

THE EVOLUTION OF FLEXIBLE PLASTICS RECYCLING

IMPROVING RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES AND OUTCOMES

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RECYCLEBCTM

THE CHALLENGE WITH FLEXIBLE PLASTICS

- Historically not accepted for recycling
- Limited collection opportunities
- Difficult to recycle
- Ambitious program requirements
- Costs





RECYCLEBC™

RECYCLE BC ADVANCES IN PLASTIC MANAGEMENT

COLLECTION

- Standardized accepted material list
- Added new materials for collection

2014

- Started to accept flexible plastic packaging at depots

2018

- Introduced community collection event framework
- Conducted flexible plastics curbside collection pilot

2021

- Started to accept single-use items
- Started to accept packaging-like products
- Introduced single flexible plastics collection category at depots

2022

- District of West Vancouver was the first community in the Recycle BC program to permanently collect segregated flexible plastic for multi-family buildings.
- Flexible plastic collection events in City of Vancouver
- Flexible plastic collected at select multi-family buildings through a partnership with Victoria Bottle Depots
- Flexible plastics school collection with the Vancouver School Board

2023

- Flexible plastics added to curbside and multi-family collection contracts
- Flexible Plastics collected curbside and at multi-family buildings in Maple Ridge and curbside in West Vancouver

2024

2025

POST COLLECTION AND END MARKETS

- Established province-wide collection network
- Established local end market for plastic

- Began flexible plastics research and development (Merlin Plastics)

- Committed to plastic targets as part of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's New Plastic Economy Global Commitment

- Partnered with University of Victoria to conduct further research of flexible plastics

- Confirmed recycling solution for flexible plastics (Merlin Plastics)
- Joined the Canada Plastics Pact
- Achieved Global Commitment plastic targets

- Collaboration with PRFLEX (Perfecting the Recycling of Flexible Plastics) to better understand challenges of collecting and recycling flexible plastics

IMPROVING OPPORTUNITIES AND OUTCOMES

- Program Plan APPROVED September 17, 2025

Program Recovery Rates (Excluding non-PPP):

2025	2026	2027
79%	80%	80%

2024 Results:



(Including non-PPP)

Material Specific Recovery Rates:

Annual Report (AR) Year	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Collection / Supply Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Paper Target	95% by 2025 Annual Report			96% by 2027 Annual Report	
Plastic Target	62% by 2027 Annual Report				
Rigid Plastic Target	75% by 2027 Annual Report				
Flexible Plastic Target	50% by 2027 Annual Report				
Metal Target	88% by 2025 Annual Report			89% by 2027 Annual Report	
Glass Target	98% by 2027 Annual Report				

RECOVERY RATE

92%
45%
55%
24%
69%
100%

CONVENIENCE

Return to Retail



Pop-Up Depots



School Pilots



Curbside Collection



Multi-Family Collection



TRUST AND ENGAGEMENT



Recycle B.C. asks residents to make more effort to keep plastics out of landfills

September 10 | [News](#) | 2:31 [CC](#)

The organization behind B.C.'s recycling system hopes residents can do more to keep plastics from going into landfills or ending up as litter. The good news is that 98 per cent of residential plastic packaging that's placed in blue boxes in B.C. is recycled. The bad news, as Chad Pawson reports, is that most plastic doesn't get that far.

PARTICIPATION

PLASTIC PACKAGING



Did you know? 94% of BC residents think we should reduce and recycle plastic packaging, but only 43% of plastics are actually set out for collection or taken to a depot. Let's turn our good intentions into action!

You can make a difference by joining in – put hard plastic packaging in your blue box and take flexible plastics (like plastic bags, zipper-lock pouches and crinkly wrappers and bags) to a depot or London Drugs store.

DEPOT



More and more BC residents are taking their flexible plastics and foam packaging to depots instead of letting them end up in landfills, our communities or nature.

You can join in and make a difference by bringing these items to a depot or London Drugs store near you. If everyone in BC brought their flexible plastics to the depot we would collect and recycle 389 full-sized swimming pools full of flexible plastics, keeping it out of the landfill. Think of the impact we can have.

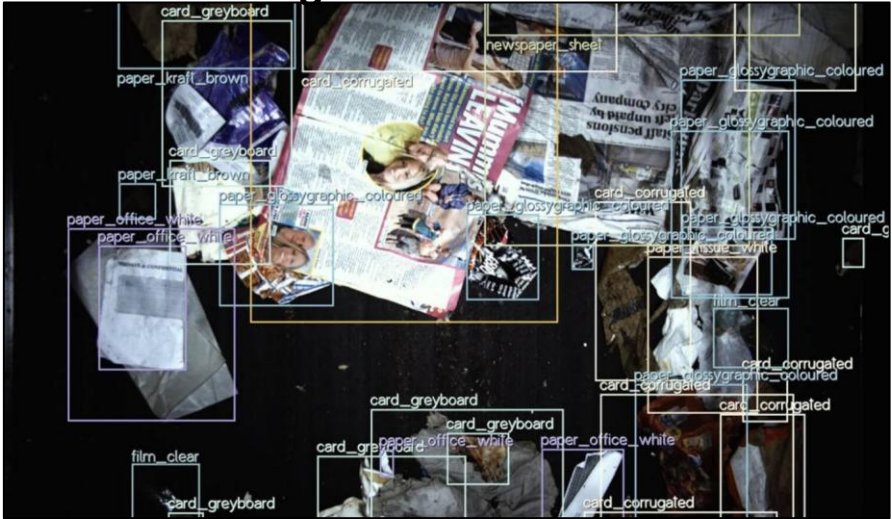


TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

4-Stream Collection Trucks



Artificial Intelligence in MRFs



Artificial Intelligence on Collection Trucks

We found items in your recycling cart that are NOT acceptable.

