AG CONTAINER RECYCLING COUNCIL

California

50,000,000+ lbs.	2,300,000+ lbs.	268,000,000+ lbs.	10,000,000+ lbs.
California Collected Since Inception	California 5-Year Average	National Collected Since 1992	National 5-Year Average

ACRC Program

ACRC is a not-for-profit 501(c)(6) trade association representing the agricultural chemicals industry. Founded in February 1992, ACRC funds, operates, and promotes a nationwide producer-responsibility program for the collection and recycling of triple- or pressure-rinsed, empty, one-way rigid HDPE plastic agricultural chemical containers (all types, up to 55 gallons) — including crop protection, animal health, specialty pest control, micronutrient, biologicals, fertilizer, and adjuvant/surfactant containers. With more than 70 Regular and Affiliate Members, the program is entirely funded through member dues — a true producer-responsibility model that has operated successfully for over three decades.

California Program

In California, ***Interstate Ag Plastics*** (Buttonwillow, CA) and ***Ag Plastic Recycling, LLC*** (Strathmore, CA) serve as ACRC's designated contractors, collecting containers statewide. Since operations began, ACRC has collected and recycled more than 50 million pounds of agricultural container plastic in California, averaging over 2.3 million pounds annually in recent years — including a record 2.7 million pounds recycled in 2025. Collection occurs at farms, ag retailers, professional applicators (ground and aerial), municipal landfills, golf courses, nurseries, and greenhouses, with no collection fee to growers or commercial applicators in most cases.

Stewardship Plan

Core Principles	ACRC's Existing Practices
Producer-funded statewide program	ACRC has operated a fully member-funded, statewide California collection program continuously since 1993 — at no cost to the state or California taxpayers.
Reduce environmental and human health impacts through waste reduction, reuse, recycling	Mandatory triple-/pressure-rinse protocol (ANSI/ASABE S596, developed with ACRC's involvement) achieves 99.99%[1] active-ingredient removal before containers are chipped and recycled. Reuse-first practices are an option for larger containers designed as returnable/refillable under EPA regulations.
Sorted and aggregated into defined streams	Sorted and aggregated into defined streams
Convenient, statewide collection coverage	27 California counties served, and 451 unique collection sites in 2025 alone, operated through contractors Interstate Ag Plastics and Ag Plastic Recycling, LLC; over 2,500 collection sites nationwide.
Collection methods that maximize efficiency, quality, and convenience	Seasonal collection events and permanent drop-off sites at farms, ag retailers, and applicator locations. This model of convenience for California resulted in a collection record of 2.7 million pounds in 2025. Containers are never collected through residential curbside recycling services.
Responsible end markets	Collected containers are triple rinsed, chipped, and then recycled into approved productive end uses, such as agricultural drainpipe, landscape edging, nursery pots, industrial pallets, and other durable products, all rigorously vetted by the ACRC Technical Committee.
Public education, outreach, and communication	Bilingual (English/Spanish) triple-rinsing videos, free brochures, posters, and checklists; multilingual “Clean Means Clean” visual aids; presentations to universities, extension agencies, ag chemical trade associations, and aerial applicators; and promotions at major agricultural events.
Measurable performance and annual reporting	Annual member sales surveys are compared against pounds collected; California program tonnage has been tracked continuously since 1993.

[1] EPA 40 CFR 156.146; 165.25; 2006 Container and Containment Rule