



NOVA SCOTIA PAINT PROGRAM



Submitted to:

The Honourable Tim Halman

Minister of Environment and Climate Change

2025 Annual Report

Department of Environment and Climate
Change, PO Box 442, Halifax, NS B3J 2P8

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1. About Product Care

The Nova Scotia Paint Stewardship Program (“Program”) is administered and operated by Product Care Association of Canada (“Product Care”). Product Care, on behalf of its members, oversees the administration, collection, transportation, recycling, and management of regulated post-consumer paint and paint aerosols in Nova Scotia.

Product Care is a federally incorporated, not-for-profit product stewardship association formed in response to stewardship regulations and is governed by a multi-sector industry board of directors. Product Care has developed and managed paint, lighting products, smoke and CO alarms, and household hazardous waste/hazardous and special product extended producer responsibility programs since 1994.

Product Care’s members are the “brand owners” (manufacturers, distributors, and retailers) of “consumer paint products” as defined pursuant to the *Nova Scotia Solid Waste-Resource Management Regulations N.S. Reg. 25/96* as amended (“Regulation”) pursuant to section 102 of the *Environment Act*. A current list of Product Care members can be found on Product Care's website.

1.1. REPORTING PERIOD

This report covers the 2025 calendar year (January 1 to December 31, 2025). All content has been prepared in accordance with section 18F (1) of the Regulation.

1.2. PROGRAM SUMMARY

Product Care has operated an approved paint stewardship program plan, under the Regulation, with the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change (“ECC”) since 2012. This report provides information on the commitments as set out in the 2023-2027 Program Plan (“Program Plan”).

The Program includes all water-based and oil-based paints and stains but does not cover specifically formulated industrial and automotive coatings. The Program also includes all paint aerosols (industrial, commercial, automotive, etc.), marine paint (except those registered as a pesticide), and empty paint containers. For the purposes of this annual report, these are collectively referred to as “Program Products”. A detailed list of products accepted and not accepted is available on Product Care’s website.

The Program offers collection sites throughout the province where consumers can bring leftover household paint and paint containers for free. Collection services are offered through Enviro-depots™ (i.e., redemption centres), select retail stores, and local government recycling/waste facilities. Product Care supplies collection sites with standard reusable collection containers (“tubskids”) to facilitate the collection of Program Products. The Program contracts with Divert NS to deliver empty tubskids, pick up full ones from collection sites, and consolidate the full tubskids into loads, which are shipped to a processor for processing. Additional program elements managed by Product Care include revenue management, communications, and administration.

The Program is funded by environmental handling fees (EHFs), which are remitted to Product Care by its paint industry members on sales of Program Products in or into Nova Scotia. The fees are used to operate the Program, including collection, transportation, recycling, and management of leftover paint, as well as program administration and consumer education.

2. Brand Owner Information

In accordance with section 18F(1)(a) of the Regulation, Program members reported the sale of approximately 5,964,131 litres¹ of Program Product in Nova Scotia from January 1 to December 31, 2025.

¹ Sales data is reported to Product Care in container units. For the purpose of this report, sales units are converted to litres using coefficients based on the volume of the most common container size in each product category.

3. Collection

The following section provides the total amount of post-consumer paint collected in Nova Scotia, as well as the location of the Program’s collection sites.

3.1. TOTAL AMOUNT OF POST-CONSUMER PAINT COLLECTED

In accordance with section 18F(1)(a) of the Regulation, Table 1 shows the total amount of post-consumer paint collected by the Program during the reporting period. Not all paint that was collected in 2025 was processed in the same year.

Table 1: Total Amount of Post-Consumer Paint Collected in 2025

Item	Number of Tubskids ^{2,3}	Residual Paint Volume (L) ⁴	Residual Aerosol Paint Volume (L) ⁵	PaintShare Volume (L)	Total Residual Paint Volume (L)
Volume Collected	3,568	468,478	3568	4627	476,673

Table 2 provides the Program’s recovery rate in 2025 based on the volume of paint collected as a function of volume of paint sold in Nova Scotia in 2025.

Table 2: 2025 Paint Sales, Residual Recovery Volume and Recovery Rate

	Total
Sales (litres)	5,964,131
Residual Recovery Volume (litres)	476,673
Recovery Rate (%)	8.0%
Total Available to Collect (litres)	506,951
Available to Collect (%)	8.5%
Capture Rate (% collected/available)	94.0%

In 2021, an Available to Collect Study was conducted at the request of the regulators to estimate the potential amount of waste paint that could be collected in the province. The study took into consideration factors such as consumer intention, storage time, and end-of-life management obtained via surveys and sampling.

² Tubskid dimensions (42" x 42" x 48") with a nominal capacity of 108 one-gallon containers. The actual number of paint containers per bin varies depending on the mix of paint container sizes, ranging from 250ml – 18.9L capacity.

³ Since July 5, 2019, aerosols are no longer separated from other paint products. All paint products are collected and transported in the same collection container (tubskids).

⁴ The total residual volume of paint collected is calculated based on the total number of tubskids collected multiplied by a conversion rate of 131.3 L per tubskid. The conversion rate is derived by dividing the total actual residual paint processed by the number of tubskids processed in the same year. Residual paint volume from tubskids has been rounded up. This conversion rate includes both water-based and oil-based paints. Paint that was not processed in 2024 was processed in 2025.

⁵ For the purposes of estimating aerosol paint volume, a rounded conversion rate of 1.0 L per collected tubskid was used as the conversion factor. The conversion factor was derived from the number of tubskids processed and the average number of aerosol cans per tubskid, multiplied by a historic residual volume per can from sampling.

3.2. COLLECTION SITES

The Program commits to maintaining a minimum of 80 collection sites to provide reasonable access to Nova Scotians. As of December 31, 2025, 91 collection sites participated in the Program. In 2025, 2 collection sites closed and 1 collection site opened. This change did not impact the accessibility levels.

To support its commitment to reasonable access, the Program utilizes the accessibility service standards developed by Divert NS⁶ in determining what constitutes reasonable access to Nova Scotians as accessibility targets. Based on GIS-based accessibility analysis of the collection network, an estimated 98.8% of the rural population was located within 30 kilometres of a collection site. In urban areas (Halifax Regional Municipality and Cape Breton Regional Municipality), 87.8% of residents were within 10 kilometres of a site. Overall, 99.3% of the combined provincial population was within 30 kilometres of a collection site. These results demonstrate that the Program met or exceeded the accessibility service standards in Nova Scotia during the reporting period.

In accordance with section 18F(1)(f) of the Regulation, Appendix 1 - Collection Sites provides the locations of the collection sites.

3.3. PROCESS OF INTERNAL ACCOUNTABILITY

In accordance with section 18(F)(1)(i) of the Regulation, the Program provides collection site guidelines to all collection sites setting out the operational procedures and requirements for the proper collection and handling of Program Products. In addition, the Program provides emergency spill kits and emergency procedure instructions to collection sites.

To ensure the environmental effectiveness of the Program, Product Care carries out collection site inspections once every two years as per commitments in the Program Plan. In 2025, Product Care carried out collection site inspections at 47 collection sites (46 in 2024) to ensure they fulfilled their role as a service partner and adhered to all applicable Program guidelines and requirements.

