



## **A Stewardship Plan for Refrigeration Units**

**Submitted to the Ministry of the Environment by:  
Canadian Beverage Association  
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## Introduction

Under British Columbia's Recycling Regulation, beverage brand-owners are financially responsible for the recovery of refrigeration units that exhibit their branding or are owned outright by the beverage company. The following Plan addresses the key elements required by the British Columbia (BC) Ministry of Environment to form a Stewardship Plan:

- Product Management Goals
- Product Life Cycle Management
- Proposed Management System
- Program Performance Measurement (financial/cost management, environmental management)

## Baseline Data

A very high percentage of non-alcoholic beverage vending and refrigeration units in BC are owned and operated by four Canadian Beverage Association (CBA) member companies, namely Coca-Cola Canada Ltd., PepsiCo Beverages Canada Ltd., Red Bull Canada, and Cott Beverages Canada. An initial survey of these companies revealed that collectively, they operate 43,672 units in British Columbia (10,778 vending machines, 24,944 coolers and 7,950 fountain units).

## Product Recovery Rate

The existing EOL management policies developed by CBA members have yielded an exceptionally high recovery rate for refrigeration units. A survey of Coca-Cola, Pepsi and Red Bull confirmed that of the units that have reached the end of their useful life (i.e. cannot be retrofitted or refurbished) 97% are recycled and 3% resold to a third party for continued use. Record keeping protocols have been instituted to track all units until the point of recycling or sale. It is the intention of CBA members to maintain these high levels of recovery and recycling in the future.

## Product Life Cycle Management

### End-of-Life (EOL) Management

With respect to EOL management of refrigeration units, CBA members have indicated that they manage their own material by either recycling the units in a controlled manner or by reselling them. Prior to recycling, all coolants are drained from the units and disposed of responsibly.

### Lifecycle Extension: Retrofits & Refurbishment

To extend its useful life, a CBA member's unit may undergo more than one retrofit or refurbishment throughout its lifecycle. Coca-Cola, for instance, estimates that 25% of its installed units have undergone at least one retrofit/refurbishment in their lifetime. Furthermore, CBA members are increasingly using units that depreciate much slower delaying the need for disposal. Further efforts to reduce their environmental impact include the recycling and reuse of old parts removed from units during the repair stage.

### **Technological Innovation**

In line with the Ministry of Environment's intention that stewardship programs be results-based, CBA members already engage in efforts to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Technological improvements in past years have made refrigeration units much more energy efficient. As a result, energy consumption is decreasing as equipment that has reached its useful life is replaced with new, more energy-efficient units.

### **Program Performance Measurement**

The CBA will monitor and report on how vending and refrigeration units are managed at their end-of-life by obligated CBA members.

### **Program Administration**

Members will report to CBA annually on the following:

- **Number of Units:** Number of vending and refrigeration units installed, added and removed from the Province of BC in the reporting period.
- **Documented Policies and Procedures:** List of policies/procedures pertaining to the EOL management of vending and refrigeration units (including asset tracking protocols).
- **Continuous Improvement Efforts:** including but not limited to improvements in the EOL management of obligated material.

### **Program Performance**

Members will report to CBA annually on the following:

- Number of units retrofitted/refurbished in the reporting period.
- Number of units that have reached their EOL that were sent to recycling.
- Number of units that have reached their EOL that were sold to a third party.
  - If sold to a third party, procedure outlining proper disposal.
- Improvements made with respect to diversion and recycling as they relate to vending and refrigeration units during the reporting period.

### **Annual Report**

The CBA will compile an annual report to be submitted to the Ministry of Environment that includes the following:

1. Program Highlights
2. Performance Data
  - a. Recovery
  - b. Post-Collection Management
3. Continuous Improvement

### **Enforcement Mechanisms**

- Protocols will be shared at the Ministry's request.

## **Stakeholder Consultation**

CBA member companies commit to accountability and transparency as part of this Plan. A public consultation on these particular products would not serve to enhance end-of-life performance management or bring any benefit to the public. The member companies have achieved significant environmental improvements to-date along with very high recovery rates for vending and other refrigeration units. Additionally, the products in question are never purchased by the public and in this respect are different than other regulated products that are sold to consumers. For all of these reasons beverage container vending and refrigeration units should be included in an approved Plan but do not require the kind of consultation typical of products sold to consumers.