



## MAEAP Pesticide Container Recycling

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The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), the Michigan Agri-Business Association, the Ag Container Recycling Council, and G. Phillips and Sons LLC formed a partnership designed to promote the proper cleaning and recycling of pesticide containers. Information on proper container rinsing techniques and recycling locations is distributed by the partnership to pesticide users. A network of agribusinesses and conservation districts are available for the collection and recycling of properly cleaned plastic containers into appropriate post-consumer products. Containers up to 56 gallons in size are accepted.

### IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

The Michigan Pesticide Container Recycling Program decreases the likelihood that unclean or improperly stored containers will leach pesticide residue into the environment. It also reduces environmental and human health risks by promoting safe container rinsing practices. Plastics can be recycled or converted to other beneficial uses rather than taking up valuable landfill space.

### 2020 Accomplishments:

- In 2020, a total of 169,856 pounds of empty, properly cleaned pesticide containers were collected and recycled.
- 52 unique agribusinesses and other pesticide end-users participated.
- Over 2.35 million pounds of plastic collected since 1994.

## MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Pesticide containers recycled (pounds)	103,989	175,316	216,408	280,430	169,856*
Agribusinesses collecting containers	29	43	43	55	52

\* decrease potentially due to impacts from COVID-19 following trends in other recycling programs.

## 2021 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Continue outreach to agribusinesses to increase participation with G. Phillips & Sons LLC services.
- Return to pre-COVID-19 collection levels of more than 200,000 pounds.
- MDARD and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy will implement recommendations from a feasibility study conducted on the collection and recycling of agricultural plastics. This will include a pilot project, in partnership with the Michigan Recycling Coalition, to include recycling of silage wrap, mulches, and greenhouse covers.



### KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- Agriculture industry groups
- Michigan agribusiness
- Greenhouse industry
- Conservation districts
- Ag Container Recycling Council

### LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 87 (Groundwater and Freshwater Protection), as amended