4. Processing

In accordance with sections 18(F)(1)(b,c,d,e,f) of the Regulation, this section of the report sets out:

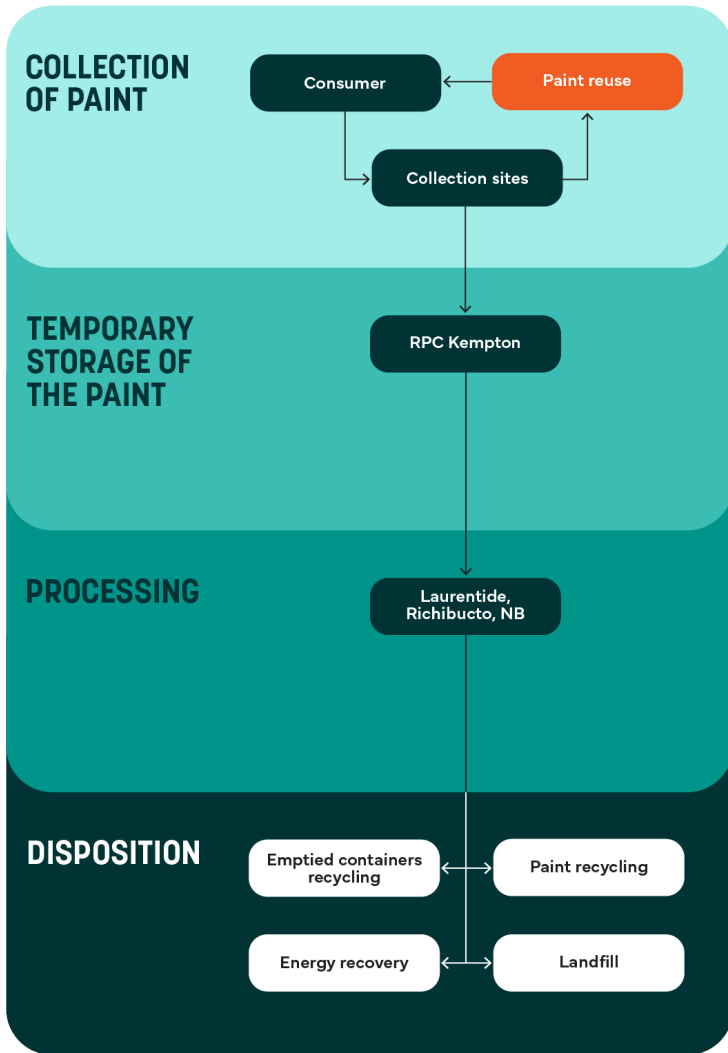
- a) The total amount of post-consumer paint processed or in storage;
- b) The percentage of post-consumer paint collected that was reused, recycled, disposed of in an engineered landfill, recovered for energy, contained, or otherwise treated or disposed of;
- c) A description of the types of processes utilized to reuse, recycle, dispose of, recover energy from, contain, or otherwise treat or dispose of post-consumer paint;
- d) A description of the efforts to redesign paint products to improve reusability and recyclability; and
- e) The location of processing or containment facilities for post-consumer paint.

All paint collected through the Program was transported from collection sites to the Regional Processing Centre (RPC) in Kemptown. Accumulated full truck loads were then transported from Kemptown to Laurentide Resource's processing facility in Richibucto, NB. Collected products were then removed from the tubskids, inspected, sorted, and processed as outlined in Figure 1.

⁶ Accessibility levels as developed by Divert NS:

- Rural sites shall be located to ensure that at least 90% of the Province's rural population is within a 30 kilometre radius of the nearest collection site;
- Urban sites in Halifax Regional Municipality and Cape Breton Regional Municipality shall be located to ensure that at least 50% of their respective urban populations are within a 10 kilometre radius of the nearest collection site;
- Urban and rural sites in HRM and CBRM shall be sited so as to ensure that at least 90% of their respective combined (urban and rural) populations are within a 30 kilometre radius of the nearest collection site;

Figure 1: Material Flow



4.1. LOCATIONS OF CONTAINMENT AND PROCESSING FACILITIES

Table 3 shows the locations of long-term containment or final treatment and processing facilities for post-consumer paint products.

Table 3 Processing & Containment Facilities

Location Address	Facility Type
Divert NS Regional Processing Centre (RPC)	
119 Mingo Road Kempton, NS B6L 2K4	Temporary Storage Facility
Laurentide Re-sources Atlantic Inc.	
9322 Rue Main Richibucto, NB E4W 4C7	Processing Facility
Société Laurentide Inc.	
345 Bulstrode Street Victoriaville, QC G6T 1P7	Processing Facility

4.2. POST-CONSUMER PAINT MANAGEMENT

All paint collected through the Program was sent to the Laurentide Re-sources Atlantic Inc. facility in Richibucto, NB for processing. In 2025, a total of 3,599 tubskids of leftover paint were delivered to the Laurentide facilities for processing.

During the reporting period, Laurentide processed (i.e., opened, sorted and bulked into shipping containers) 3,590 tubskids of paint/aerosol. These volumes processed included some tubskids that were in their inventory from 2024.

Table 4 shows the volume of post-consumer paint shipped to processors and the volume processed by tubskids and by residual volume (litres). Volumes collected but not shipped, or shipped but not processed, were managed in the following reporting year.

Table 4: Volume of Post-Consumer Paint Received and Processed in 2025

Item	Number of Tubskids ⁷	Residual Paint Volume (L) ⁸	Residual Aerosol Paint Volume (L) ⁹	Total Residual Paint Volume (L)
Volume Shipped to Processor	3,599	472,549	3599	476,148
Volume Processed ⁴	3,590	471,341	3574	474,915

The number of paint containers managed in 2025 at Laurentide Re-resources and the number of containers of non-program materials collected is set out in Table 5.

Table 5: Number of Paint Containers Managed in 2025 at Laurentide Re-Sources Atlantic Facility

	# of Containers
Paint containers	425,961
Non-program containers	9,717
Total containers ¹⁰	435,678
% of non-program containers	2.2%

Metal and Plastic Containers Recovered and Processed

Table 6 lists the amount of metal and plastic containers recovered and recycled in 2025. Not all plastic containers recovered in 2025 were recycled within the same year. The remaining plastic containers will be processed in 2026.

Table 6: Metal and Plastic Containers Recovered and Recycled in 2025

Container Type	Recovered (tonnes)	Recycled (tonnes)
Metal	111.2	111.2
Plastic (HDPE 2)	10.3	9.6
Plastic (polypropylene)	62.1	57.7

Table 7 lists processors and management processes for metal and plastic containers. Metal containers (paint containers and paint aerosol containers) were sent to scrap metal recyclers, comingled, and processed with various other metal products. The processed scrap metals are then sold as a commodity and eventually end up being recycled at a smelter. Plastic containers are sent to be converted into kerosene and diesel.

⁷ Tubskid dimensions (42" x 42" x 48") with a nominal capacity of 108 one-gallon containers. The actual number of paint containers per bin varies depending on the mix of paint container sizes, ranging from 250ml – 18.9L capacity.

⁸ The total residual volume of paint processed is calculated based on the total number of tubskids collected multiplied by a conversion rate of 131.31 L per tubskid. The conversion rate is derived by dividing the total actual residual paint processed by the number of tubskids processed in the same year. Residual paint volume from tubskids has been rounded up. This conversion rate includes both water-based and oil-based paints.