Only include accepted items to help ensure materials can be effectively recycled



⊗ Keep These Out

- No Clothes, Shoes or Textiles
- No Glass
- No Books (soft or hardcover)
- No Styrofoam (or foam packaging)
- No Flexible Plastics (crinkly wrappers, stretchy plastic, etc.)
- No Batteries (or hazardous containers)
- No Metal Products Not Packaging (scrap metal, automotive parts, pots & pans, etc.)
- No Mixed Materials (bags or garbage: mixed recycling, dirty material)
- No Plastic Products Not Packaging (plastic toys, tarps, storage containers, etc.)

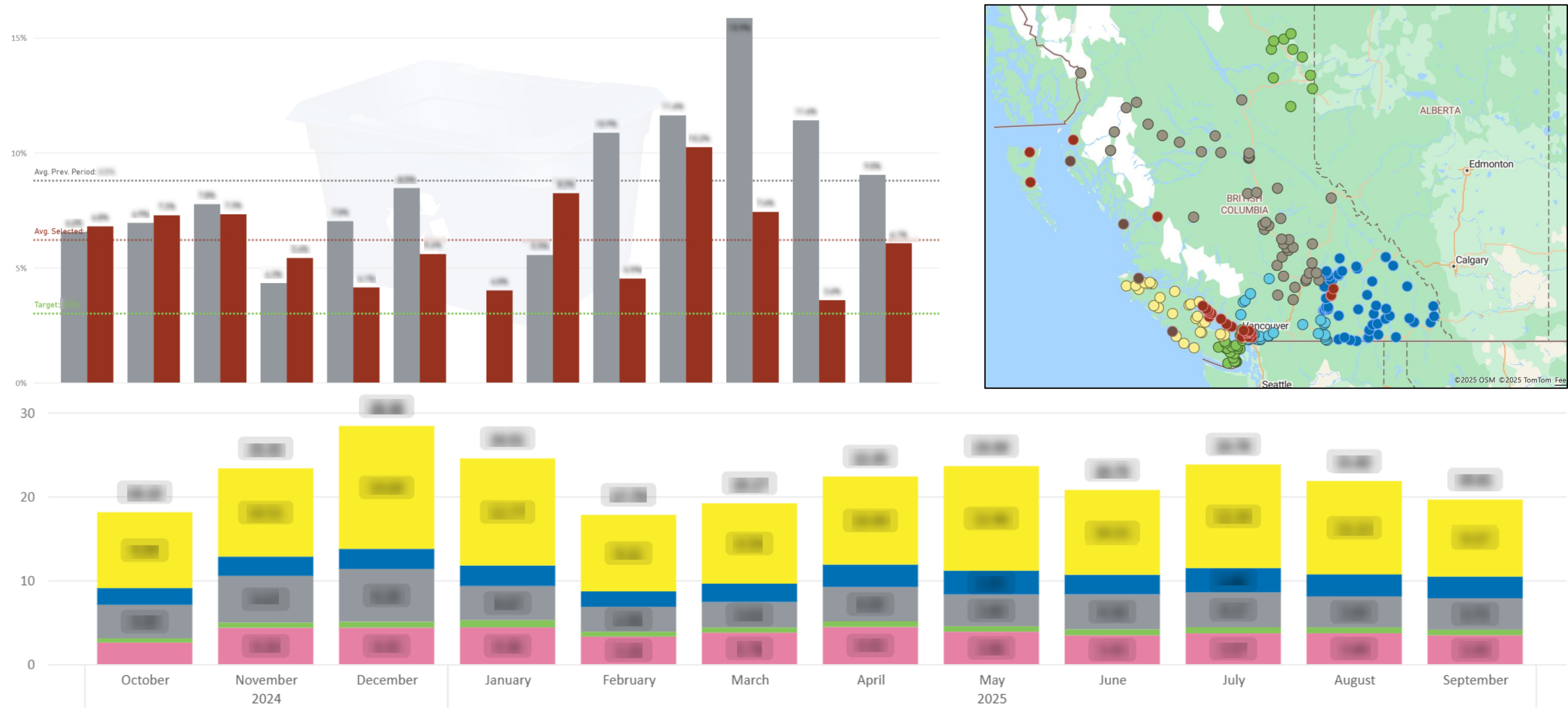
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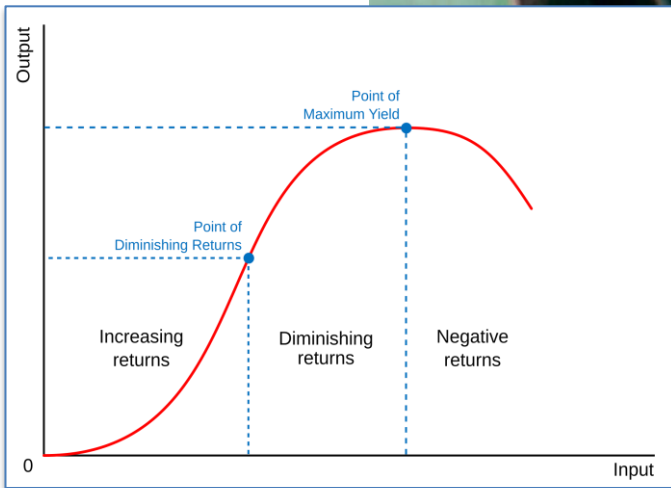
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DATA DRIVEN



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