



Modernizing BC's Recycling System for a Greener Future

BC Environmental Managers Association
October 27, 2021

Allen Langdon, President & CEO



@EncorpPacific



@ReturnIt

Who We Are



Our Infrastructure

170+
collection
sites

Established supply chain
and infrastructure

- Return-It network (93% of unit volume)
 - 165 independently owned depots
 - 8 Express & GO locations
 - 2 Return-It Express Plus locations
- Retail (5% of volume)
 - 260 Grocery Stores
 - 195 Government Liquor Stores
- Other Collection Points (2% of volume)



Materials within our Program



- Responsible for all ready-to-drink beverage containers sold in BC as identified under Schedule 1 of the Recycling Regulation
- Feb 1, 2022: milk and plant based beverages, including rice, soy, almond included into beverage container deposit system
- Producers of alcohol aluminum cans can now appoint Encorp as their stewardship agency

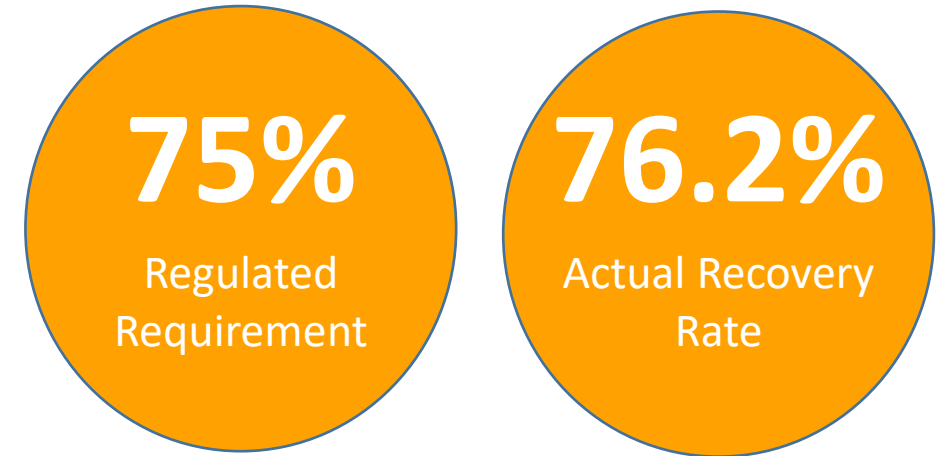
Accepted Beverage Containers



Fast Facts & Containers Collected

- Over **21 billion** beverage containers recycled in 26 years
 - In 2020, we recycled over 1 billion beverage containers
- 2020 recovery rate was 76.2% in 2019
- Reduction of **105.5 thousand tonnes** of CO2 equivalent being released into the atmosphere

2020 Recovery Rate



End Use of Recovered Containers

Aluminum

- 100% to new aluminum cans in Kentucky

PET

- 100% processed at Merlin Plastics in BC or AB (adjacent province)

Glass

- Over 90% to new wine bottle glass in Seattle
- Balance to sandblasting material in BC

Tetra and Gable

- About 90% to tissue/toilet paper production in South Korea, balance to U.S.

Our Social Purpose – Why we exist



In 2020 we defined our Social Purpose, which embodies our commitment to creating a better future for people, communities and the planet:

“We exist to foster a world where nothing is waste”



Program Updates

Return-It's Modernization Strategy



- In 2020, we announced a broad suite of initiatives to modernize BC's Recycling System for a Greener Future

Why?

- Direct response to consumers' feedback
- Simplify and streamline the recycling experience
- Investing in initiatives aimed at reducing our carbon footprint
- Increase BC's recycling rates by making it easier and more convenient for consumers to recycle
- Address impact of the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Adapted and evolved our system by limiting contact / touch points and increasing convenience

Unified Deposit



- On Oct 1, 2020, we implemented a 10-cent unified deposit for all beverage containers
- Simplified the deposit system, provided system efficiencies, and reduced consumer confusion



System changes: *Return-It Express*



Making Recycling Convenient and Contactless through *Express*

- As a result of the pandemic, customers registered to use Express more than doubled in 2020. Currently have over 180,000 registered customers
- Fast, convenient, contactless and easy recycling experience in under a minute
- No sorting, deposit refunds uploaded directly through a user online account & redeemed via e-Transfer
- 95% improved customer satisfaction levels
- Expect over 100 locations covering all markets in BC with pop. of over 30,000 people over two years