⁹ For the purposes of estimating volume, a rounded conversion rate of 1.0 L per collected tubskid was used as the conversion factor. The conversion factor was derived from the number of tubskids processed and the average number of aerosol cans per tubskid, multiplied by a historic residual volume per can from sampling.

¹⁰ Includes aerosol containers.

Table 7: Metal and plastic container processors with their management processes

Name of processors	Location	Management process
DR Metal Recycling	New Brunswick	Processed with other scrap metal and sold as a metal commodity
Sustane Tech	Nova Scotia	Plastic containers are converted into kerosene and diesel

4.3. PRODUCT MANAGEMENT

The following sections describe the methods employed by the Program to manage post-consumer paint.

Reuse (PaintShare Program)

The PaintShare Program makes better quality paint returned to collection sites available to the public to take and use at no cost. The collection sites record and report the number of containers given away. This is a highly efficient way to achieve reuse, as the paint does not require transportation and reprocessing.

In 2025, the PaintShare Program gave away an estimated 4,627 litres of paint to consumers at no cost. Product Care continues to encourage collection sites to participate in the PaintShare program. The estimated volume of reuse was calculated based on the assumption that each container was, on average, 75% full.

Recycling

At the Laurentide Re-resources processing facility, paint containers were removed from the collection bins, inspected, opened, sorted by type, colour and quality, and poured into shipping containers according to management options. Paint that was of recyclable quality and had been bulked at the Laurentide Re-resources Richibucto processing facility was either transported to Peintures Recuperees du Quebec (PRQ), an affiliated processor in Victoriaville, QC, or sent to customers located offshore. Table 8 provides quantities of water-based paint and oil-based paint that were recycled and reprocessed as paint. The diminishing market for oil-based paint has made it increasingly difficult to recycle. Consequently, while limited amounts of oil-based paints continue to be recycled, a large portion of the volume was sent for energy recovery.

Table 8: Type and Quantity of Paint Recycled in 2025

Type	Litres	Percentage of Total Paint Recycled
Water-based paint	313,862	84%
Oil-based paint	57,702	16%
Total	371,565 ¹¹	100%

Aerosol Paint Management

The residual volumes of paint recovered from paint aerosols were very small (0.75%) of all paint processed in 2025 and represent a variety of product formulations that limit options for recycling. Paint aerosol containers were punctured, the propellant filtered through activated carbon and the contents drained. The residual paint was used for energy recovery.

Energy Recovery

Not all oil-based paint collected is of suitable quality for recycling. In some cases, the paint may be in the form of skins or sludge, of an undesirable colour, contaminated, or of the wrong chemistry for paint recycling. In addition,

¹¹ The value shown does not add up to the total value due to rounding.

regulations such as the Federal VOC Regulations, require more stringent limits on certain chemical constituents, which tend to be found in higher concentrations in older paints, making it difficult to recycle. Finally, the market for recycled oil-based paint is significantly smaller than that for water-based products and demand continues to decline.

Due to the high oil content of oil-based paints, these products are suitable for energy recovery. Oil-based paint collected by the Program that was not suitable for recycling was used as an alternative energy source in applications such as permitted incinerators. During the reporting period, 41,030 litres of oil-based paint and paint from paint aerosols processing were blended with other fuels and utilized for energy value at licensed facilities.

Incineration

During the reporting period, no material was sent for incineration.

Landfill

The sorting and bulking of the water-based paint by Laurentide Re-sources generated 62,320 litres of non-recyclable water-based sludge/solid, which was solidified and disposed of at an engineered landfill.

Percentage of Post-Consumer Paint by Management Method

In 2025, the Program achieved a reuse and recycling rate of 78.5 percent for paint, and 100 percent for containers, exceeding the 70 percent targets in the Program Plan. Table 9 below shows the breakdown of post-consumer paint and empty containers that were reused, recycled, recovered for energy or disposed of in an engineered landfill. Paint is shown in litres and as a percentage, and empty containers are shown in tonnes and as a percentage.

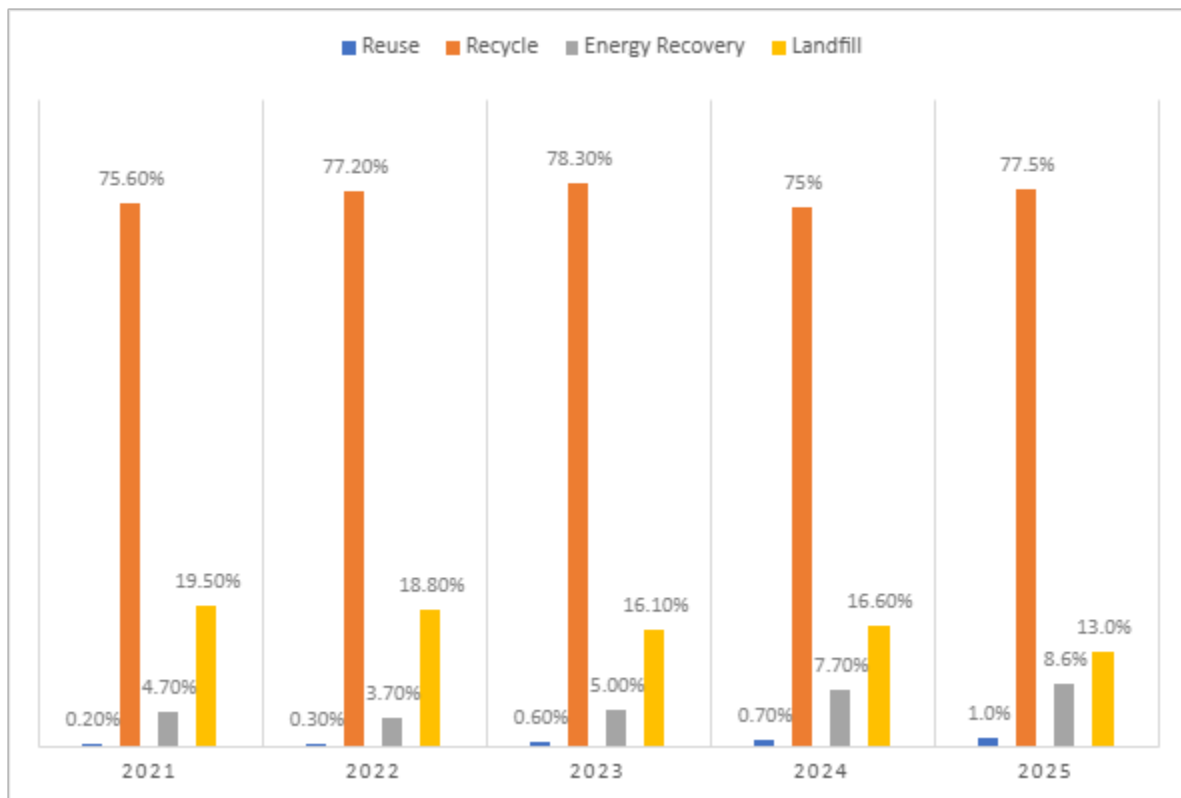
Table 9: Management Post-Consumer Paint and Containers

Post-Consumer Paint (litres)		
Method	Volume (litres)	Percentage
Reuse – PaintShare Program	4,627	1.0%
Reuse – Paint Recycling	371,565	77.5%
Energy Recovery	62,320	13%
Landfill	41,030	8.6%
Incineration	-	-
Total	479,542	100% ¹²
Paint Containers (tonnes)		
Method	Volume (tonnes)	Percentage
Reuse	-	-
Recycle	178.5	100%
Energy Recovery	-	-
Landfill	-	-
Incineration	-	-
Total	178.5	100%

¹² The value shown does not add up to the total value due to rounding.

