AG CONTAINER RECYCLING COUNCIL

Minnesota

8,900,000+ lbs.	520,000+ lbs.	268,000,000+ lbs.	10,000,000+ lbs.
Minnesota Collected Since 1993	Minnesota 5-Year Average	National Collected Since 1992	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 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.

Minnesota Program

In Minnesota, ***G. Phillips & Sons*** serves as ACRC's designated contractor, collecting containers from retailers, applicators, and farmers throughout the state. ACRC's Minnesota program has operated continuously since 1993, making it one of ACRC's longest-standing state programs. Since inception, the program has collected and recycled more than 8,906,052 pounds of agricultural chemical container plastic and has averaged 520,810 pounds annually over the most recent five-year period (2021–2025). In 2025, the program collected 715,918 pounds, representing a 17.2% increase over 2024 and the strongest year on record for Minnesota. This performance corresponds to an 81.2% collection rate, the highest among any active packaging extended producer responsibility state within ACRC's program. Collection occurs at municipal facilities, landfills, agricultural retailers, professional applicators (ground and aerial), environmental management facilities, farms, landscape and weed management operations, and aquatic management operations. 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 Minnesota collection program continuously since 1993 — at no cost to the state or Minnesota 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.
Convenient, statewide collection coverage	53 Minnesota counties served, and 100+ unique collection sites in 2025 alone, operated through contractor G. Phillips & Sons; 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 — a model of convenience that produced Minnesota's highest collection rate (81.2% in 2025) of any active packaging EPR state in ACRC's program.
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; Minnesota program tonnage has been tracked continuously since 1993.

Continuous Growth

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