



Redemption Centers
of America



STRATEGIC MATERIALS
Recycling Earth's Resources

Modernizing Connecticut's Container Deposit Law

Connecticut's refundable container deposit law (A.K.A. *the Bottle Bill*) is a convenient and proven effective way to keep our environment clean and free from glass, plastic, and aluminum waste that would otherwise litter our roadways, beaches, and open spaces.

Because Connecticut's bottle bill has not been updated in over 30 years, the program lacks resources needed to keep up with the pace of changing market trends and inflation.

While Connecticut's container redemption rate is still significantly higher than states without a deposit program, it has fallen behind that of other bottle bill states in recent years (currently, Connecticut is at approximately 50%, while other bottle bill states are yielding redemption rates as high as 90%). *However, this program is far from a lost cause.* Connecticut can increase its redemption rate and generate the quality of material that the current market demands by implementing solutions that will keep our container deposit program strong for the next generation.

Connecticut's bottle bill is in urgent need of modernization. The CGA should act quickly to:

1. **Expand** the deposit program to capture most beverage containers, including juices, teas, sports drinks and other non-carbonated beverages that have grown in popularity in recent years;
2. **Raise** the handling fee values paid to CT redemption centers and beverage retailers for each container collected under the program, to bring them in line with handling fee values paid in our neighboring Bottle Bill states;
3. **Phase-in** a 10 cent deposit on each container covered by the program, to create a stronger incentive to cut down on litter and increase recycling.



In addition to the three core principles listed above, CGA should consider certain challenges related to the state's existing container deposit law when crafting a long-term policy solution. **Connecticut should take additional steps to address the following inefficiencies in the deposit system:**

- Explore innovative labeling solutions to help cut down cross-border fraud;
- Identify and prohibit exploitative business practices throughout the system;
- Address reporting & accounting discrepancies;
- Ensure beverage distributors comply with Connecticut's existing rules to reimburse retailers and redemption centers in a timely fashion;
- Ensure equal treatment of retailers and redemption centers in the system.

The Container Deposit Working Group (CDWG) is a diverse coalition including recycling industry professionals, municipal recycling authorities, environmental advocates, and other actors within the system working to modernize and strengthen Connecticut's bottle bill and achieve maximum environmental and economic benefits for Connecticut.