

Modernizing Connecticut's Bottle Bill



In June 2021, Connecticut passed legislation that could improve its deposit return system (DRS) and became the first state in the northeast to raise its deposit value to 10¢. Planning for the system’s stewardship organization and potential for further reforms provide a critical opportunity to incorporate ten high-performance principles for modernizing DRS and go further.

BENEFITS DELIVERED BY MODERNIZED DRS

- ENVIRONMENTAL
- ECONOMIC
- SOCIAL
- + SAVES MILLIONS FOR CT TAXPAYERS & CITIES/TOWNS

NEW RESEARCH ON CONNECTICUT SHOWS THE IMPACT:

- 71,000
METRIC TONS
OF CO₂

reduced annually in greenhouse gas emissions—the equivalent of 15,400 cars off Connecticut roads each year ¹
- \$11.5+
MILLION
IN SAVINGS

for Connecticut cities and towns by redirecting recyclables away from costly curbside collection systems
- 85%
LITTER
REDUCTION

of beverage containers², creating far more livable communities

- 1.2
BILLION

additional beverage containers recycled each year, yielding 63,000 more tons of high-value material annually
- \$93
MILLION

added to Connecticut’s economy annually in Gross Value Added (GVA)³
- 1,200
TOTAL JOBS

that bring additional economic benefits through taxes and spending by these workers

HOW SHOULD A MODERN DEPOSIT RETURN SYSTEM WORK?

Accessible & Accountable

Increases access for consumers

with 2,755 projected locations to return containers so redemption becomes part of a Connecticuter’s daily routine

Includes more beverages containers

like “nips” (not in 2021 expansion) leading to nearly 9 million nips removed from roadsides and landfill streams.

44% to 90% jump

in redemption rate for containers included in CT deposit return system

Industry Financed

Funded by producers

so CT consumers or their cities and towns do not pay for the management of these materials

Creates efficiencies

by establishing clear standards, oversight, and enforcement that optimize performance and reduce fraud

Producers will pay

\$27.4 million annually - not CT municipalities and consumers, as they do now

Well Managed & Regulated

Government plays an oversight and enforcement role

to ensure performance standards are met by producers and retailers and enforce a 90% collection target in Connecticut

1 Calculated at: <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>
2 “National Litter Study”, Keep America Beautiful. 2021 <https://kab.org/litter-study/>.
3 Gross value added (GVA) is an economic productivity metric that measures the contribution of the DRS to the state.