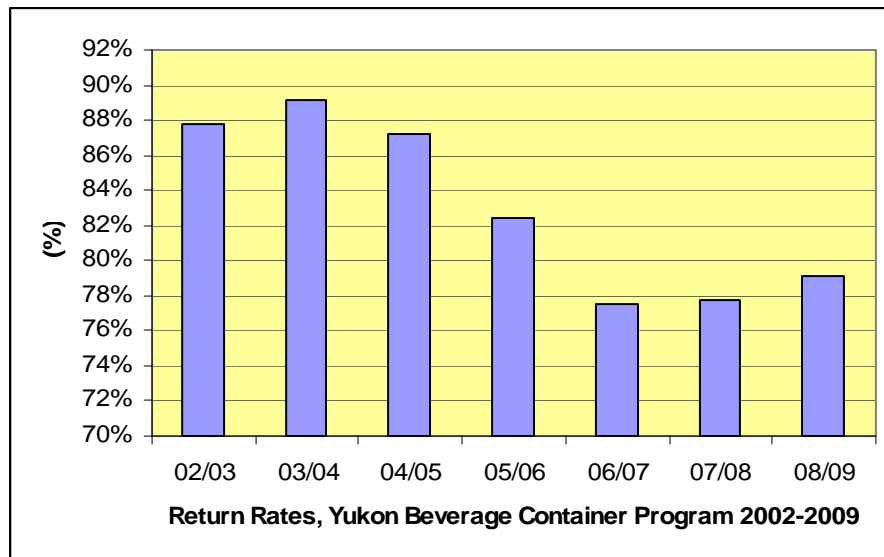




Beverage Container Regulations

Every year Yukoners use about 22 million beverage containers. Imagine how fast our dumps would fill up if all of those cans, bottles and tetrapaks went into the garbage. Fortunately we recycle most of these items.

In 2008/09, Yukoners returned 79 percent of their recyclable containers. These efforts kept over 17 million containers out of our landfills and off of our roadsides. Since 2002, over 121 million containers have been recycled.



Since 2004 the rates of return have decreased, not just in the Yukon, but all across Canada. It is unknown as to why these rates dropped, but possible reasons could include the world-wide economic down turn, and the fact that refund rates have not increased since 1992. Since 2007 rates have slowly been increasing, but have not yet fully recovered to rates seen in previous years.

Most of the recycled containers are sold to recycling and re-use markets in southern Canada. Non-refillable glass bottles are crushed, and can be used locally in construction projects.

Expanding the List

Since 1992, the Beverage Container Regulations have been expanded twice. In 1996, glass and plastic containers were added to the list of recyclable materials; and in 1998, tin and tetrapaks were added. Environment Yukon is currently considering the addition of other container types as well.

How Can You Help?

Since 1992 the Yukon's deposit-refund system has encouraged recycling by all Yukoners. People pay a deposit when they purchase beverages, and receive a refund when they return the empty containers to a registered recycling depot.

The deposit collected by retailers goes into a Recycling Fund that is administered separately from the government's general revenues.

Money from the fund helps registered recycling depots pay their collecting, processing and shipping costs. The fund is also used to promote container returns, improve recycling facilities at community depots and pay part-time wages for depot staff.

The current network of 27 registered recycling depots serves almost all Yukon communities. Non-profit groups, liquor retailers and private operators operate the depots.

Deposits and Refunds on Recyclable Items

CONTAINER TYPE	DEPOSIT	REFUND
Aluminum cans	\$0.10	\$0.05
Large Glass, Plastic, Tin or Tetrapak (1001 ml or more)	\$0.35	\$0.25
Small Glass, Plastic, Tin or Tetrapak (1000 ml or less)	\$0.10	\$0.05
Large Liquor Containers (500 ml or more)	\$0.35	\$0.25
Small Liquor Containers (200 ml - 499 ml)	\$0.15	\$0.10
Refillable Beer Bottles	\$0.10	\$0.10

Recycling Club

The Yukon Government started the Recycling Club in 1996 to promote the Yukon's container recycling program. Youth between the ages of four and 16 can participate in this popular program, which is unique in North America.

In 2009, more than 1,200 Yukon youth joined the Club and earned more than 31.5 million Recycling Club points by turning in pop cans and other beverage containers. The points can be traded in for prizes ranging from books to bicycles.

For more information on the Beverage Container Regulations, the Yukon Beverage Container Program, or the Recycling Club, please contact:

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Copies of Yukon regulations may be viewed online at <http://environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/monitoringenvironment/> under the "Standards & Approvals" section, or at any Yukon Public Library, territorial agent, territorial representative or regional services office. You may purchase copies at the Inquiry Centre, Yukon Government Administration Building, 2071-2nd Avenue in Whitehorse, or by mail from the Subscriptions Clerk, Yukon Government Queen's Printer, Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6 (phone (867) 667-5783 or toll free 1-800-661-0408 extension 5783).

