Beverage Container Collection and Recycling Program



Saskatchewan's Beverage Container Collection and Recycling Program is a province-wide system for the collection and recycling of designated non-refillable beverage containers sold and distributed in Saskatchewan. The program was initiated by the Ministry of Environment in 1988 and is supported by The Litter Control Act and its regulations.



SARCAN Recycling, a division of the Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centers, is contracted by the Ministry of Environment to operate Saskatchewan's Beverage Container Collection and Recycling Program.

Its Purpose

The Beverage Container Collection and Recycling Program provides consumers with a convenient way to recycle their beverage containers.

Beverage container recycling reduces the costs of waste management in the province and extends the life of Saskatchewan landfills. Recycling beverage containers also reduces the consumption of raw materials and natural resources used in making new containers. The collected containers are recycled into products such as new containers, fleece jackets, carpet and aluminum foil.

How to Recycle

Consumers simply take their used beverage containers to any SARCAN Depot in the province. For information on the types of beverage containers you can take back or to locate a depot near you, visit SARCAN's website at www.sarcsarcan.ca/sarcan.

Before the beverage containers are accepted at the recycling depot, you must remove the lids and caps and rinse out the containers to eliminate any left over contents. If you sort the containers by type and size into separate bags before returning them, SARCAN can provide faster, more efficient service.



How the Program Works

As the consumer, you pay a refundable deposit and an Environmental Handling Charge at the retailer's when you buy a beverage in a designated container. The retailer remits the deposit and the Environmental Handling Charge to the provincial government. The deposit is refundable to you and is a financial incentive used to encourage you to return the container for recycling to any of the 71 SARCAN Recycling Depots. The Environmental Handling Charge is used to pay for the operation of the recycling program and is not returned to you.

The Environmental Handling Charge (EHC) and deposits for designated beverage containers are:

Container Type	EHC	Refundable Deposit (per container)		
	(per container)	0 - 300 ml	301 - 999 ml	1 liter or more
Metal Cans	\$0.05	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.20
Plastic Bottles	\$0.06	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.20
Non-Refillable Glass Bottles	\$0.07	\$0.10	\$0.20	\$0.40
Multi-material, shelf stable containers	\$0.03	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.05
Juices boxes & Cartons	\$0.03	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.05



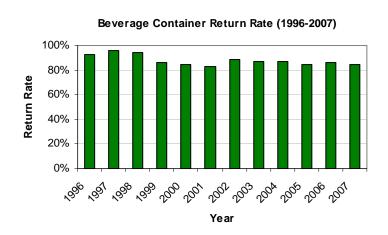
SARCAN has placed a \$50 return limit per person per week. This helps to limit the possibility of people bringing out-of-province containers into Saskatchewan to obtain a fraudulent refund at SARCAN Recycling Depots.

Accomplishments

In the last 12 years, Saskatchewan's designated beverage container return rate has averaged 86 per cent. This is among the highest return rates in North America! Six out of ten provinces in Canada have deposit-refund programs for beverage containers. Saskatchewan's program has the highest return rate in Canada.

On average, between 250 and 300 million designated beverage containers are returned to SARCAN for recycling each year. 3.8 billion beverage containers have been recycled since 1988.

Since the program began, the program has reduced the amount of waste going to Saskatchewan's landfills by more than 150,000 tonnes.



SARCAN employs 408 full-time staff and an additional 167 seasonal employees. The majority of employees are people with disabilities or people formerly receiving social assistance. SARCAN provides a net social benefit to Saskatchewan of approximately \$2.5 million annually by reducing the need for social assistance payments.



For more information about Beverage Container Collection and Recycling, visit www.sarcsarcan.ca/sarcan/index.php or call 1-800-667-3016.