AG CONTAINER RECYCLING COUNCIL

Maine

745,000+ lbs.	268,000,000+ lbs.	10,000,000+ lbs.
Maine Collected Since 1992	National Collected Since 1992	National Average/Year

ACRC Program

ACRC is a not-for-profit trade association representing the ag 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 over 70 Regular (manufacturers and formulators of agricultural products) and Affiliate (manufacturers of HDPE plastic containers or container components) Members, the program is entirely funded through member dues — a true producer-responsibility model that has operated successfully for over three decades.

Maine Program

In Maine, ***RPM eco*** serves as ACRC's contractor serves as ACRC's contractor, collecting containers from retailers, applicators, and farmers statewide. Since ACRC began its work in Maine, the program collected and recycled more than 745,000 pounds of ag chemical container plastic, averaging more than 13,000+ pounds annually, over the last ten years. Collection occurs at, ag retailers, professional applicators (ground and aerial), rural landfills, golf courses, nurseries, and greenhouses. No collection fee to growers or commercial applicators in most cases.

Stewardship Plan

Core Principles	ACRC's Existing Practices
Producer-funded stewardship	ACRC has operated a fully member-funded, statewide Maine collection program continuously since 1993 — at no cost to the state or Maine taxpayers.
Measurable performance and annual reporting	Annual member surveys compare pounds placed on the market to pounds collected; program tonnage has been tracked and published for 34 years.
Convenient, statewide collection coverage	RPM eco covers all of Maine, including seasonal collection events and drop-off sites at agricultural retailers, professional applicators (ground and aerial), farms, and other sites established by RPM eco; part of 2,500+ sites nationally
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 promotion at major agricultural events.
Representative audits of processed and recycled material	Containers collected by ACRC are inspected against the EPA 2006 Container and Containment Rule standard before being chipped and routed to approved end-use markets.
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.
Reduce environmental 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.

Continuous Growth

- Encouraging and educating growers and applicators to recycle containers with ACRC contractors
- Identifying additional Maine locations that could serve as ACRC collection sites
- Strengthening outreach partnerships with agricultural agencies, extension services, retailers, and applicator associations
- Connecting manufacturers of approved HDPE end-use products with ACRC program contractors

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