## Oregon's Bottle Bill: A Cooperative Approach



How Oregon's Most Prominent Public-Private-Partnership Delivers Outstanding Recycling Outcomes

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## Bottle Bill: A Brief History

## A private system run by distributors, founded on retail returns

2010
BottleDrop Redemption Center introduced

2017
Increase to 10¢ deposit

2020
Retail bag drop program expands

OBRC created privately run

2016
Reusable bottle planning begins

First Express site opens


Container expansion, huge increase in volume

Reusable program launches

## The Power of a Dime

## 10¢ Sparks Huge Demand

Redemption rate quickly went from 64\% to over 82\%
(now between $80 \%$ and $90 \%$ !) $\sim 35 \%$


## 2018 Expansion

Keeping pace with the industry
In 1971 Far fewer beverage and container types in stores
Today
Applies bottle bill to reality of beverage market


## Efficiency in Numbers

The Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative operates with...
~2 billion
containers/year recycled
retail redemption locations (~450 total RVMs)

## 80-90\% Annual Redemption Rate



Green Bag drop sites
26
Full-Service
Redemption
Centers throughout Oregon

## Zero

taxpayer dollars for operations

## BottleDrop Redemption Centers

Clean, fast and easy returns

- Single-purpose, indoor facilities
- Customers can redeem up to 350 a day
- 25 full-service redemption centers
- Two currently under development
- Possible because of return to retail requirement
- Largeșt center accepts approx. 100 million containers/year
- Paid for and operated by industry



## Green Bags

The easy self-serve account program

- Gear up. Customers enroll, get card and tags at kiosk, and buy bags at store
- Tag \& fill it. Place coded BottleDrop tag on bags and fill with redeemable containers
- Drop it. Leave bag at secure drop door
- Track it. Check account balance online or with our mobile app



## Express/Dealer Redemption Centers

Expanding access throughout the state

- Smaller volume markets and urban areas
- Expanded access to green bag accounts and no fee for bag drops
- 63 locations operating
- New locations added to the network at the pace of one or two per month



## Easy Access, Heavy Participation

The most convenient container return system in the world

Sign up, get cash, print labels right at the store (or via the mobile app)




Bags are sold for $\$ 2$ a box and are conveniently available at retail bag drop locations.

Convenient consumer access, easily deployed network of return locations



## Green Bag Volume



## Convenience and Results

## Currently around 930,000

 BottleDrop Account Holders- 5.2 million bags in 2019
- 8.3 million bags in 2020
- 11.2 million bags in 2021



## Container Returns by Location






## Blue Bags

## Redeem yourself, support your cause

- Non-profits:
- Enroll as fundraisers
- Distribute Blue Bags
- Drop full bags at a BottleDrop
- Collect a check
- Around 5,000 nonprofits raise over $\$ 5$ million each year to support community efforts across Oregon. Over \$18.5 million raised to date.
- Growth has been exponential. In just the first 9 months of 2021, nonprofits raised over \$4m, fully a third of the amount that had previously been raised in the program's 11-year history.


## BottleDrop Give has experienced

 tremendous growth. In just the past five years, nonprofits have raised over $\$ 13.5$ million, and over $\$ 17.2$ million since the \$3.4m program began.\$2.1m
\$5.1m

## A Recycling Motivation for Everyone

## Options bring Outcomes

- Litter remediation and recycling outcomes: Grade-A clean stream of materials for domestic recycling - Financial: Immediate Cash at an RC or store
- More affordable groceries: 20\% more in store credit throungh BottleDrop Plus
- Tenacious nonprofits: Donate to charity or fill Blue Bags
- Saving for College: Directly link your BottleDrop account to an Oregon College Savings Plan account



## Oregonians are familiar with the bottle deposit and return program.

And they agree that it is good (Jan. 2022 DHM Research)


## Where Does the Material Go?

Keeping the cycle close
Plastic: 100\% processed at ORPET facility located in St. Helens ( $\sim 30$ million lbs. of plastic last year) Glass: 100\% processed in Oregon and made into new bottles (including refillables!)


Aluminum: 100\% processed domestically

## ORPET

## Plastic processing right here in Oregon

- OBRC's plastics recovery rate is $83.3 \%$, compared to the national average of $\sim 35 \%$.
- Highest quality possible for the material -pelletizing now occurring for very circular recycling.
- Very important for industry to meet recycled content goals and policies.



## Refillables/Reusables

Building on the infrastructure
11 participating breweries, cideries and wineries so far

Affordable for producers
Fraction of the carbon footprint of even recycled glass

About 2 milllion units in circulation


## Refillables Participants

Off to a strong start with some of the Northwest's best


ANCESTRY


DOUBLE MOUNTAIN
BREWERY \& CIDERY



Learn more at obrc.com and BottleDropCenters.com

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