Figure 2 below shows the percentage of post-consumer paint by management method from 2021 to 2025.

Figure 2: Paint by Management Method (2021-2025)



4.4. DESIGN FOR ENVIRONMENT

Product environmental impact reduction, reusability and recyclability

The paint and coatings industry has been working tirelessly to make their products safer for the environment. This effort is driven by the growing awareness of the negative impact of chemical products on the environment. In recent times, the industry has made significant strides towards reducing the environmental impact of their products. The industry's offerings are not only becoming safer to handle but are increasingly eco-efficient, reflecting the latest available science. The industry evaluates the impacts of their products along their entire life cycle and continuously develops new offerings. Sustainable production processes are top priorities.

Beyond their primary function of protecting built infrastructure, coatings are also essential components in the production processes of various industries. Functional coatings provide additional properties to materials, leading to upgraded infrastructure, innovative products, and resource efficiency.

Here are some measures that the industry is taking to make their products more environmentally friendly:

Transition to water-based paints

The paint industry has increasingly favored water-based (latex) paint products over oil-based (alkyd) paints in the last decade, significantly impacting the architectural paint sector. In the past five years, there has been an additional 10% shift toward water-based paints. According to representatives from the Canadian paint industry, this transition has led to a reduction of around 44 kilotonnes of volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions over the past 15 years.

VOC reduction in paint formulation and future trends

Paint manufacturers are actively finding ways to reduce volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in their products, though achieving zero VOC might take time. Regulations and innovations in biobased products are driving the reduction of VOCs. Proposed regulations for VOC in architectural paints, industrial, commercial adhesives & sealants, and auto refinish coatings are expected to further reduce VOC emissions.

Several of our members offer Greenguard-certified paint products, which help consumers easily identify options that meet rigorous third-party standards for low chemical emissions. This certification supports healthier indoor environments and reinforces consumer confidence in making sustainable choices.

According to representatives from the Canadian paint industry, low-VOC and VOC-free paints now account for approximately 50% of all paint sold, particularly within the architectural and decorative segments. The widespread adoption of these formulations reflects both regulatory progress and growing consumer demand for safer, more environmentally responsible products.

Industry is steadily increasing the use of bio-based ingredients. Suppliers are offering more plant-derived and renewable inputs for formulations, replacing traditionally petroleum-based or toxic substances. It is expected that these reformulation trends will result in a further decrease of approximately 2 kilotonnes of VOC emissions over the next 5 years.

Sustainable packaging innovations in the paint sector

The paint industry is witnessing a notable shift towards more sustainable packaging solutions, as companies increasingly adopt materials with higher recycled content. Currently, some industry players are utilizing packaging that contains 15% recycled content, contributing to a circular economy. There is also an industry-wide goal to achieve 50% recycled content by 2030. This aligns with federal mandates aiming for significant reductions in non-recyclable packaging materials. The composition of these recycled materials varies, with plastics and other innovative components being considered to meet these evolving standards.

Additionally, the sector is exploring alternative materials, like cellulose and seaweed, to reduce reliance on traditional, less environmentally friendly packaging options. These efforts are part of a broader industry commitment to decrease non-recyclable material usage by 10% by 2030, in line with governmental objectives.

5. Promotion and Education

Consumer participation is essential to the success of the Program. Promotion and education activities are therefore implemented to ensure consumers

1. Are aware that the product can be recycled; and
2. Know the steps/process for how to recycle said product.

The Program encourages consumers to buy the right amount of a consumable product for their needs resulting in less waste and a reduction in the volume of product needlessly purchased. This is achieved through the “BUD” Rule, promoted through the Program website and promotional material, which encourages consumers to:

- Buy no more than you need.
- Use all that you buy, and
- Dispose of leftovers safely.

In 2025, Product Care Recycling implemented promotion and education activities to meet these objectives, complying with our obligations in section 18(F)(1)(h).

5.1. STRATEGY

Consumers of the program's products are diverse; they range across demographics and vary in their purchase, use, and disposal behaviour. Recognizing that different segments of our audience will access information in different ways and at different times, the program uses a multi-channel communication approach. This comprehensive strategy ensures broad market coverage, giving consumers a variety of ways to receive and access information about the program.

5.2. COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

5.2.1. WEBSITE

Product Care owns and manages productcare.org that serves as a program information hub. The site is consumer-facing and has been designed to meet their specific needs. Website content includes:

- Recycling locator:
 - Interactive map displaying all paint collection sites within the province, including hours of operation and contact information (see APPENDIX 2 – “Find a Recycling Location” Tool).
- Listing of accepted and non-accepted products, along with tips for drop-off
- Description of program products and applicable environmental handling fees
- Dedicated page for the PaintShare program, educating consumers on opportunity to access free paint.
- Information for consumers (for more information, see [Recycle Your Paint](#)):
 - Buy the right amount of paint;
 - Store leftover paint correctly;
 - Use up leftover paint; and
 - Videos describing the recycling process.

5.2.2. PRINTED ASSETS - POINTS OF SALE (POS) AND POINT OF RETURN (POR)

The program provides printed educational materials to support consumer awareness at retail and collection sites. These materials help inform users about accepted products, proper recycling options, and responsible paint management, and direct them to additional information online through QR codes (see APPENDIX 3 – Promotion and Education Materials).

Available print materials for collection sites and retailers:

- Brochure: provides an overview of the program, including a list of accepted products and highlights the BUD rule.
- Return to Retail poster: Posters for participating retail locations that accept post-consumer paint.
- Return to Product Care poster: promotes paint drop-off at Product Care Recycling collection sites.
- PaintShare poster: promotes the PaintShare program, outlining the steps consumers can follow to take home reusable paint at no cost.
- Stop Illegal Dumping sign: communicates that leaving materials outside of collection sites is prohibited, highlights associated risks, and reinforces proper drop-off during operating hours.
- Window cling: A paint can-shaped sticker designed for display on windows to increase visibility of the program and indicate that paint recycling services are available at the location.
- Accepted Products posters: Visually engaging posters available in various formats that present accepted and non-accepted products in a clear, graphic format. The A-frame poster is designed for standard A-frame displays or wall placement, and reinforces proper material separation. The Only-Paint Accepted poster discourages the drop-off of non-accepted materials and highlights the risks of leaving products outside site operating hours.
- BUD Rule flyer: educates consumers on responsible paint purchasing and use by promoting the BUD rule, encouraging users to buy only what they need, use products fully, store leftovers properly, and recycle remaining materials.

All materials are available for order at no cost through productcare.org/materials.

5.2.3. MULTI-CHANNEL ADVERTISING

The Program used a mix of digital and traditional media to promote paint recycling and inform residents about available collection services in the province (see APPENDIX 3 – Promotion and Education Materials). Advertising directed consumers to program information and the online recycling locator, helping residents find nearby collection sites. Advertising was delivered through the following channels:

Digital advertising

- Google Search advertising targeted users based on relevant keywords and search terms, ensuring that consumers actively looking for paint disposal or recycling information were directed to the Program website and recycling locator.
- Google Display advertising delivered banner and video ads across websites and mobile applications, using targeting based on users' browsing behaviour and the content they engage with to reach audiences likely to use paint and generate paint waste.
- Social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Pinterest, and Reddit, were used to reach audiences online. Targeting was applied more broadly based on users' interests and behaviours to reach individuals likely to use paint products and build overall program awareness.

