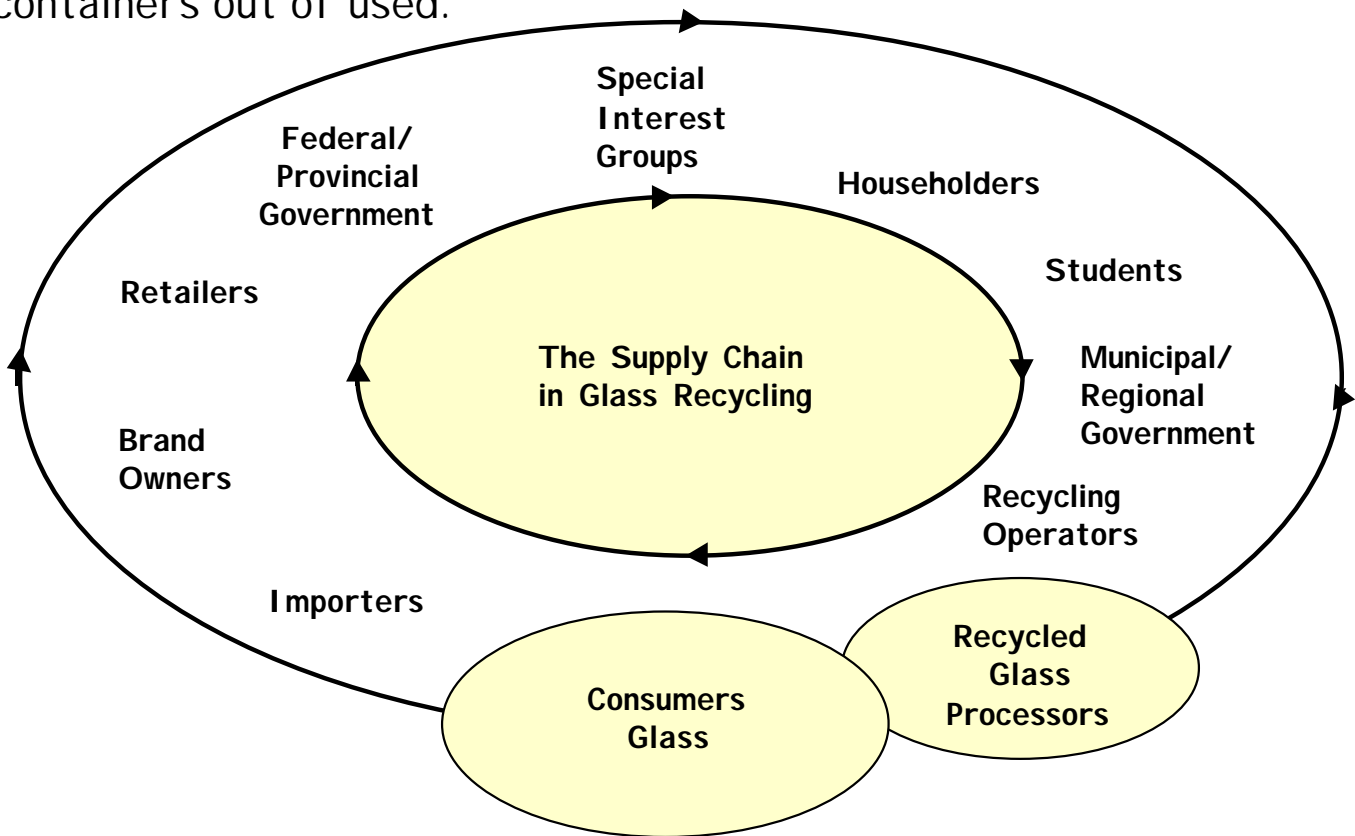




Glass Container Packaging System Model

Glass is 100 percent recyclable...container glass can be recycled indefinitely to make new glass containers. It is truly indicative of the mobius loop, symbolizing the closed loop achieved by making new containers out of used.



This diagram is known as the "Supply Chain in Glass Recycling". It is a flowchart illustrating the various stages involved in the production, distribution, consumption and recovery of new and used glass containers.

As glass containers are manufactured, they are delivered to producers of foods, beverages and other products. The product producer will fill the new glass container with food, juice, wine or another product and sell it to a wholesale retailer such as a supermarket, corner or department store. Eventually, the product will be purchased and consumed by a consumer or end user. That's you, your mom or dad, brother or sister.

Once the end user is finished with the product, they have an option to re-use it if the glass container is designed to be refillable or have it recycled through a recycling programme.

Where recycling systems do not exist, empty glass containers enter the waste stream. Your participation in learning how to reduce, reuse and recycle will help prevent container glass from going to landfill.

Litter is a concern as well. However, the strategy to prevent littering is different than recycling. Litter is uncontrolled disposal whereas waste is controlled disposal. Either way there is a waste of natural resources that you can prevent. When the glass container is in your hands, you are the person in control.

When empty glass containers are recycled, they are collected and sorted by colour by recycling operators. Once enough container glass is collected, the recycler sells the load to a processor who readies the material for use in the furnace.

When contaminants are included in the load, the recycler has to sort through the load, or where the contamination is too great, the material gets disposed of as waste.

Container glass can also be sent to be recycled in an alternate market, or send it to a primary/secondary processor who will clean and crush the container glass (beneficiation) to make cullet.

Cullet is not waste. It can be sold back to the container glass manufacturer as a raw material, where it is added to the mix with virgin materials used to make container glass and gets re-melted into the glass batch. A new life for the glass container starts at the glass manufacturing plant where the whole life cycle process starts all over again.

You play an important role in this process. You are both a consumer of quality when you buy product in glass containers, and you are part of the production of new container glass when you participate in recycling. Impressive.