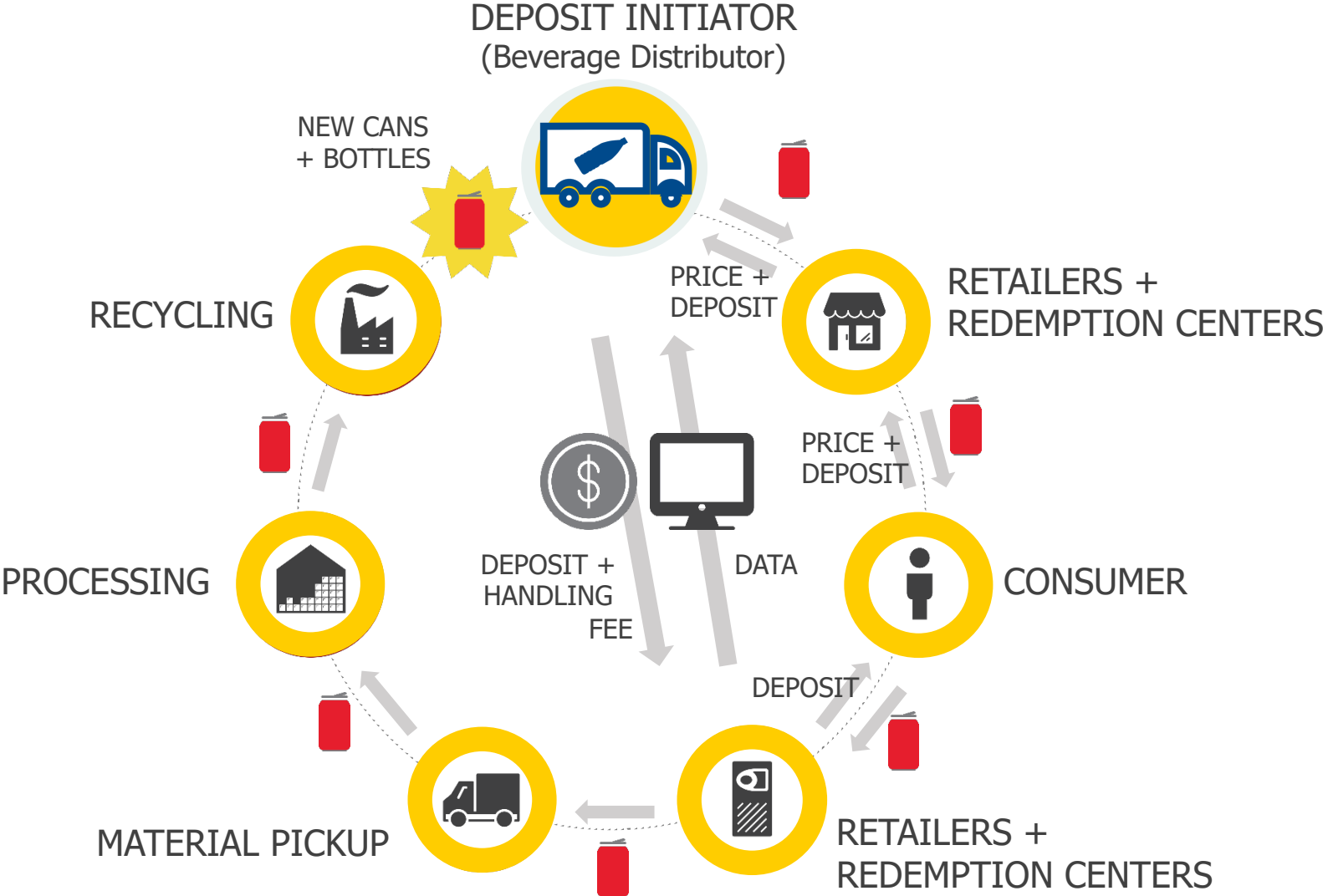


How Connecticut's Bottle Bill Works



Redemption Rates for U.S. Deposit States, 2013-2017*

State	Redemption Rates					Percent of deposit beverage sales recycled via curbside programs**	Beverages Covered	Comments	Data Source
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017				
California	84%	80%	81%	81%	77%	Curbside already included in redemption rate; Curbside programs collect 9%; redemption centers and other programs collect the other 68% of recycled CRV beverage containers.	Beer, malt, wine & distilled spirits coolers, all non-alcoholic beverages except milk. Some exceptions for juice.	Overall redemption rates for all materials. Detail by material is available.	"Q1–Q3 FY 2015–16 Quarterly Reports Data Supplement" to "Quarterly Report on the Status of the Beverage Container Recycling Fund (FY 2015–16 – 3rd Quarter)." CalRecycle, July 2016. CalRecycle Quarterly Financial report, August 2018.
Connecticut	57%	53%	51.1%	48.5%	50.7%		Beer, malt, carbonated soft drinks, and bottled water, including flavored water.	Before water bottles were added to the deposit system in 2009, redemption rates ranged from 65 to 70%.	Judy Belaval, Connecticut Office of Source Reduction and Recycling, Bureau of MM&CA, Department of Energy & Environmental Protection.
Hawaii	75%	70%	68%	66%	63%	Deposit containers collected at curbside (in Honolulu only) are already included in the statewide redemption rates.	Beer, malt beverages, mixed spirits, mixed wine. All non-alcoholic beverages except milk.	Overall redemption rates for all materials. Detail by material is available.	Hawaii State Department of Health, Solid & Hazardous Waste Branch, Office of Solid Waste Management. 8/8/18. 2013 is fiscal year data; 2014-2017 is calendar year data.
Iowa	unk	unk	unk	64%			Beer, carbonated soft drinks & mineral water, wine coolers, wine & liquor.	An 86% recycling rate was estimated in 2011, based on waste composition data collected in 2005 by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The next waste composition study and recycling rate estimate was conducted by the Iowa DNR in 2017.	Iowa Department of Natural Resources, December 2017.
Maine	90%	90%	90%	90%	84%		All beverages except dairy products and unprocessed cider.		2014-2016: Informal recycling rate provided by beverage industry lobbyist in testimony to state. 2017: Letter from Newell Augur, Maine Beverage Association to Maine State Sen. Tom Saviello and Rep. Ralph Tucker, Jan. 18, 2018.
Massachusetts	66%	66%	59%	56%	57%		Beer, malt, carbonated soft drinks, & mineral water.	Fiscal year data.	Sean Sylver, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.
Michigan	95%	94%	93%	92%	91%		Beer, soft drinks, carbonated & mineral water, wine coolers, canned cocktails.	Until April 2017, Michigan was the only state with a 10-cent deposit.	Michigan Office of Revenue and Tax Analysis, Department of Treasury.
New York	62%	64%	65%	66%	65%		Carbonated soft drinks, soda water, beer and other malt beverages, wine products, and water which does not contain sugar (including flavored or nutritionally enhanced water).		New York State Department of Taxation and Finance.
Oregon	71%	68%	64%	64%	73%		Beer, malt, carbonated soft drinks, and bottled water (will cover all beverages except wine, liquor, milk, and milk substitutes by 2018).	Deposit increased to 10 cents in April 2017. Overall redemption rates for all materials. Detail by material is available.	2013 and curbside percentages: estimate from Peter Spindelov, OR Dept. of Environmental Quality. 2014 & 2015: Oregon Liquor Control Commission. 2017: "2017 Beverage Container Return Data," Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative, July 31, 2018. 2017 data is a mix of redemption rates under the old 5¢ deposit (Jan.-Mar.) and the new 10¢ deposit (Apr.-Dec.).
