ACRC
AG CONTAINER RECYCLING COUNCIL

Maryland

1,400,000+ lbs. Maryland Collected Since 1992	***24,000+ lbs.*** Maryland Last 5-Year Average	***268,000,000+ lbs.*** National Collected Since 1992	***10,000,000+ lbs.*** National Average / Year

ACRC Program

ACRC is a not-for-profit 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 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.

Maryland Program

In Maryland, ***RPM eco*** serves as ACRC's designated contractor, collecting containers from retailers, applicators, and farmers throughout the state as part of ACRC's nationwide network. ACRC has collected and recycled more than 1,400,000 pounds of agricultural chemical container plastic in Maryland, averaging more than 24,000 pounds annually over the last five years, including more than 478,000 pounds collected since 2016 alone. This is an established, high-performing program that has served Maryland's agricultural communities for over three decades.

Stewardship Plan

Core Principles	*ACRC's Existing Practices*
Producer-funded statewide program	ACRC has operated a fully member-funded, statewide Maryland collection program continuously since 1993 — at no cost to the state or Maryland taxpayers.
Convenient, optimal statewide collection coverage	RPM eco covers all of Maryland, including seasonal collection events and drop-off sites at agricultural retailers, professional applicators (ground and aerial), farms, and other sites; part of 2,500+ sites nationally; No collection fee to growers or commercial applicators in most cases.
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.
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 promotion at major agricultural events.
Measurable performance and annual reporting	Annual member sales surveys are compared against pounds collected; Maryland program tonnage has been tracked continuously since 1993.

Continuous Growth

- Encouraging and educating growers and applicators to recycle containers with ACRC contractors
- Identifying additional Maryland locations that could serve as ACRC collection sites
- Strengthening outreach partnerships with ag 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