AG CONTAINER RECYCLING COUNCIL

Washington

20,000,000+ lbs.	900,000+ lbs.	268,000,000+ lbs.	10,000,000+ lbs.
Washington Collected Since Inception	Washington Last 5-Year Average	National Collected Since 1992	National Average / Year

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 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.

Washington Program

In Washington, ***Agri-Plas, Inc.*** 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 20,000,000 pounds of agricultural chemical container plastic in Washington, averaging more than 900,000 pounds over the last five years, including close to 10,000,000 pounds collected since 2016 alone. This is an established, high-performing program. 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 Washington collection program continuously since 1993 — at no cost to the state or Washington taxpayers.
Convenient, statewide collection coverage	Statewide Washington collection network operated through contractor Agri-Plas Inc., with permanent drop-off sites and seasonal collection events at farms, ag retailers, and applicator locations; over 2,500 collection sites nationwide.
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 ag events.
Measurable performance and annual reporting	Annual member sales surveys are compared against pounds collected; Washington program tonnage has been tracked continuously since 1993.

Continuous Growth

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