AG CONTAINER RECYCLING COUNCIL

Massachusetts

91,000+ lbs.	***268,000,000+ lbs.***	***10,000,000+ lbs.***
MA Collected Since Program Start	National Collected Since 1992	National Average/Year

ACRC Program

ACRC is a not-for-profit 501(c)(6) 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 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.

Massachusetts Program

In Massachusetts, ***RPM eco*** serves as ACRC's contractor, collecting containers from retailers, applicators, and farms statewide. Since the program began, ACRC has collected and recycled more than 91,000 pounds of agricultural container plastic in Massachusetts. 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 Practice*
Producer-funded statewide program	ACRC has operated a fully member-funded, statewide Massachusetts collection program continuously since 1999 — at no cost to the state or taxpayers.
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.
Convenient, statewide collection coverage	RPM eco covers all of Massachusetts 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
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.
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.
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.

Continuous Growth

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

agrecycling.org | ***Maine Contractor: RPM eco*** | ***info@agrecycling.org*** | ***1-877-952-2272***

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