Streaming channels

- Spotify was used to deliver video advertisements to audiences engaging with online streaming content.

Broadcast media

- Linear TV advertisements (Global, CTV & CBC) supported our multi-channel strategy by reaching those not actively engaged online, providing a tangible brand presence for the program.

Print

- The BUD (Buy only what you need, Use what you buy, Drop off what's left) rule was promoted through a dedicated flyer available free of charge at productcare.org/materials. This resource supports education on waste reduction and encourages proper recycling of leftover paint.

Blog

- A blog post provided guidance on extending the life of paint through reuse (e.g., mixing leftover paint to create new colours) and highlighted proper storage practices to preserve quality and prevent unnecessary disposal. This content was also shared through social media to increase reach and awareness.

5.2.4. TOLL-FREE NUMBER AND EMAIL

To support access to information regarding recycling for residents, Product Care manages a consumer-facing toll-free number and email address.

5.2.5. CONSUMER AWARENESS

Product Care coordinates consumer awareness surveys to validate the impact of our promotion and education activities. A reputable third party conducts the surveys every two years in conjunction with other provincial programs that Product Care operate.

The 2024 survey found that 84% of Nova Scotia respondents who purchased paint are aware it can be recycled in the province, a 1% increase from 2022's results, surpassing the Program Plan's target of 75% (see Table 10). The next survey is scheduled for 2026.

Table 10: Biennial Consumer Awareness Survey Targets and Results 2022-2024

Year	Target	Actual
2024	75%	84%
2022	60%-70%	83%

6. Financial Information

Product Care's audited financial statements are attached in APPENDIX 4 – Audited Financial Statements.

7. APPENDIX 1 - Collection Sites

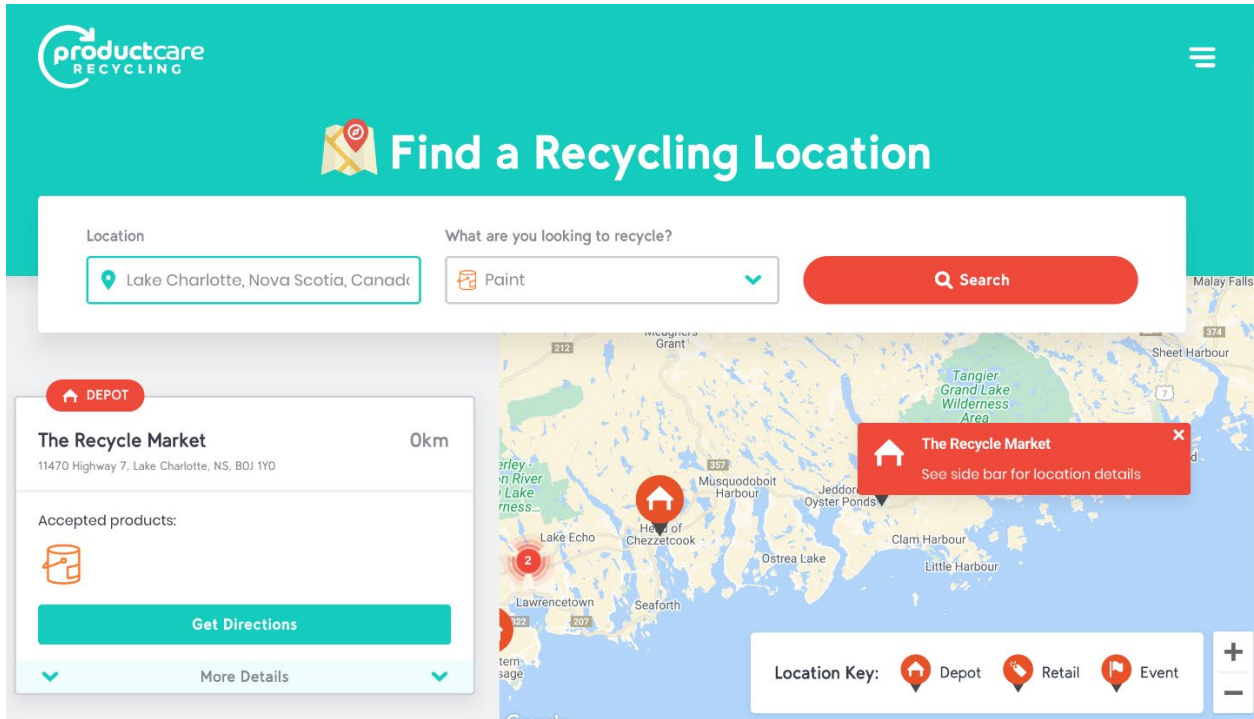
Region	Collection site	City
Cape Breton	Admiral Recycling Ltd.	Port Hood
	Burke's Recycling Depot Ltd	Louisbourg
	Cheticamp Recycling	Cheticamp
	Glace Bay Recycling Ltd.	Glace Bay
	Kenloch Waste Management Facility	Inverness
	Isle Madame Bottle Exchange	Arichat
	Keltic Recycling Inc	Sydney River
	Municipality of C. of Victoria-Baddeck Landfill	Baddeck
	Dingwall Transfer Station	Dingwall
	North Sydney Recycling	North Sydney
	St. Peter's Bottle Exchange	St. Peter's
	Strait Bottle Exchange	Port Hawkesbury
	Total Recycling Ltd.	Sydney
	Triple B Recycling Depot	Sydney
Eastern	Beech Hill Waste Management Site (County of Antigonish)	Antigonish
	Decoste Recovery Depot	Tracadie
	MacMillian's Service Center Ltd	Lower South River
	Mason's Recycling Centre	Canso
	Mount William Waste Management Site (Pictou County SWM)	Mount William
	Guysborough Waste Management Facility	Guysborough
	St. Mary's Transfer Station	Sherbrooke
Halifax	3K Enviro Depot	Sheet Harbour
	Beaver Redemption & Recycling	Halifax
	Bluenose Bottle Exchange	Dartmouth
	Bluewater Recycling Corp.	Bedford
	Bluewater Recycling Corp.	Goodwood
	Burnside Recycling	Dartmouth
	Canadian Recycling Limited	Dartmouth
	E.T. Bottle Exchange	Dartmouth
	O'Connell's Recycling	Lower Sackville
	Friends Depot	Ingramport
	Green Tree Recycling Depot	Lower Sackville
	Greenleaf Recycling Limited	Porter's Lake
	Halifax Hazardous Waste Depot	Halifax
	Karen's Recycling Ltd.	Dartmouth
	Matt's Bottle Exchange	Eastern Passage
	Preston Recycling	East Preston
	Dulux Akerly	Dartmouth
	Dulux Halifax	Halifax

