

2. A Brief History of the Glass Supply Chain

Consumers Glass was instrumental in the development of the glass supply chain and has been a supporter of curbside multi-material recycling systems since their inception. Unlike most of the packaging industry, Consumers Glass is both the material manufacturer and the packaging producer. This unique position allowed them to commit the glass container industry to action under the umbrella of one company.

In the 1980s and early 1990s Consumers Glass purchased both industrial and municipal recycled container glass in Ontario. It ran an internal beneficiation (recycled glass processing) line at its Toronto plant, which processed it into cullet – a direct substitute for virgin raw materials.

As the volume of material from curbside programmes grew with varying levels of quality, it became clear that the needs of the glass supply chain outgrew Consumers Glass' ability to beneficiate. Additionally there was a need to develop material for other markets outside its own business interests. It was time for change.



The Production of Glass Containers