AG CONTAINER RECYCLING COUNCIL

Illinois

4,088,000+ lbs.	235,000+ lbs.	268,000,000+ lbs.	10,000,000+ lbs.
Illinois Collected Since 1993	Illinois 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.

Illinois Program

In Illinois, ***G. Phillips & Sons*** serves as ACRC's designated contractor, collecting containers from retailers, applicators, and farmers throughout the state. ACRC's Illinois 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 4,088,569 pounds of agricultural chemical container plastic and has averaged 235,746 pounds annually over the most recent five-year period (2021–2025). In 2025, the program collected 313,676 pounds, the strongest year on record for Illinois. 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 Illinois collection program continuously since 1993 — 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	G. Phillips & Sons covers all of Illinois; including seasonal collection events and drop-off sites at agricultural retailers, professional applicators (ground and aerial), farms, and other sites established by G. Phillips & Sons; 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.
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.
Measurable performance and annual reporting	Annual member sales surveys are compared against pounds collected; Illinois program tonnage has been tracked continuously since 1993.

Continuous Growth

- Encouraging and educating growers and applicators to recycle containers with ACRC contractors
- Identifying additional 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