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HIGH-PERFORMANCE PRINCIPLES TO MODERNIZE DEPOSIT RETURN SYSTEMS



Accessible & Accountable

1 EASY & EQUITABLE

Make deposit return system (DRS) simple for all consumers to understand and use. Establish a large network of redemption points, focused on retailers, so returning empties becomes a routine part of everyday life. In jurisdictions where the informal sector plays a critical role in collection and redemption, legally recognize and protect the rights of canners.

2 90% COLLECTION RATE

Set a high redemption target through legislation to hold producers accountable for meeting it, with enforced penalties if they do not.

3 \$0.10 MINIMUM DEPOSIT

Motivate consumers to return containers by having a high-enough deposit, paired with easy access, to ensure higher levels of redemption.

4 INCLUSIVE CIRCULAR SYSTEM

Close the loop on recycling by including a full range of beverage containers and ensuring materials collected are uncontaminated and of good enough quality for reuse or remanufacture.



Industry Financed

5 PRODUCER FUNDED

Require beverage producers to finance a system capable of achieving a 90% target redemption rate.

6 FAIR PAY FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS

Set a fair handling fee for parties providing services and redemption infrastructure that covers the cost of their receiving and storing beverage containers.

7 FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR MUNICIPAL RECYCLING PROGRAMS

Ensure an equitable transition to a modern DRS by reinvesting an adequate portion of revenue back into municipal systems and service providers in the initial phase of modernization.



Well Managed & Regulated

8 CLEAR SYSTEM STANDARDS & FUNCTIONS

Establish independent monitoring and safeguards to meet legislative requirements, and standards that producers can follow in the DRS process:

- Product Placement on Market (recycling design, labeling)
- Accessible and equitable service standards
- Administration (mandatory registration and database of barcoded containers)
- Redemption (technology use, recycled claim standards, clearing)
- Pickup and Recycling (contracts, processing, material ownership)
- Education and outreach (public campaigns)

9 PRODUCER REPORTING ON UNITS SOLD

Require containers to have barcode verification to ensure efficient annual reporting on audited sales and units collected.

10 GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT AND ENFORCEMENT

Establish specific government audit, oversight, and enforcement responsibilities. Set enforceable reporting requirements for producers with penalties high enough to incentivize compliance and system improvement investments, including government ability to raise deposit value if producers do not meet targets.