



BC First Nations Recycling Initiative  
**2025 IN REVIEW**



## ABOUT THE FIRST NATIONS RECYCLING INITIATIVE (FNRI)

The First Nations Recycling Initiative (FNRI) supports recycling in First Nation communities throughout British Columbia (BC). We collaborate directly with First Nation communities across BC to provide information about BC's recycling extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs and to support local First Nation community collection events as well as existing recycling programs.

The participating EPR programs established the FNRI to collaborate on projects to remove and recycle small corded and cordless electrical household appliances, household electronics, large appliances, corded and cordless electrical outdoor power tools, passenger car and light truck as well as RV and bicycle tires, paper and packaging, refundable beverage containers. FNRI also gathers information to inform and update on health products, small household batteries, and thermostats.

In 2025, additional EPR programs joined the partnership which resulted in the FNRI including responsibility for the identification and removal of the following household hazardous waste (HHW) EPR program materials: oil and antifreeze, oil filters and the original containers those products are shipped in; paints, flammable liquids, solvents, gasoline and domestic pesticides; lighting products, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms; and lead acid batteries over 5kg.

The following programs were partners in the FNRI throughout 2025: BC Brewers' Recycled Container Collection Council, Call2Recycle, Canadian Battery Association, Electronic Products Recycling Association, Health Products Stewardship Association, Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada, Interchange Recycling, Major Appliance Recycling Roundtable, Outdoor Power Equipment Institute of Canada, Product Care Recycling, Recycle BC, Return-It, and Tire Stewardship BC.



## THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS!



## ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITIES

Over the past three years, the FNRI furthered its community engagement efforts with the support and growing partnership of the Indigenous Zero Waste Technical Advisory Group (IZWTAG). In 2025 the FNRI operated as part of the IZWTAG team which provided further access and success of the initiative with this strategic alignment.

As in past years, the manager of FNRI actively engaged with numerous First Nation communities in 2025 as interest and momentum continued to increase for FNRI's services. The number of community cleanup events as well as the number of communities visited increased in 2025. Active communication and outreach with various community members via virtual and in-person meetings and community visits, email and phone calls built strong community relationships. This resulted in community collection events in conjunction with First Nation communities, and ultimately the removal of more than twenty-five tonnes of recyclable program material from communities. In addition to maintaining ongoing relationships with First Nation communities, the manager of the FNRI further invested in and maintained ongoing relationships with participating EPR programs, regional districts and where appropriate provincial and federal governments.

As we continue to operate the program, we will value and maintain existing relationships and develop new connections with First Nation communities to better facilitate the cleanup event process, not only with the community but also all relevant partners. Typically, this includes the individuals involved in recycling within the public works, operations and maintenance or housing and health departments of First Nation communities.

Community engagement often involves an in-person site visit to determine the level of FNRI support needed. In some cases, the community contacts FNRI to participate in a scheduled site visit, while at other times FNRI is asked by local governments to participate.



## FNRI MATERIALS COLLECTED AND ENGAGEMENT DATA

The following is a portion of the material volume collected as well as First Nation community interactions during 2025:



## FNRI PRINTED RESOURCES

The FNRI Resource Guide was reprinted in 2025 and continues to be a popular information piece for First Nations contemplating a community cleanup event. The guide focuses on EPR program information, including what items are accepted by each program and what to consider when collecting program material for responsible Recycling. In addition, an invitation to participate was sent out via email in February 2025, which contained a comprehensive cleanup event package and outlined the requirements of running a First Nation community cleanup event.

The FNRI published revised versions of the First Nations Recycling Initiative Resource Guide and BC First Nations Recycling Initiative Program Overview, which provide the most up-to-date information about each participating program can be accessed at the [First Nations Recycling Initiative program page](#).



## COMMUNITY CLEANUP EVENTS 2025

First Nation communities visited, as well as communities that worked with the FNRI, increased in 2025. We also increased the number of community cleanup events compared to 2024. In addition, we identified stockpiles of HHW materials to be removed in 2026.

In 2025 we worked with Return-It to divert over 500,000 refundable beverage containers, providing the refund back to the First Nation communities. We removed and recycled over 10,000 end-of-life passenger car and light truck tires, more than 10 x 40-yard bins of large appliances and over 16,000 kg of electronics, small appliances and corded and cordless electric outdoor power tools. We also removed eight pallets of end-of-life lead acid batteries, more than ten tubskids of paint and paint thinners and identified numerous communities with oil and antifreeze stockpiles.

In continued partnership with IZWTAG and MARR the “large appliance in-community bin collection program” expanded with the addition of nine new First Nation communities. We are also continuing to evolve our “leave in community” approach and will be further expanding this program during 2026. We exceeded the stated goal of completing thirty community cleanup events by achieving thirty-two events and we made thirty-seven unique visits to communities. As we look forward to 2026, we are excited about furthering our relationships and opportunities to partner with communities. Below is the list of communities we worked with in 2025.

### Ahousat

Dease River First Nation  
Dzawada’enuxw First Nation  
Ehattesaht First Nation  
Esk’etemc First Nation  
Gitwangak Band  
Gitxaala First Nation  
Heiltsuk Nation  
Kitasoo Xai’xais Nation  
Kwikwasut’inuxw Haxwa’mis First Nation  
Lheidli T’enneh First Nation  
Lil’wat Nation  
Nanoose First Nation

### Nisga’a Village of Gingolx

Nisga’a Village of Gitwinksihlkw  
Nisga’a Village of Laxgaltsap  
Nisga’a Village of New Aiyansh  
Nooaitch Indian Band  
Opitsaht First Nation  
Penticton Indian Band  
Saik’uz First Nation  
Samahquam  
Skeetchestn Indian Band  
Soowahlie First Nation  
Stswecem’c Xget’tem First Nation

### Tahltan

Takla First Nation  
T’it’q’et First Nation  
Tla’amin Nation  
Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations  
Tlesqox  
Tsal’alh First Nation  
Tsartlip First Nation  
Tseil-Waututh Nation  
Tsq’escen  
Yunesit’in Government

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please feel free to visit our website to learn more about the FNRI, read past annual reports, and access other resources: <https://recyclebc.ca/projects/first-nations-recycling-initiative/>

You can contact us by email at [info@fnri.ca](mailto:info@fnri.ca).