



October 28, 2009

Albertans embrace recycling of beverage containers

Province has 81 per cent return rate - up five per cent from last year

Edmonton... One year after enhancing Alberta's deposit-refund system - and just five months after milk containers were added - Albertans are returning more beverage containers than ever.

"We modified the deposit-refund system to combat waste, boost recycling, and promote conservation across the province," said Diana McQueen, Environment Parliamentary Assistant. "It's encouraging to see how quickly Albertans are adapting to these changes, and I'm eager to see this growth in recycling continue."

Changes to Alberta's container recycling system also saw return rates for milk containers rise steadily each month since they were added to the deposit-based system on June 1. This increase is expected to continue as more Albertans become familiar with returning empty milk containers to bottle depots.

"We are really excited to see Albertans embracing the beverage container recycling program," said Ross Risvold, Chair of the Beverage Container Management Board. "Positive changes in the system mean more Albertans than ever before are recycling and fewer containers are going into landfills."

In a move to make beverage container recycling even more straight-forward, the special red ink marking that indicated a milk container was eligible for refund will be discontinued as of November 1. Now that most containers purchased before June 1 have been returned for recycling, all milk containers sold in Alberta will be accepted for a full refund.

For more information on Alberta's beverage container recycling program, visit www.bcmb.ab.ca.

-30-

Backgrounder: Beverage container recycling details

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Trevor Gemmill
Communications
Alberta Environment
780-427-6267

John Bachinski
Managing Director
Beverage Container Management Board
1-888-424-7671

To call Environment toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000

October 28, 2009

Beverage container recycling details

Milk container return rates

In June 2009, milk container recycling rates were 15 per cent for cartons and 22 per cent for plastic jugs. By September, return rates were 43 per cent for cartons and 63 per cent for plastic jugs.

The September return rates were higher than the return rates in the old, voluntary system which had return rates of 22.5 per cent for milk cartons and 60 per cent for plastic jugs.

This increase in recycling is expected to continue as more Albertans become familiar with returning empty milk containers to bottle depots.

Milk container special markings

In June 2009, special markings were added to milk containers, so bottle depots could ensure the containers were purchased in Alberta after June 1 and a deposit was paid.

The majority of markings on containers were either a best before date in red ink or “AB DEPOSIT” printed on the side, while some containers had both.

The dairy industry will stop placing the special red ink marking on containers as of November 1. However, there will still be old stock on the shelves for a few weeks after that date while containers with markings are phased out through sales.

Previous changes to system

Before milk containers entered the system in 2009, deposits on other beverage containers were increased in November 2008 to 10 cents for all containers one litre and under and 25 cents for all containers over one litre

This move from three different rates to two was made to promote harmony in the system and to make it easier for Albertans to know the value of their containers. It was also the first increase in deposit rates in more than 20 years.

-30-

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Trevor Gemmell
Communications
Alberta Environment
780-427-6267

John Bachinski
Managing Director
Beverage Container Management Board
1-888-424-7671

To call Environment toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000

[Alberta Government](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Ministries Listing](#) | [Environment Home Page](#) | [News Releases](#) | [Top of Page](#) |

[Send us your comments or questions](#)

