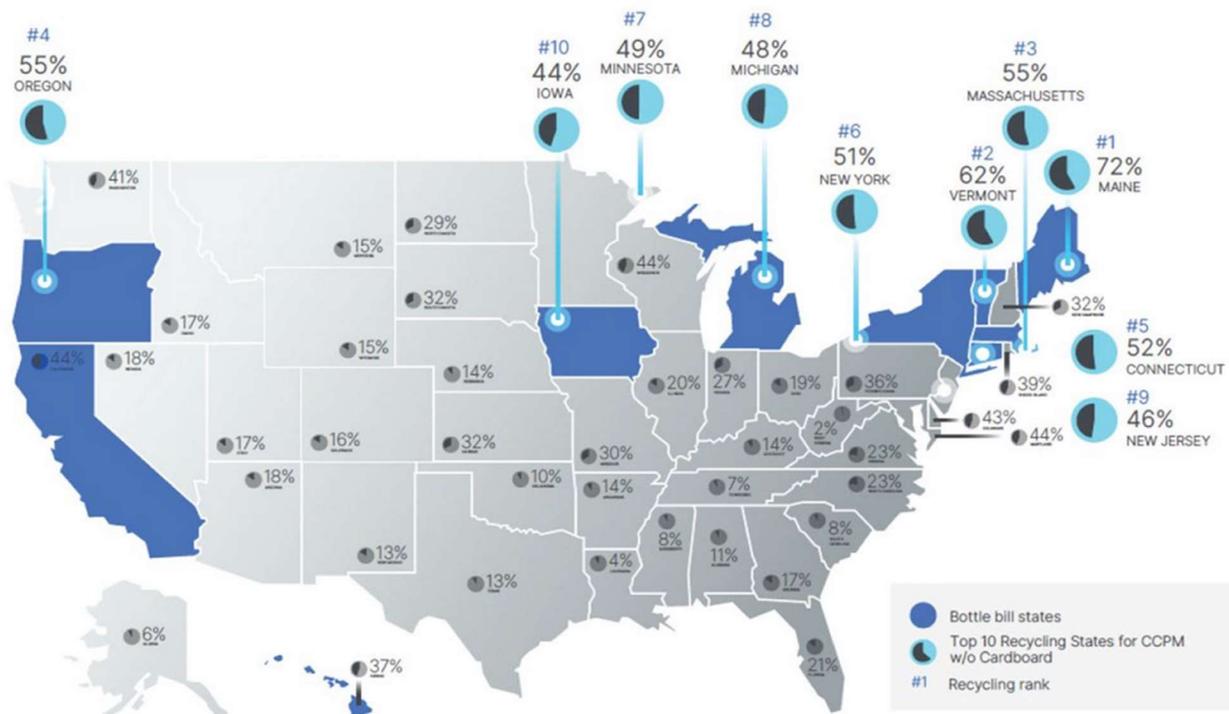


recycle smart MINNESOTA

Support & Improve Minnesota's Well-Developed, Proven, and Equitable Recycling System Oppose The Bottle Bill [HF3200/SF3260](#)

Minnesota Is a Recycling Leader

Minnesota has a well-developed recycling system that has placed it among the top ranked states. Minnesota Ranks #7 among all states in recycling of common containers and packaging materials, ahead of four bottle bill states in overall recycling and roughly tied with two other bottle bill states. The states that exceed Minnesota's recycling rate in this study are smaller and substantially less rural than Minnesota.



Consumers Face Higher Costs

- Consumers will pay higher prices due to the taxes on distributors that are added to product cost.
- Consumers will bear the added costs of more trips, burning more gas, to redeem their bottles and cans. This will hit low-income families and seniors who don't own a vehicle and those in rural areas the hardest.
- Consumers will pay more for curbside recycling when the valuable aluminum and plastic have been removed from the curbside bins.

Inconvenience for Consumers

- Consumers must store deposit containers apart from other recyclables (especially difficult in apartments), increasing the use of plastic bags
- Consumers forced to make special trips to return empties – more time, more gas, more emissions.
- Consumers must handle the sticky empties, sort, and count them as part of the return process.



