



For immediate release

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**British Columbia recycles its 15 billionth beverage container  
at Encorp Pacific's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary event**  
*Encorp Pacific is Best Known for its Extensive Network of Return-It Depots across  
British Columbia*



*Photo caption: British Columbia Minister of Environment Mary Polak (left) with Scott Fraser, President & CEO of Encorp Pacific (right), recycling the province's 15 billionth beverage container at the Queensborough Landing Return-It Depot in New Westminster.*

British Columbia –The Honourable Mary Polak, M.L.A., Minister of Environment was on hand today at the Queensborough Landing Return-It Depot in New Westminster to recycle British Columbia's 15 billionth beverage container.

“This is a British Columbia success story about what can happen when we all work together for the greater good of the environment,” says Mary Polak, Minister of Environment. “A big congratulations to Encorp Pacific for the progress they've made, and to all British Columbians who have helped reach this milestone.”

“British Columbia is a North American leader when it comes to creating industry-led extended producer programs and Encorp Pacific is helping lead the way,” continues Minister Polak. “What a remarkable achievement for our province where 15 billion beverage containers have now been recycled.”

This event marked Encorp Pacific's 20th anniversary as a not-for-profit product stewardship corporation with beverage container management as its core business.



“The success of our system for recycling beverage containers proves that millions of small acts can add up to a big win for the environment,” says Scott Fraser, President and CEO of Encorp Pacific. “Even with this extensive system though, British Columbia would not have one of the highest recycling rates in North America without consumers making the decision to do the right thing for the environment. British Columbians deserve a pat on the back for making a difference.”

British Columbia has one of the highest beverage container recycling rates in North America. Last year alone 80.1 per cent of all beverage containers sold in British Columbia were returned and recycled. Almost 1 billion used beverage containers were returned for deposit and processed into new products. That includes 356 million aluminum cans, 340 million plastic bottles, 198 million glass bottles and 69 million drink boxes and cartons.

In 2013, Encorp Pacific collected over 90,000 metric tons of recyclable material, an equivalent weight of 60,000 midsized cars. Encorp Pacific’s data shows that recycling beverage containers in British Columbia saves enough energy to power 42,000 homes for a year, and reduces 94,700 tonnes of CO2 equivalent from being released into the atmosphere.

Encorp Pacific is the environmental stewardship agency that runs the Return-It program. Its extensive network of over 170 independently owned Return-It Depots across the province is the heart of the system, collecting 92 per cent of all the beverage containers recycled in BC. Encorp ensures that deposits are refunded to consumers when containers registered in the system are returned to Return-It Depots, major grocery retailers and liquor stores. Encorp also ensures that after collecting and sorting the empty beverage containers, they are transported to processors and then sold to end markets so they can be recycled into a variety of new products.

#### **What happens to the containers?**

- **Aluminum cans:** More than 84 per cent of cans sold in British Columbia are returned for recycling. The cans are baled, crushed, melted, rolled into sheet stock and made into new cans, a process that takes about six weeks. Not only does this save a lot of aluminum, it saves energy too. In fact, manufacturing a can from recycled aluminum uses 95 per cent less energy than manufacturing a can from new material.
- **Plastic bottles:** Over 77 per cent of the plastic bottles sold in British Columbia are returned for recycling. The bottles are power-washed, shredded and power washed again. The shredded plastic is then sold to companies who pull, stretch and meld it into fibre for new bottles. This process provides an 86 per cent energy savings over manufacturing new plastic.
- **Glass bottles:** Almost 93 per cent of glass bottles sold in British Columbia are returned. They are ground down into small pieces and used to manufacture a variety of things including wine bottles, fiberglass insulation, sandblasting material and sand for golf courses. Ground glass can also be used as aggregate for asphalt.
- **Drink boxes and cartons:** Over 59 per cent of these polycoated containers are returned for recycling. Once returned, they are hydra-pulped to separate the paper, plastic and foil. The paper is then used in cardboard boxes and other products. This process



recovers thousands of tonnes of paper each year. For every tonne of paper pulp recycled, approximately 17 trees are saved.

**About Encorp:**

**Encorp Pacific (Canada)** is a federally incorporated not-for-profit stewardship corporation with beverage container management as its core business. They are committed to developing and managing a consumer-friendly and cost-effective system to recover beverage containers from consumers and ensure that they are recycled and not incinerated or landfilled. They also provide their stewardship services on a contract basis to the Electronics Industry for the collection and recycling of regulated products. To learn more about Encorp Pacific (Canada), visit [return-it.ca](http://return-it.ca).

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