Region	Collection site	City
	Dulux Tacoma	Dartmouth
	Rona - Pierceys Almon	Halifax
	Rona - Pierceys Elmsdale	Elmsdale
	Rona - Pierceys Tantallon	Upper Tantallon
	Tanner's Transfer	Halifax
	The Recycle Market	Lake Charlotte
	Timberlea Bottle Exchange	Timberlea
Northern	A & J Superette	Joggins
	Durant's Enviro Depot	Parrsboro
	East Hants Waste Management Centre	Georgefield
	Elmsdale Recycling Ltd	Elmsdale
	John Ross & Sons Ltd.	Truro
	Keep Garbage Beneficial Inc	Pugwash
	M&R Recycling	Springhill
	Moore Nickels & Dimes for You Recycling	Oxford
	Municipality of Colchester	Debert
	New Germany Enviro Center	New Germany
	Nova 4 Enviro Ltd.	Amherst
	Rawdon Recycling	Upper Rawdon
	Subway Bottle Exchange	Truro
	T'N'T Recycling	Shubenacadie East
	Tatamagouche Recycling Depot	Tatamagouche
Two Capes Recycling (Advocate Country Store Inc.)	Advocate Harbour	
South Shore/ West Hants	Adam's Bottle Exchange Limited	Gold River
	Cogmagun Landfill Site	Cogmagun
	Corkum Recycling Limited	Lunenburg
	Harlow Construction Limited	Shelburne
	Municipality of Barrington – Construction and Demolition Debris Disposal Site	Barrington
	Municipality of Shelburne HHW Depot	Shelburne
	Municipality of the District of Chester - Kaizer Meadow Landfill	Sherwood
	Lunenburg Regional Community Recycling Centre	Whynotts Settlement
	The Region of Queens Waste Management Facility (landfill)	Milton
	O'Leary's Bottle Depot	Windsor
	Oak Park Bottle Exchange	Barrington
	Queen's Enviro Centre	Brooklyn
	Victor & Douglas Oickle's Bottle Exchange	Bridgewater
	Windsor Recycling Depot	Windsor
	New Boundaries	Windsor
Valley	Beehive Adult Service Center	Alyesford
	Greenwood Recycling Centre	Greenwood

Region	Collection site	City
	Lequille Enviro Depot	Annapolis Royal
	L.W. Layton Salvage Ltd.	Canning
	New Minas Recycling	New Minas
	Valley Recycling	Greenwich
	Valley Waste - Eastern Waste Management Centre	Kentville
	Valley Waste - Western Waste Management Centre	Lawrencetown
Western	Comeau's Bottle Exchange	Meteghan Centre
	Digby Salvage & Disposal	Digby
	Municipality of Clare Transfer Station	Meteghan
	Paperchase Bottle Exchange Ltd.	Yarmouth
	Yarmouth County Transfer Station	South Ohio
	Webber's Bottle Exchange	Digby

8. APPENDIX 2 – “Find a Recycling Location” Tool

The image below provides a snapshot of the Program’s collection site locator tool available at productcare.org.

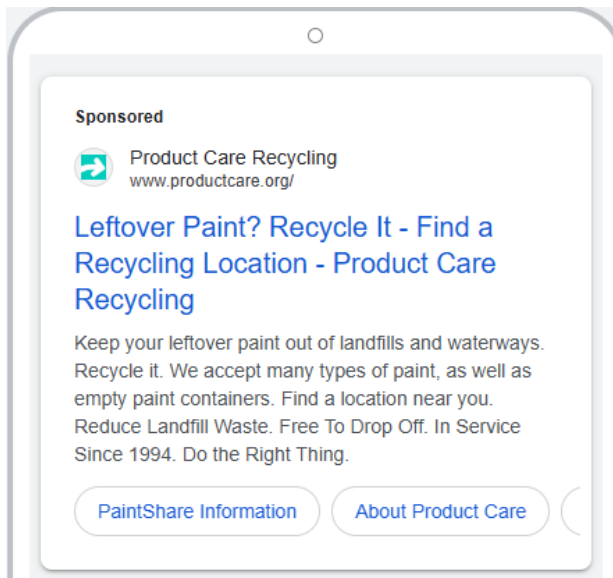
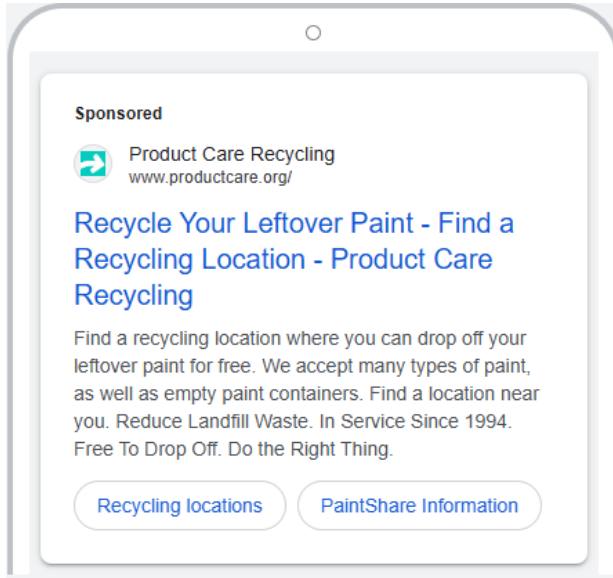


9. APPENDIX 3 – Promotion and Education Materials

9.1. ADVERTISING FORMATS

9.1.1. TEXT ADS

Used for Google Search



9.1.2. VIDEO

Used for TV, YouTube, Social media & Spotify (Vertical and square versions were used as well).



Leftover paint?

Got leftover paint?



Don't toss it



Recycle it!



Drop it off for free



At hundreds of recycling locations



Find the one nearest you at
productcare.org

9.1.3. IMAGE BANNERS

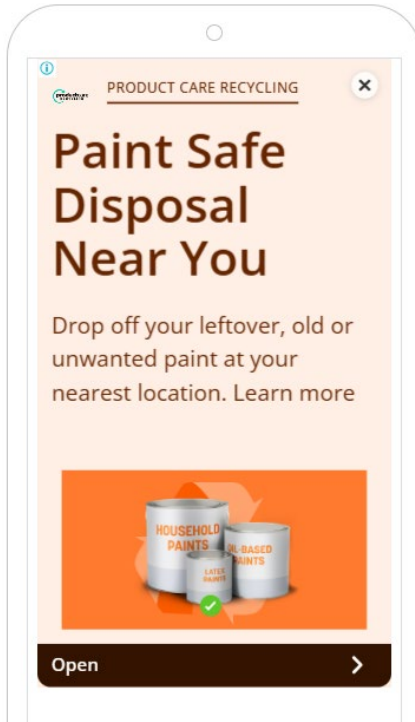
Used for Google Display Network (Including YouTube)



