



Recycle Rewards – Small Producer Assistance Grant Guidelines

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1. Grant Scheme Overview

Recycle Rewards is Tasmania’s new container refund scheme, which is currently planned to commence in May 2025.

The Recycle Rewards Small Producer Assistance Grant aims to provide eligible Tasmanian small beverage producers with assistance for costs associated with container approvals and container label updating and printing.

Following the introduction of Recycle Rewards, if you produce or supply an eligible beverage container you will likely have legal obligations under the [Container Refund Scheme Act 2022](#). Obligations include the application for approval of eligible containers, and the display of prescribed marks on the exterior of approved eligible containers.

If your container labels do not already include the prescribed marks and is an eligible container, then you will need to update your product labels.

The grant aims to reimburse small beverage producers for the administrative cost of container approval applications, and those producers whose container labels do not currently show the prescribed marks for updating those labels. Small producers are defined as having produced up to a total of 250,000 litres of beverages in the last financial year for all their products combined.

The grant scheme is operated by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas) using funds provided by the Tasmanian State Government. The total amount of funds available for allocation under this grant scheme is \$80,000.

For more information on Recycle Rewards visit: www.nre.tas.gov.au/environment/recycle-rewards

For more information on First Responsible Supplier obligations, visit: <https://tasrecycle.com.au/first-suppliers/>

2. Eligibility criteria – Who can apply for this grant?

You can apply for this grant if you meet all of the following criteria:



- a. You have an active Australian Business Number (ABN) that was registered before 1 September 2024.
- b. Your business is registered in Tasmania.
- c. Your business has produced up to a maximum of 250,000 litres of beverages in total in the last Financial Year (2023-2024).

3. Eligible items and activities – What can you apply for?

You can apply for funding for one or more of the following items and activities:

- a. Support for general administrative costs (lump-sum of \$100 per class of approved eligible container) (refer to section 4 below).
- b. Obtaining barcodes to be displayed on approved eligible container labels (excluding GST).
- c. Designing labels that display a barcode and/or the refund marking on approved eligible containers (excluding GST).
- d. Printing labels (including direct to can printing) that display a barcode and/or the refund marking on approved eligible containers (excluding GST).

If you reach the maximum total grant amount (\$1,000 excluding GST) with one, two or three items, then you do not need to apply for any of the remaining items.

If you are applying for **direct to can printing**, please contact RecycleRewards.Enquiries@nre.tas.gov.au to discuss acquittal requirements.

You can apply for the grant before you have completed any of the activities you are applying for. However, you will only receive the funding as a **reimbursement** once the activities are completed and you have submitted the acquittal form and attached proof of expenditure (for example paid invoices, photos of labels and confirmations of container approvals).

4. Grant Amount

The maximum total grant amount that a business can receive is \$1,000 (excluding GST).

Support for general administrative costs will be funded with a lump-sum of \$100 per class of approved eligible container. This may include work such as registering eligible containers, business phone calls, or work related to engaging a graphic designer or printer.

A class of container is defined as having the same size, same material and containing the same beverage.

Example 1: If you are producing one lager, sold in 375 ml cans, and one ale, sold in 375 ml cans and 500 ml bottles, then you must register **three** classes of containers and are eligible to be reimbursed \$300 through the grant.

Example 2: If you are producing one cider in 375 ml cans, sold as singles and in six-packs, you only need to register **one** class of container and are eligible to be reimbursed \$100 through the grant.

Other eligible items and activities, as listed under section 3, will be fully funded up to the maximum total grant amount.



5. Key Dates

Application for grants open on 7 February 2025 and close at 11:55pm on 30 June 2025 or when available funds are expended.

Items and activities listed in section 3 that have occurred after 1 September 2024 are eligible for funding provided that you meet the eligibility criteria outlined above.

You must have paid invoices for eligible items and activities and completed the acquittal by 30 June 2025.

6. Barcode and Refund Marking Specifications

A barcode must be:

- a Global Trade Item Number (GTIN) barcode; or
- a product barcode that complies with the applicable symbology, dimensional and placement specifications set out in the GS1 Standard, is unique for the class of approved containers, does not duplicate a GTIN barcode or another product barcode, and is not less than 8, but no more than 14, numbers in length.

The refund marking must state the following words in a manner that is clear and legible:

10c refund at collection depots/points in participating State/Territory of purchase

The barcode and refund marking together form the prescribed marks as required for approved containers under the [Container Refund Scheme Act 2022](#) and [Container Refund Scheme Regulations 2023](#).

The barcode and refund marking can be on a label that is separate and in addition to other labelling on a container. For example, rather than changing your current labelling, you can add the barcode and refund marking as additional stickers to your existing stock.

7. Eligible Containers

Only certain classes of beverages and containers will be part of Recycle Rewards, and only items and activities in relation to those eligible containers will be funded.

The majority of 150ml to 3L beverage containers will be eligible, provided they are made from glass, plastic, aluminium, steel or liquid paperboard.

Eligible beverage types generally include beer, cider, juice, water and certain flavoured milk products.