System changes: *Express & GO*



Making Recycling Convenient and Contactless through *Express & GO*

- In 2020, invested in this expansion. Currently have eight locations: Tofino, SFU Burnaby, UBC Vancouver, 2 North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Big White Ski Resort, McBride
- Powered by solar energy, unstaffed & longer hours
- Smaller format essential to increase accessibility
- Focus on dense urban areas and smaller rural locations
- Expanding to a minimum of five additional locations in 2021



Operational changes: *New Technology*



- Piloting in depot automation technology at select Return-It depots to limit touch points, support volume and customer experience
- Sorting technology will provide operational and cost efficiencies



Expanding to other material streams



- Return-It Textiles expansion:
 - From 13 to over 35 depot locations
 - Partnership with Salvation Army
 - Over 500 metric tonnes diverted from landfills, waterways

Expanding to other material streams



Cork Recycling Pilot: Launched June 2021

- Piloting our first wine cork recycling collection program at a Return-It depot in Kelowna
- Partnership with ReCORK where collected material will be used by SOLE to develop eco-friendly cushioning for footwear

British Columbia

B.C.'s Return-It program launches wine cork recycling program in West Kelowna



Corks collected will be shipped to Calgary for making eco-friendly

LIFESTYLE

Winston Szeto · CBC News · Posted: Jun 09, 2021 7:52 PM PT | Last Updated: June 9



Since June 1, drinkers across B.C.'s Central Okanagan have been able to drop in their Kelowna's Boucherie Self Storage and Bottle Depot for recycling. (Miki Jourdan/Flickr)

Pilot project for cork recycling pops up in West Kelowna

By Sydney Morton · Global News
Posted June 14, 2021 5:06 pm



WATCH: Not much can beat opening up a bottle of wine on a hot Okanagan summer's day, and Return-It has found a unique way to save the wine corks that are destined to go to the landfill each year.

Expanding to other material streams

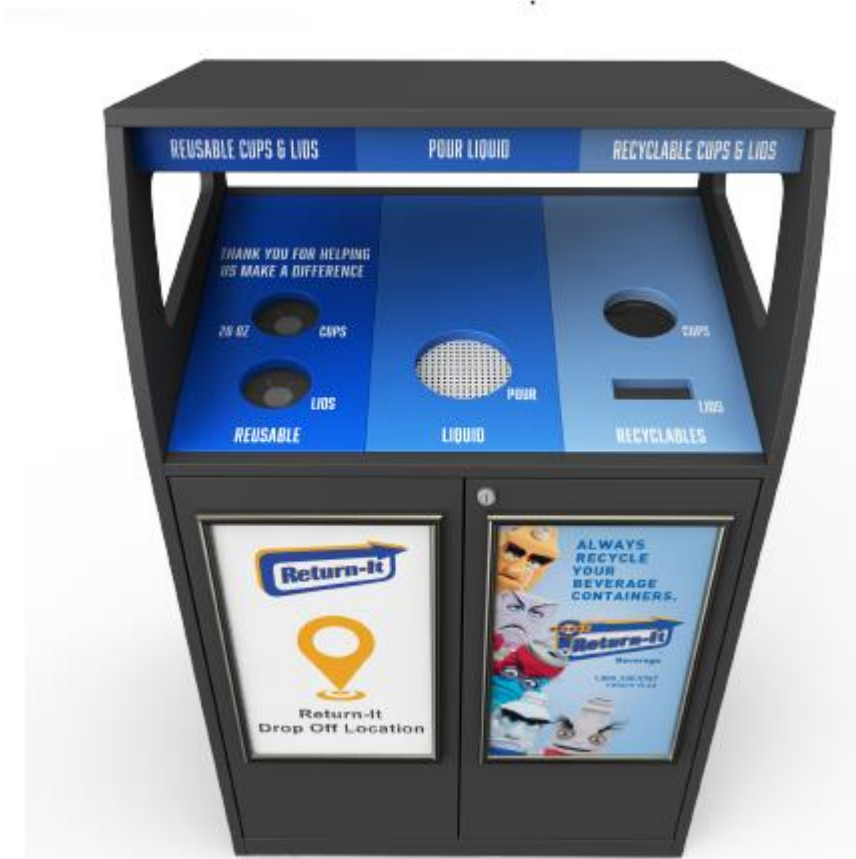


Coffee Cups: Launched originally in 2020 & re-launching in 2022

- BC's 1st Coffee Cup Recycling Pilot for Commercial and Public Buildings
- In response to the millions of coffee cups disposed of in the City of Vancouver at IC&I spaces. Intent is to measure and identify a recycling solution for disposable coffee cups