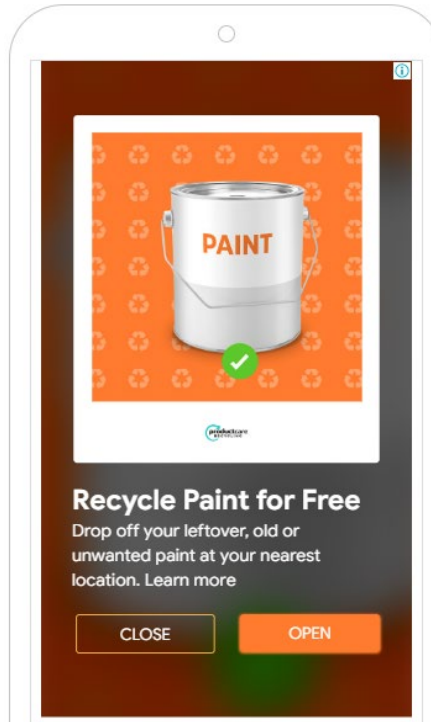
9.1.4. RESPONSIVE ADS

Used for Google Display network, mainly for mobile Apps and websites

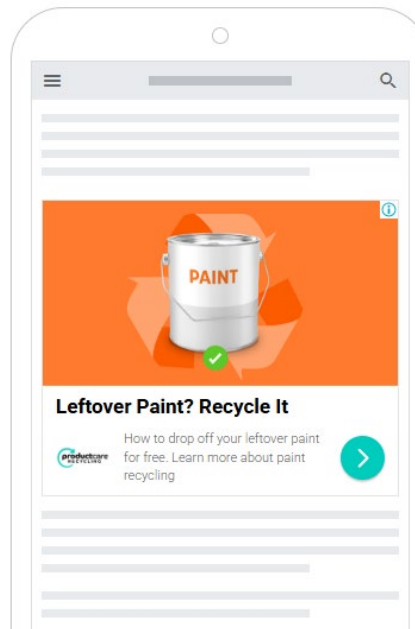
Example of your image ad at 320x568



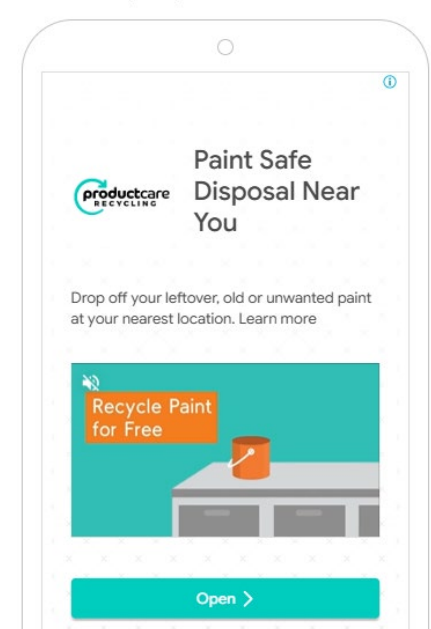
Example of your image ad at 320x568 🔗 BETA



Example of your image ad at 300x250



Example of your video ad at 320x568




9.1.5. CAROUSEL ADS

Used for Meta Ads (Facebook & Instagram)

Product Care Recycling
Sponsored · 🌱

Yes! Paint can be recycled! Find a location near you



Yes! Paint can be recycled!
Find a location

Learn more


Yes! Pa be recy
Find a l

18

Like Comment Share

Instagram

productcarerecycling
Sponsored




Learn more

productcarerecycling Yes! Paint can be recycled!
Yes! Paint can be recycled! Find a location near you

Product Care Recycling
Sponsored · 🌱

Yes! Paint can be recycled! Find a location near you



Yes! Paint can be recycled!
Find a location

Learn more

Yes! Pa be recy
Find a l

17 1 share

Like Comment Share

Instagram

productcarerecycling
Sponsored



Learn more

productcarerecycling Yes! Paint can be recycled!
Yes! Paint can be recycled! Find a location near you

9.2. POR AND POS MATERIALS

9.2.1. BROCHURE

Want free leftover paint for a project?

Product Care's PaintShare program allows you to pick up free leftover paint from participating recycling locations.

This puts paint where it belongs – art and DIY projects, buildings, walls, and fences – and diverts it away from our landfills and waterways. Leftover paint is given away on an as is, as available basis.

To find a PaintShare location near you, visit productcare.org.



#paintshare



How is Product Care funded?

Product Care Recycling programs are funded by environmental handling fees (EHFs), which are remitted to us by our paint industry members.

The fees are not a tax or a refundable deposit. The fees are used to operate the programs, including collection, transportation, and recycling of leftover paint, as well as program administration and consumer education. EHFs are sometimes itemized on sales receipts.

For specific product fees, visit productcare.org.

Leftover paint?

Recycle it for free!

Scan to find a recycling location near you

productcare.org

Accepted Paint Products

- Interior and exterior water-based (latex, acrylic) and oil-based (alkyd, enamel) household paint
- Undercoat and primers (e.g. metal, wood, etc.)
- Concrete or masonry paint, block filler, drywall or stucco paint, deck and floor coatings/paint (including elastomeric)
- Varnish and urethane (only single component), wood finishing oil, melamine, stain, shellac, anti-rust paint, and stain blocking paint
- Marine paint and wood preservatives (unless registered under Pest Control Products Act)
- Swimming pool paint (only single component)
- Textured paint
- Wood, masonry, driveway sealer, and water repellent (not tar based or bitumen based)*
- All types of aerosol paint
- Empty containers of accepted products

Max. paint container size: 25 litres

Max. paint aerosol size: 24 ounces or 680 grams

* Tar and bitumen based paints and coatings are accepted in Ontario only

Always remember the BUD Rule:

- Buy no more than you need
- Use the paint you buy
- Drop off the leftovers for recycling

Not Accepted Products

- Unidentifiable, unknown, unlabelled, and non-original containers
- Containers with poor integrity (e.g. badly rusted, leaking, bulging, improperly sealed)
- Non-aerosol industrial paints and finishes (e.g. baked-on, heat resistant, etc.)
- Roof patch and repair, tar or tar/bitumen based products*
- Patching stucco and spackling compounds
- Caulking compound, epoxies, glues, and adhesives
- Non-aerosol traffic or line marking paint
- Non-aerosol craft or automotive paint
- Brushes, rags, and rollers
- Two-part or component paints containing catalyst or activator
- Colourants and tints
- Paint thinner, resins, mineral spirits, and solvents
- Waxes, polishes, sealants, and other household products
- Paint mixed with other products
- Products registered as a pesticide under the Pest Control Products Act (has a P.C.P. registration number on label)
- Paint for skating rinks and curling club floors
- Household cleaners

Note: Some products may be accepted through local household hazardous waste programs (check with your local waste authority)

* Tar and bitumen based paints and coatings are accepted in Ontario only



Have large volumes of leftover paint?

In select provinces, you may qualify for free pick up. Visit productcare.org for more information.

Who is Product Care?

Product Care Recycling is a federally incorporated, not-for-profit organization that responsibly manages products at end-of-life. We contribute to the local economy, keep hazardous materials out of our landfills and waterways, conserve resources, and protect the planet by recycling millions of litres of paint each year.

Visit productcare.org to find a recycling location near you.

productcare.org
1-877-592-2972



9.2.2. POR/POS POSTERS

Return to Product Care



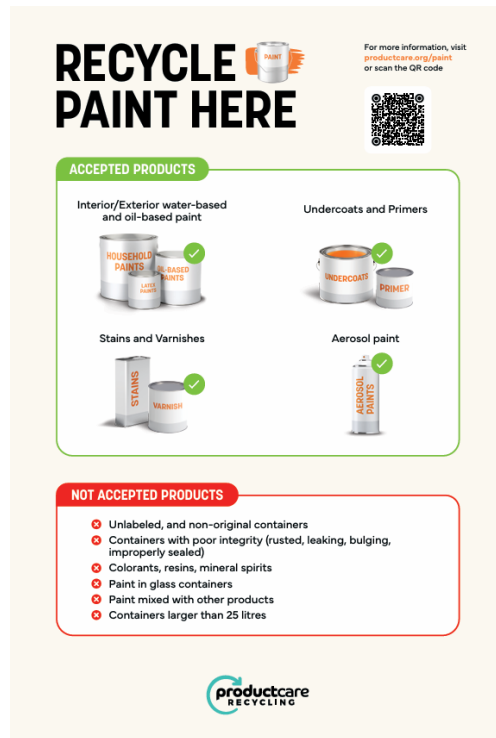
Return to retail



PaintShare Poster



Accepted Products poster



Only-Paint" Collection Site Poster

RECYCLING PAINT?