Containers that are NOT eligible include plain milk bottles or cartons, flavoured milk containers of 1L or more, glass wine bottles, glass spirit bottles, concentrated cordial bottles, and juice containers of 1L or more.

All glass containers that are marketed as being able to be refilled by the initial supplier (for example growlers) are also exempt.

You can find the full list of exempt containers in the [Container Refund Scheme Regulations 2023](#), section 4. If you are unsure whether any of the products you sell will be part of Recycle Rewards, then please contact NRE Tas prior to applying for a grant via RecycleRewards.Enquiries@nre.tas.gov.au.



8. Ineligible Applicants

You are ineligible for this grant if you don't meet the eligibility criteria referred to in section 2.

If your container labels already contain a barcode, then you are not eligible for funding in relation to the cost of obtaining barcodes and design work in relation to the barcode.

If your labels already contain a barcode and refund marking, then you are not eligible for funding in relation to label design and printing.

9. How do I apply?

Please refer to the NRE Tas website to complete an online SmartyGrants application:

<https://nre.smartygrants.com.au/RecycleRewardsGrant>

The grant process has two stages: First, you submit the application form, and if you meet the eligibility criteria your grant is pre-approved. Second, you submit the acquittal form, including evidence of activities and expenditure, and following a successful assessment the approved grant funding is paid into your nominated bank account.

You can apply for the grant, and receive pre-approval, before completing any of the activities you are applying for.

10. Assessment and Decision Making

Applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria by the Assessment Team, who are responsible for routine assessment against the criteria in these guidelines and recommend assessment outcomes.

Program Officers ensure the grant scheme is administered in accordance with these guidelines and the policy intent, and approve grants based on recommendations by Assessment Team Officers.

NRE Tas reserves the right to request further information from you, or any business, or individual engaged by you to assess your application and to verify any information provided in your application. Failure to provide such information may result in the refusal of your application.

NRE Tas reserves the right to refuse an application where eligibility criteria are not met or where you do not or cannot provide sufficient information for NRE Tas to determine if eligibility criteria have been met.

NRE Tas can put an application on hold where the applicant is under investigation or has been charged in relation to the fraudulent receipt of grants under this or other NRE Tas programs or other Government Agency's schemes.

Completed applications will be assessed in order of receipt. Incomplete applications will not enter the assessment queue until all required information is provided.

Applicants should note that past financial assistance under any program or scheme is not a reliable indicator of eligibility for financial assistance under this grant scheme.

Applications submitted will be subject to audit by NRE Tas to determine compliance with grant scheme guidelines.



11. Approval

Applicants will be notified of the outcome within 30 business days after submitting a completed application.

12. Acquittal and Payment

An acquittal is a statement that is requested from successful grant applicants, confirming that the activities stated on the application form have been completed.

If your application is successful, you will be required to have submitted evidence of expenditure for the amount of the claimed grant (excluding GST) before the grant money is paid to you.

Applicants are asked for accurate bank account details at the time of applying to enable timely payment once the grant is approved. This bank account must be in the same name as the person or business that applied for the grant. You may be asked to provide a copy of your bank statement or a letter from your bank to confirm your bank account details.

Evidence of expenditure **must** include confirmation that an eligible container was registered and approved.

It may also include valid tax invoices for obtaining barcodes or for the design and printing of labels.

Invoices for the printing of labels must be accompanied with an order form, image or other proof that shows that the labels display the barcode and refund marking. If you are applying for **direct to can printing**, please contact RecycleRewards.Enquiries@nre.tas.gov.au to discuss acquittal options.

Payments will be GST-exclusive and made on receipt of a valid tax invoice and proof of payment.

Contact NRE Tas to discuss any issue preventing you from acquitting your grant.

13. Terms and Conditions

- a. The grant is eligibility based and non-competitive, however the pool of available funds is limited.
- b. Applications will be assessed in the order they are received (except where an application is incomplete) until the grant scheme funds are fully allocated. Where an application is incomplete, it will not be assessed until the applicant has supplied all the required information.
- c. Only one application per business will be accepted.
- d. Items and activities with valid tax invoices dated from 1 September 2024 and after are eligible, if they comply with the criteria shown in section 3.
- e. You must have fully paid valid tax invoices for eligible items when acquitting the grant.
- f. Valid tax invoices submitted in relation to this grant scheme may not be used to secure funding under any other similar scheme.
- g. Applications received after the advertised application closing date may not be accepted.
- h. Without limiting any rights, NRE Tas (or another Tasmanian agency), in its sole discretion, may recover funds from the claimant and determine that a debt is due if evidence indicates that the claimant:



- did not meet the eligibility criteria; or
- received an overpayment from the grant scheme; or
- did not spend the funds as it was intended and as per the statements made on the application form.

14.Exclusions

You will not be eligible for a grant if you have received or are eligible to receive financial assistance for costs associated with the eligible items described, from another grants program. This does not include any assistance secured via a loans program for the portion of the costs required outside of this grant scheme.