Vermont	75%	75%	75%	75%			Beer, malt, carbonated soft drinks, mixed wine drinks, liquor.		Estimate from "Systems Analysis of the Impact of Act 148 on Solid Waste Management in Vermont, Final Report." Prepared for the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources by DSM Environmental, Oct. 21, 2013.

* Calendar year data unless otherwise noted in Data Source column.

Diverting material to the deposit stream reduces municipal exposure to higher tip fees



Low Deposit, Low Return

Recommendations to decrease solid waste by capturing redeemables that are now lost to the waste stream.

A Special Report of the Council on Environmental Quality

October 30, 2020

Preface

Connecticut could be on the threshold of a solid waste crisis, or of an innovative approach to handling its solid waste, or both. In 2016, approximately 100,000 tons per year of municipal solid waste (MSW) were sent out of state for disposal. That volume increased to approximately 400,000 tons in 2018. The waste-to-energy (WTE) facilities that Connecticut relied on for decades to dispose of eighty-seven percent (87%) of its solid waste might be less dependable destinations for the State's refuse in the future. Despite the air pollution, odor and traffic associated with WTE facilities, they offer a solution that was, historically, less expensive than shipping waste out of state. Of the seven WTE permitted facilities, one has stopped accepting waste (Sterling tire facility), one has ceased incineration and serves as a transfer station (Wallingford), and the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) facility, located in Hartford, has raised the possibility that it may cease to accept and process MSW. In 2019, that location processed 482,260 tons of MSW. Consequently, with the potential loss of the MIRA WTE facility, in-state WTE capacity falls to approximately 1.5 million tons per year, a shortfall of over 700,000 tons per year.

Historically, Connecticut has been in the vanguard of programs to divert material from the waste stream and recover recyclable components. Its extended producer responsibility programs for used mattresses and paint offer a solution for what had been confounding problems for residents wishing to dispose of those problematic items. Other steps towards product stewardship were taken with electronics recycling and mercury thermostat recycling. Extended producer responsibility may become the centerpiece of the State's strategy for handling solid waste. At this writing, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has launched the Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management (CCSMM) and has created an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Working Group within it.

Unredeemed deposit beverage containers accounted for at least 17,000 tons of the MSW generated in Connecticut in 2015. The redemption mechanism operates with virtually no cost to taxpayers. The consuming public are the volunteers that make it work. It is privately financed, it rewards those who participate, it reduces the cost of waste disposal for residents and municipalities and it returns revenue to the State. This paper estimates that the percentage of unredeemed beverage containers that can be removed from the waste stream can be increased by a minimum of 50 percent with just a five-cent increase in the redemption fee. Further waste reduction is possible if the categories of beverage containers that could be subject to redemption are expanded.

Because beverage container redemption is a form of both extended producer responsibility and recycling, the success of the program is linked to the market for recycled materials. This has been an international market, but there are some steps that could be done domestically to improve the demand for recycled material. An important step towards

“The presence of deposit beverage containers in the waste stream costs residents money.”

- CT Council on Environmental Quality, 2020.