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Oregon’s Bottle Bill Leads the Nation with Highest Redemption Rate Over 85% of containers redeemed through Oregon’s system

Clackamas, Ore.—The Container Recycling Institute (CRI), the nation’s leading nonpartisan national beverage container recycling think tank, announced that, for the second straight year, Oregon’s redemption rate leads all Bottle Bill systems in the United States.

Oregon’s redemption rate in 2022 was 85.5%. The next closest state was Maine with a redemption rate of 78%.

“Oregon’s first-in-the-nation Bottle Bill continues to outperform similar systems because of creative, convenient return options like the Green Bag program, with an ever-expanding network of easy access for consumers,” said Eric Chambers, VP of Strategy and Outreach at the Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative (OBRC), parent company to the BottleDrop network. “When you combine industry stewardship with consumer convenience, you get results, and it’s an incredible honor to see Oregon’s system recognized as the best again this year.”

According to CRI, the national average recovery rate for beverage containers is only 35%, which shows the dramatic increase in performance made possible through deposit return systems. According to a study commissioned by Eunomia Research, only 27% of people in the United States live in Bottle Bill states, but they account for over 51% of the nation’s beverage container recycling.

A recent milestone in the Green Bag Program

BottleDrop’s [Green Bag program](#) hit a major milestone this week, signing up its one-millionth Green Bag account holder. Through the Green and [Blue Bag programs](#), individuals (via Green Bags) and nonprofits (via Blue Bags) can conveniently redeem containers in bulk, placing redeemable metal, plastic, and glass beverage containers all in the same bags and dropping them off at any BottleDrop bag drop location in Oregon, instead of redeeming them one container at a time. Customers place unique QR code bag tag stickers onto their bags, which associate the containers in their bag with the customer’s BottleDrop account. Bags are counted and credited to customer accounts within seven days - often more quickly.

With 100 (and growing) Green and Blue Bag drop locations available across Oregon, it’s more convenient than ever for Oregonians to return beverage containers and receive their refunds.

“Oregon’s system proves that when consumers have easy return options, they help ensure that their containers are returned for the best recycling outcomes, and no resources are wasted,” Chambers said.

Consumer convenience has sparked rapid growth in the program. Last year BottleDrop account holders dropped off more than 11.4 million Green and Blue Bags in Oregon, nearly tripling in volume in the past five years.

Nationally recognized for consumer convenience

[Recent reporting](#) from the national media group, Stateline (and covered locally by the [Oregon Capital Chronicle](#)), detailed the challenge that some Bottle Bill states face in providing consumer access because they depend on handling fees and private redemption center operators, which are impacted by volatility in the recycling market. The report cited Oregon as an example of how industry stewardship creates resilience and helps ensure consumers have easy access to their refunds. Oregon’s Bottle Bill is an example of extended producer responsibility, with OBRC making redemption centers and the Green Bag program available for consumers as part of the stewardship responsibility beverage distributors fulfill under the program. This structure ensures that Oregon’s system is resilient in the face of volatility and market forces that can hamper the performance of other systems.

About BottleDrop and the Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative

The Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative is the industry steward of Oregon’s nationally recognized beverage container redemption system and the operator of the BottleDrop network. A not-for-profit cooperative that recycles around 2 billion containers every year, OBRC believes in empowering people to redeem every container easily, efficiently, and effectively, ensuring that no resource is wasted. To learn more, visit [BottleDrop.com](#) or [OBRC.com](#).

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[In this folder](#), you will find images and b-roll footage from BottleDrop.

A chart of the redemption rates in 2022 for all Bottle Bill states is on the following page.

Redemption Rates and Other Features of 10 U.S. State Deposit Programs															
State	Redemption Rates											Amount of Deposit	Beverages Covered	% of Beverage Units Sold Covered by Deposit	Estimated Percent of Deposit Beverage Sales Recycled Via Curbside Programs
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022					
Michigan	95%	94%	93%	92%	91%	89%	89%	73%	75%	76%		10¢	- Beer & malt beverages - Carbonated soft drinks, sparkling water, kombucha - Wine coolers & distilled spirits coolers	55%	4%
Maine	90%				84%			76%	75%	78%		Wine & liquor ≥ 50mL: 15¢ All others: 5¢	- All beverages except dairy products and unprocessed cider.	92%	4%
Oregon	71%	68%	64%	64%	73%	81%	86%	77%	81%	86%		10¢	- All beverages except wine, distilled liquor, dairy milk and plant-based milk, and infant formula.	88%	2%
Vermont	76%							78%	78%	72%		Liquor: 15¢ All others: 5¢	- Beer & malt beverages - Carbonated soft drinks & sparkling water - Wine coolers - Liquor	46%	5%
California	74%	71%	72%	72%	68%	66%	67%	62%	59%	60%		<24 ounces: 5¢ ≥ 24 ounces: 10¢	- Beer & malt beverages - Carbonated soft drinks & sparkling water - All other non-alcoholic beverages - Wine coolers & distilled spirits coolers - Excluded: milk, some juices, wine, spirits - Wine and spirits to be added 1/1/2024	88%	Redemption rate reflects direct CRV redemption. Curbside and dropoff programs collected 9.8% of CRV beverage containers sold in CY2022.
Hawaii	74%	71%	67%	65%	62%	63%	63%	62%	62%	58%		5¢	- Beer & malt beverages - Carbonated soft drinks & sparkling water - All other non-alcoholic beverages - Wine coolers & distilled spirits coolers - Excluded: milk, wine, spirits	88%	Deposit containers collected at curbside (in Honolulu only) are included in reported statewide redemption rates; deducted here to show true refund redemption.
New York	62%	64%	65%	66%	65%	64%	64%	64%	70%	70%		5¢	- Beer & malt beverages - Carbonated soft drinks & sparkling water - Bottled water including flavored water - Wine coolers	78%	5%
Iowa	78%			65%								5¢	- Beer & malt beverages - Carbonated soft drinks & sparkling water - Wine coolers - Wine & Liquor	63%	2016 recycling rate was 71%. An estimated 6% of containers sold are recycled through curbside & dropoff programs.
Massachusetts	66%	66%	59%	56%	57%	52%	50%	43%	38%	38%		5¢	- Beer & malt beverages - Carbonated soft drinks & sparkling water	40%	10%
Connecticut	57%	53%	51%	49%	52%	50%	50%	44%	46%	45%		5¢ (increases to 10¢ on 1/1/24)	- All beverages except wine, distilled liquor, spirit-based hard seltzers, dairy milk and plant-based milk, and infant formula.	85%	10%

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