage containers since

1995

processing more than

2 billion

beverage containers every year

providing meaningful employment for

175

Albertans

To learn more about container recycling fees, visit www.abcrc.com.



frequently asked questions

What is a CRF? The Container Recycling Fee (CRF) is a fee paid on each beverage container by beverage manufacturers to Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation (ABCRC) to cover the net costs of recovering and processing that container. This ensures that Alberta maintains an effective and sustainable beverage container recycling system.

Who administers this fee? CRFs are administered by ABCRC, a not-for-profit stewardship agency. The fees collected are used in their entirety help fund the operation of the beverage container recycling system for the benefit of all Albertans.

Aren't recycling fees just another government tax? No. CRFs are not a government tax and are not paid to any level of government. As required by regulation, the fees are used solely for the purpose of covering some of the costs of recycling non-refillable beverage containers in Alberta.

Why does the fee vary between beverage containers? The CRF is the net cost of recycling each type of container. Since containers of different sizes and materials cost different amounts to recycle, the fee is also different. The net costs for recycling each type/size of container is closely monitored and the fees are adjusted annually on February 1st.

Where does the money go? ABCRC uses unredeemed deposits and the revenue from the sale of recycled materials to operate the beverage container recycling system, but the collection, handling, transportation and processing of beverage containers is more than that money covers. CRFs cover the remainder of the cost of operating the system.

Who benefits from this fee? We all do! The CRF simply covers the net costs of recycling Alberta's beverage containers. This ensures that the system operates efficiently and remains financially viable, keeps beverage containers out of landfills, and creates a stable industry that keeps dozens of companies running and provides work for hundreds of Albertans.

Why is the recycling fee separate from the deposit? So that consumers can better understand how Alberta's beverage container recycling system operates. Refundable deposits are an incentive for consumers to return their containers to an Alberta Depot. Non-refundable CRFs are used to cover the net costs of recycling those containers.

Why do I pay the recycling fee in some stores but not others? The decisions by manufacturers to pass the CRF onto retailers, and in turn by retailers onto consumers, are made independently. The consumer will only see the CRF listed separately on their receipt if the retailer chooses to add the CRF onto the cost of a beverage at the time of sale (rather than including it in the posted price of the beverage).