Potential CupShare Pilot - 2022

- A reusable and returnable cup sharing program
- Cups are made of recyclable materials and produce half the carbon footprint of single-use disposable cups
- Can be used 132 times before they are recycled
- Currently evaluating pilot locations



Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Cleaner Transportation



Decarbonization of our transportation fleet:

- Introduced Canada's first-of-its-kind compressed natural gas (CNG) hybrid-electric compaction truck

Benefits:

- One hybrid-electric collection truck replaces two conventional diesel trucks
- Increased the number of beverage containers transported in one trip by six times – from 150,000 containers to 900,000 containers per trip
- Full conversion of fleet will reduce GHG from beverage container recycling by up to 25%



Our Proactive Approach to Eliminate Plastic Waste



- Signatory of the **Global Commitment** led by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation

Our commitments for 2025:

- Recycle 80% of plastic beverage containers sold in BC
 - Eliminate single use plastic film from our supply chain
-
- Founding Partner of the **Canada Plastics Pact** – where stakeholders across Canada’s plastics value chain unite to eliminate, innovate and circulate



Canada Plastics Pact Objectives - 2025



- Define a list of plastic packaging that is to be designated as problematic or unnecessary and take measures to eliminate them
- **100%** of plastic packaging designed to be reusable, recyclable or compostable
- **50%** of plastic packaging is effectively recycled or composted
- **30%** recycled content across all plastic packaging



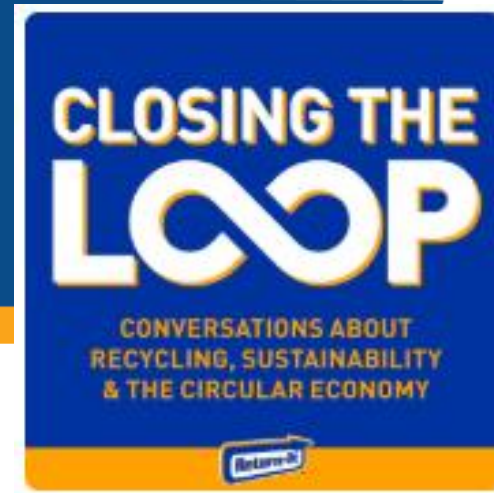
Collaboration and Partnerships



Binners' Project



Join the Conversation: Return-It Podcast



Hosted by:



Allen Langdon
President & CEO
Return-It

Working Together to End Plastic Pollution

Speakers:



Sander Defruyt
Lead New Plastics
Economy
Ellen MacArthur
Foundation



David Clark
VP, Sustainability
Amcor Ltd.

The Changing Landscape for Electronics Recycling in Canada

Speakers:



Cliff Hacking
President & CEO
EPRA Canada

ReSource: Closing the "How" Gap on Solving Plastic Pollution

Speakers:



Erin Simon
Head, Plastic Waste +
Business
World Wildlife Fund

The Next Generation of Textiles Collection & Recycling

Speakers:



Tonny Colyn
National Director of
Business Development
& Sustainability
The Salvation Army



Karen Storry
Senior Project Engineer
Zero Waste
Implementation, Metro
Vancouver

How Recycling in the US is Changing the Policy and Politics of Recycling

Speakers:



Dylan de Thomas
VP of Industry
Collaboration
Recycling Partnership



Keefe Harrison
CEO
Recycling Partnership

Conversation with Coca-Cola: An update on their World Without Waste Strategy

Speakers:



Bruce Karas
VP, Sustainability
Coca-Cola North
America



Ron Soreanu
VP, Public Affairs &
Communications
Coca-Cola Canada

Turning the Tide on Marine Pollution

Speakers:



Allison Wood
Executive Director
Ocean Ambassadors

Impact & Opportunities of the Pandemic on Sustainability

Speakers:



Coro Strandberg
President
Strandberg Consulting



Heather Mak
Founder/Advisor
Heather Mak
Consulting

Canada Plastics Pact: Together we can have a world without plastic waste

Speakers:



David Hughes
President & CEO
Natural Step Canada



Usman Valiante
Senior Policy Analyst
Cardwell Grove

Questions



Additional Resources:

return-it.ca