The objective of this document is to provide you with current and helpful information regarding water protection, and the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP).

Container recycling is a simple, easy, important way to protect Michigan’s environment

Michigan’s Pesticide Container Recycling Program provides cost-free recycling opportunities for pesticide users to properly and safely dispose of containers. The program is a partnership between the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program, the Michigan Agri-Business Association, the Ag Container Recycling Council and agri-chemical dealers and pesticide users across Michigan. The program not only ensures plastics are recycled or converted to other beneficial uses instead of taking up landfill space, but also decreases the likelihood that unclean or improperly stored contained will leach pesticide residue into the environment.

Since 1993, more than 2.4 million pounds of plastic has been recycled as part of the program. In 2019, 55 agribusiness and end-user locations participated as collection sites, accumulating 280,000 pounds of empty, properly cleaned pesticide containers, an increase of 23% over 2018.

The program accepts all pesticide containers up to 55 gallon (plastic) drums under the regular program. Three simple steps must be completed before recycling containers:

1. Remove labels, caps, and any other loose material from containers.
2. Triple-rinse or pressure rinse empty containers immediately after use. The rinse-water can be used in an appropriate diluted tank mix.
3. Bundle clean containers together using rope or twine and store in a dry area away from wells and water supplies. Large plastic bags to hold jugs are no longer used due to the significant waste stream the bags themselves generated.

Many of Michigan’s agri-businesses collect empty pesticide containers for recycling, though producers can schedule a pick-up directly on the farm as well depending on volume. The licensed program vendor, G. Phillips and Sons, can be reached at either (248) 961.3360 - sbruinsma@gphillipsandsons.com; or (563) 942-0391 - pickup@gpsagrecycle.com. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/pesticidecontainerrecycling.