15.Application Assistance

Refer to the NRE Tas website to complete an online application.

You will need to complete an online application and submit any claims by the closing dates shown in Section 5.

If you need assistance with submitting your application, please contact us:

Email: RecycleRewards.Enquiries@nre.tas.gov.au

If you need assistance with interpreting or translating, please contact Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450 and tell them your language. Tell the interpreter your name and that you're calling the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania on 1300 368 550.

16.Fraudulent Claims

NRE Tas takes fraud and corruption seriously. Suspected fraud will be reported to appropriate external parties such as Tasmania Police.

NRE Tas responds to fraud by:

- a. audit and site validation of applications and claims that are of concern;
- b. referral to Tasmania Police; and
- c. recovery of any assistance provided under a fraudulent application.

17.Personal Information Statement

Personal information (which identifies an individual) will be managed in accordance with the Personal Information Protection Act 2004 and may be accessed by the individual to whom it relates on request to NRE Tas. A fee may be charged for this service and basic personal information may be disclosed to other public sector bodies where necessary, for the efficient storage and use of the information.

18.Right to Information Act 2009

Applicants should be aware that information submitted in applications and all related correspondence, attachments and other documents may be made publicly available under the *Right to Information Act 2009* (TAS). Information that is deemed to be commercially sensitive will be withheld.



19.Complaints

Any concerns about the grant scheme should be submitted in writing to complaints@nre.tas.gov.au or by using the external complaints form [here](#).

Following resolution of your complaints by NRE Tas, if you do not agree with the way the Department has handled the issue, you may wish to contact Ombudsman Tasmania via www.ombudsman.tas.gov.au/home/contact-us

20.Definitions

Applicant	The entity/individual who makes the application under this grant scheme.
Approval	Your application will be approved based on your eligibility with the criteria listed in Section 2. Your invoices will be approved based on their eligibility with the criteria listed in Section 3. In the event of an early close of the grant, NRE Tas will pay grants ranked by the date received up to the allocated funding. An approved application does not imply an approved invoice.
Approved Eligible Container	A beverage container that has been registered and approved by the State for the purpose of Recycle Rewards under the <i>Container Refund Scheme Act 2022</i> .
Barcode	A barcode consistent with the GS1 General Specifications or otherwise compliant with the requirements in the <i>Container Refund Scheme Regulations 2023</i> .
Beverage	A liquid, other than medication, that is intended for human consumption by drinking.
Eligible Container	A beverage container or an item that is prescribed as an eligible container under the <i>Container Refund Scheme Act 2022</i> .
Label	A marking applied to the outside of approved containers that displays, among other information, information about the product. A label may consist of multiple separated parts applied on the same container.
Prescribed Marks	The barcode and refund marking together, as required under the <i>Container Refund Scheme Act 2022</i> and <i>Container Refund Scheme Regulations 2023</i> .
Refund Marking	The following words displayed on the exterior of a container in a manner that is clear and legible and compliant with the requirements in the <i>Container Refund Scheme Regulations 2023</i> : 10c refund at collection depots/points in participating State/Territory of purchase



Small Producer	A business that produces up to a total of 250,000 litres per year of all its products combined.
Valid tax invoice	A paid invoice including the name, address, and ABN (if applicable) of the entity that issued the invoice and a description of each item to which the invoice relates, which is clearly identifiable as being related to approved expenditure for the applicant. Invoices must be addressed to the applicant or the company named on the application. NRE Tas will ask for proof of payment of the invoice.
You and your	Refers to the applicant in the context of these guidelines and the related application process. NRE Tas takes you as having the authority to make an application on behalf of the entity applying

21. Disclaimer

The Department does not guarantee or warrant and accepts no legal liability whatsoever arising from or connected to the accuracy, reliability, currency, or completeness of any material contained in this publication. Information in this publication is provided as general information only and is not intended as a substitute for advice from a qualified professional.

The Department recommends that users exercise care and use their own skill and judgment in using information from this publication and that users carefully evaluate the accuracy, currency, completeness, and relevance of such information. Users should take steps to independently verify the information in this publication and, where appropriate, seek professional advice.

Funding assistance provided through the grant scheme is subject to funds being available. The Department reserves the right to make changes to the grant scheme to ensure it meets the objectives outlined in these guidelines and provides equitable funding support to applicants.

In extenuating circumstances, applications submitted after the deadline may be accepted at the sole discretion of the Department.

These guidelines are subject to change at any time at the sole discretion of the Department.

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (January 2025).

22. Evaluation

NRE Tas is committed to providing excellent service that responds to your needs through well targeted programs. For that reason, NRE Tas evaluates its programs. This includes surveys at various points of your application, approval, and completion. NRE Tas may also contact you to ask about your experience of the assistance you received. NRE Tas will always treat the responses you provide as confidential and use the information only for the purposes it was collected.

23. Where can I find more information?

Email: RecycleRewards.Enquiries@nre.tas.gov.au

Website: www.nre.tas.gov.au/environment/recycle-rewards