ACCEPTED PAINT PRODUCTS MUST BE DROPPED OFF THE RIGHT WAY

This recycling location only accepts:

- Household Paint
- Paint Aerosols
- Empty Paint Cans

No gasoline, propane tanks, or other hazardous waste.
NEVER LEAVE ITEMS OUTSIDE WHEN THE DROPOFF IS CLOSED— EVEN ACCEPTED PRODUCTS CAN CAUSE SPILLS AND SAFETY HAZARDS.

Why it matters:

- Leaving items after hours is dangerous and illegal
- Non-program products can't be handled safely
- Abandoned products put staff, the public, and the environment at risk

Need paint for a home or community project?
 Access FREE leftover paint at participating PaintShare locations across the province.
 Scan the QR code or visit productcare.org/paintshare

Think BUD Flyer

THINK BUD

WHEN YOU BUY PAINT

MOST PEOPLE HAVE LEFTOVER PAINT AFTER A PROJECT

That's why the BUD Rule is so helpful:

B Buy only what you need

U Use what you buy

D Drop off what's left at a recycling location near you

Reducing unnecessary paint purchases minimizes environmental impact, and returning leftover paint while it's still fresh maximizes reuse and recycling outcomes.

Scan the QR code or visit productcare.org/paint to:

- See what's accepted
- Find a drop-off location
- Check hours before you go

PaintShare Poster

Pick up **FREE** leftover paint here!

- 1 Ask staff for assistance
- 2 Select paint
- 3 Sign waiver form
- 4 Bring back container (leftovers or empty)

For more information visit productcare.org/paintshare or scan the QR code

Illegal Dumping Sign

Avoid a \$500+ fine
AREA UNDER SURVEILLANCE!

STOP!

ABANDONING ANY MATERIAL — EVEN IF ACCEPTED — IS ILLEGAL AND PUTS STAFF AT RISK.

Please visit during operating hours.

productcare RECYCLING

If you see a dumper, call this number: **1-800-222-TIPS**

Window Cling



10. APPENDIX 4 – Audited Financial Statements

**PRODUCT CARE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
NOVA SCOTIA PAINT RECYCLING PROGRAM**

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES

31 DECEMBER 2025

**PRODUCT CARE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
NOVA SCOTIA PAINT RECYCLING PROGRAM**

Statement of Revenues and Expenses

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Contents

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Statement of Revenues and Expenses	6
Notes to the Statement of Revenues and Expenses	7 - 8

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To: Nova Scotia Environment

Report on the Audit of the Statement of Revenues and Expenses

Opinion

As required by the Nova Scotia Solid Waste-Resource Management Regulation - Environment Act Section 102 (18(F(I))), we have audited the Statement of Revenues and Expenses of the Nova Scotia Paint Recycling Program (the "Statement") as reported by Product Care Association of Canada (the "Association") for the year ended 31 December 2025 and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the Statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the revenue and expenses of the Nova Scotia Paint Recycling Program for the year ended 31 December 2025 in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the Statement in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Matter - Restriction on Distribution and Use

This report is prepared on the direction of Product Care Association of Canada's management and Nova Scotia Environment. As a result, the report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for Product Care Association of Canada's management and Nova Scotia Environment, and should not be distributed to other parties.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the Statement in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the Statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT - Continued

In preparing the Statement, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditors' Responsibilities

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this Statement.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the Statement, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the Statement or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT - Continued

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the Statement, including the disclosures, and whether the Statement represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Rolfe Benson LLP

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

Vancouver, Canada
14 April 2026

**PRODUCT CARE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
NOVA SCOTIA PAINT RECYCLING PROGRAM**

Statement of Revenues and Expenses

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
Revenues	\$ 1,652,173	\$ 1,385,964
Program expenses		
Processing	1,018,771	1,001,726
Administration (Notes 2(b), (d), &(e))	239,166	201,172
Collection	215,805	193,894
Transportation	139,212	136,624
Communications	33,987	37,251
	<u>1,646,941</u>	<u>1,570,667</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses for the year	\$ 5,232	\$ (184,703)

Commitment (Note 3)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement of revenues and expenses.

**PRODUCT CARE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
NOVA SCOTIA PAINT RECYCLING PROGRAM
Notes to the Statement of Revenues and Expenses
For the year ended 31 December 2025**

1. Basis of Presentation

The Statement of Revenues and Expenses (the “Statement”) only includes the revenues and expenses related to the Nova Scotia Paint Recycling Program (the “Program”), a segment of the operations of Product Care Association of Canada (the “Association”).

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Statement is prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The significant policies are detailed as follows:

(a) Revenue Recognition

Environmental Handling Fees are received from members of the Association making sales of designated program materials within the province of Nova Scotia. The Association recognizes these fees as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Environmental Handling Fees revenues are recognized as individual members report and remit them as required by the Association’s membership agreement which is at the end of the month following the reporting period that the designated program materials were sold by the member.

Members are obligated to remit Environmental Handling Fees for all products sold from the earlier of the Programs’ start date or the date when member started selling obligated products. If, for any reason, a member omits reporting and remitting Environmental Handling Fees associated with sold program products, the Association will recognize those Environmental Handling Fees as revenue when the amounts are determinable by the Association.

(b) Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost. The Association provides for amortization using the straight-line method at rates designed to amortize the cost of the tangible capital assets over their estimated useful lives. The annual amortization rate is as follows:

Depot equipment	3 years
-----------------	---------

Included in administration expense is \$6,253 (2024 - \$5,425) of amortization expense related to tangible capital assets.

**PRODUCT CARE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
NOVA SCOTIA PAINT RECYCLING PROGRAM
Notes to the Statement of Revenues and Expenses
For the year ended 31 December 2025**

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies - continued

(c) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of revenues and expenses and disclosure of contingencies included in the Statement. Accounts subject to estimates include revenue accruals, expense accruals, amortization, the allocation of overhead and salaries and wages expenses and processing commitments. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(d) General and Administrative Expenses - Overhead Allocation

A portion of the total general and administrative expenses of the Association, net of expense recoveries, has been allocated to the Program. The general and administrative expenses include certain payroll which has not been directly charged to a program. The allocation of general and administrative expenses to the Program is determined using the percentage of program specific operating expenses as compared to total operating expenses for all the Association's programs. Included in administration expense is \$115,628 (2024 - \$94,587) of overhead expense which has been allocated to the Program.

(e) Salaries and Wages Expense

The salaries and wages expense for certain employees are charged to the Program based on management's estimate of the employee time spent on the Program. Included in administration expense is \$46,406 (2024 - \$30,078) of salaries and wages expense which has been charged to the Program.

3. Processing Commitment

At year end, the Association had unprocessed program materials on hand related to the Program with an estimated cost to process, transport and recycle of \$58,053 (2024 - \$30,059) which will be incurred in 2026.