Key Findings

Beverage Container Recycling Rates for 2016

Refillable Beer Bottles

The recycling rate for refillable beer bottles in Canada has been consistently high. CM Consulting can no longer obtain exact sales and returns numbers for each province, but the national collection rate is approximately 95%.

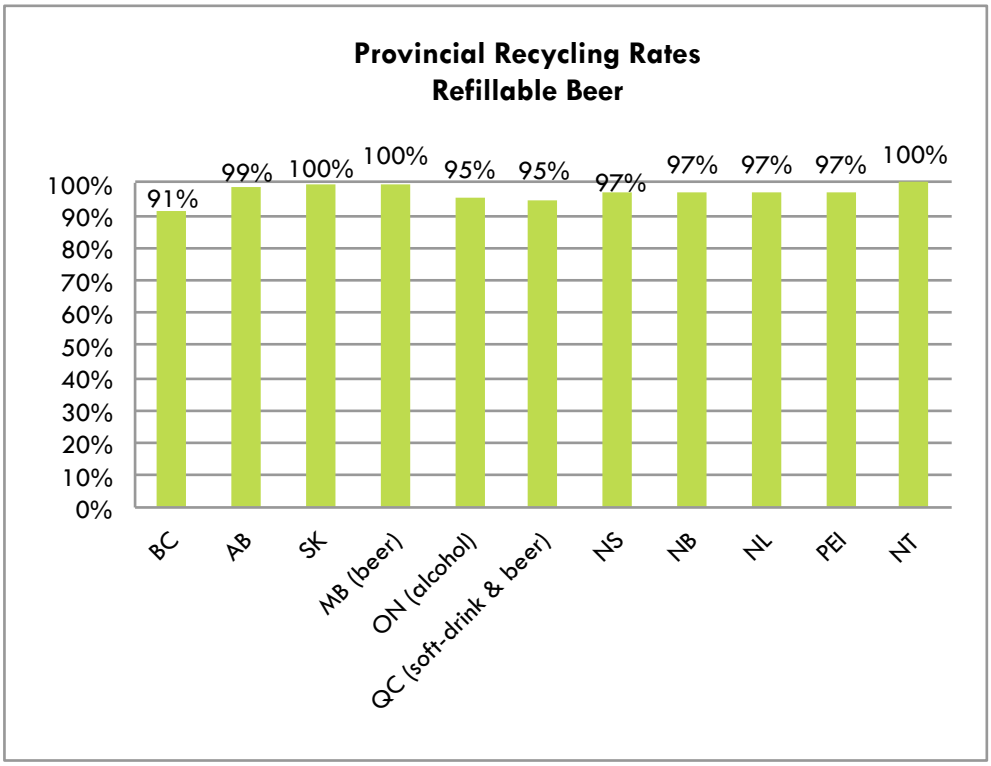

Figure 1 Provincial Recycling Rates, Refillable Beer (2016)

Non-Refillable Containers

Non-refillable containers (also called one-way or single-use containers) include aluminum and steel cans, PET bottles, glass bottles, and gable top/aseptic cartons. Regardless of material type, these containers are always recycled at higher rates in jurisdictions that have DRSs. For example, Alberta and Saskatchewan achieved recycling rates of 85.7% and 82.1%, respectively, in 2016. During the same period, Ontario's recycling rate for

non-refillable, non-alcohol containers was only 45%. Reliable performance rates for non-deposit containers in Manitoba and Quebec were not available for 2016.

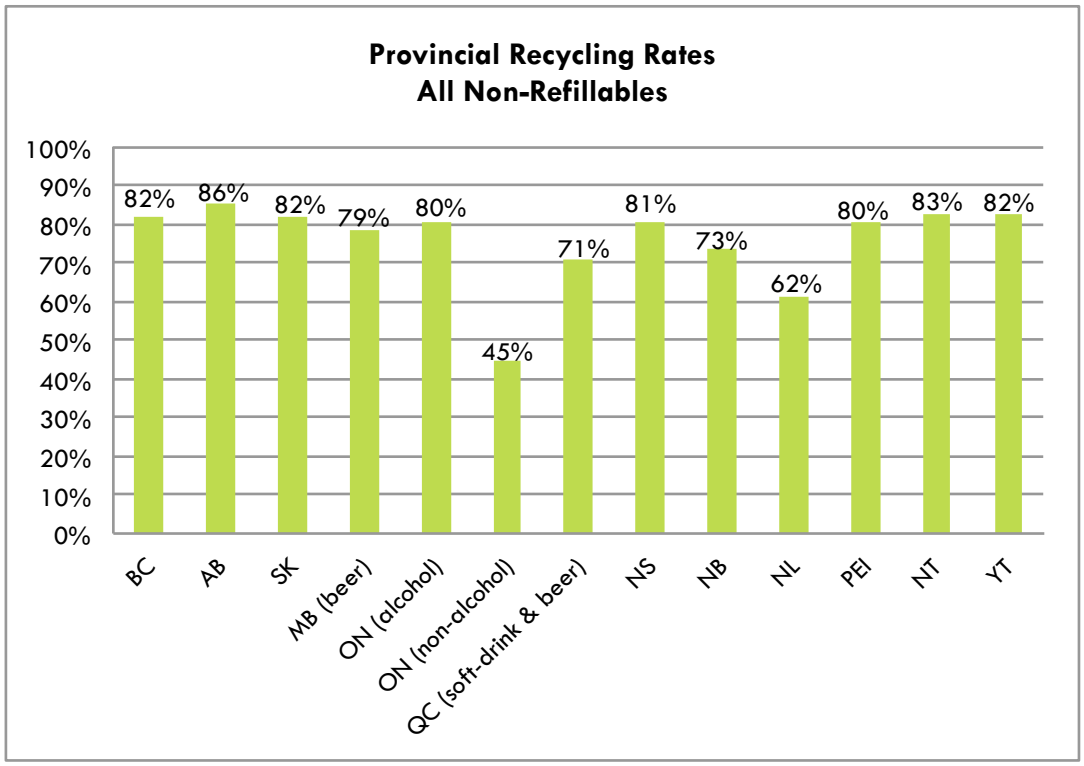

Figure 2 Provincial Recycling Rates, All Non-Refillables (2016)

Environmental Benefits

There are many benefits to reusing and recycling beverage containers. Not only does it keep valuable materials out of landfills, it also reduces greenhouse gas emissions and the energy required to produce new containers from raw materials. In 2016, Canadians recycled and/or reused approximately 11 billion beverage containers. This level of diversion saved over 18 million GJ of energy and eliminated over a million metric tonnes of CO_2 equivalent emissions, equal to taking nearly 250,000 cars off the road.

Economic Benefits

In terms of economic benefits, DRSs for beverage containers create jobs and result in significant cost savings for municipalities. In this report, we present a compilation of 27 studies that examined the costs and benefits of implementing or expanding DRS for beverage containers, all of which show net positive effects on municipal budgets.