Hurts Local Units of Government

Deposit taxes remove the most valuable materials (aluminum & plastic) from the current recycling system, increasing the costs to recycle the remaining materials. Most Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) share commodity revenues with municipalities and haulers to help offset the cost of curbside recycling programs. The loss of this revenue will increase curbside recycling costs for customers and municipalities.

Expensive to Operate

The MPCA report estimated the cost to be **\$179 million to operate the new system that was proposed in 2013**. Based on a 2013 study completed in Vermont, we estimated an additional \$40 million in travel costs for consumers to drive to redemption centers (not included in the MPCA report) for a total cost of **\$219 million**.

Marginal improvement in recycling

With beverage containers making up just **3%** of the waste stream, all this expense and effort would at best increase Minnesota's recycling rate by less than two percentage points – from 46 percent to 48 percent.

Greenhouse gas benefits of any additional recycling would be reduced by the new fleets of trucks put on the road to collect empty containers and by extra consumer trips to return empties.

A Bottle Bill Would Hurt Minnesota Jobs:

- Higher prices hit border communities and their merchants especially hard by driving business out of state. Border food stores lose 5% of total sales in other deposit states (most with 5¢ deposits); the loss would be worse with the higher deposit proposed here.
- In-state beverage producers and distributors will lose jobs. Higher prices mean declining sales and fewer employees needed.
- Minnesota recycling businesses that have made substantial investments in infrastructure to recapture recyclable materials will have their whole business model disrupted.

Alternatives We Propose:

Commit solid waste tax to its originally intended purpose (backfill the Environmental Fund with General Fund), which should include:

- Recycling infrastructure
- Create sustained consumer education
- Carts grants so that communities can make them available for everyone
- Add labels to all carts to ensure consumers know what can go in the cart
- Increase access to public space recycling
- Increase recycling access in multi-family housing

Current Bottle Bill States – Redemption Rates Continue to Decline

Most bottle bill states have experienced a decline in their redemption rates for the ten years ending in 2022 according to data from the Container Recycling Institute. Most bottle bills in the U.S. were passed at a time before curbside recycling (which collects a broader array of materials) was widely available.

| Redemption Rates and Other Features of 10 U.S. State Deposit Programs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--|---|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| State | Redemption Rates (a) | | | | | | | | | | Estimated Percent of Deposit Beverage Sales Recycled Via Curbside Programs (b) | Amount of Deposit | Handling Fee | Beverages Covered | % of Beverage Units Sold Covered by Deposit (c) | Population with Curbside Access (d) |
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | | | | | | |
| Michigan | 95% | 94% | 93% | 92% | 91% | 89% | 89% | 73% | 75% | 76% | 4% | 10¢ | None. No redemption centers. | - Beer & malt beverages - Carbonated soft drinks, sparkling water, kombucha - Wine coolers & distilled spirits coolers | 55% | 61% |
| Maine | 90% | | | | 84% | | | 76% | 75% | 78% | 4% | Wine & liquor ≥ 50mL: 15¢ All others: 5¢ | 5.5¢ Starting 09-01-2023: 6¢ | - All beverages except dairy products and unprocessed cider. | 92% | 67% |
| Oregon | 71% | 68% | 64% | 64% | 73% | 81% | 86% | 77% | 81% | 86% | 3% | 10¢ | None; Co-op funds redemption centers in partnership with retailers. | - All beverages except wine, distilled liquor, dairy milk and plant-based milk, and infant formula. | 88% | 95% |
| Vermont | 76% | | | | | | | 78% | 78% | 72% | 5% | Liquor: 15¢ All others: 5¢ | Brand-sorted containers: 4¢ Commingled brands: 3.5¢ | - Beer & malt beverages - Carbonated soft drinks & sparkling water - Wine coolers - Liquor | 46% | 76% |
| California | 74% | 71% | 72% | 72% | 68% | 66% | 67% | 62% | 59% | 60% | Redemption rate reflects direct CRV redemption. Curbside and dropoff programs collected 10.5% of CRV beverage containers sold in CY2022. | <24 ounces: 5¢ ≥ 24 ounces: 10¢ | Handling Fee of \$0.01092 per container paid to handling fee sites only. Processing payments for glass, PET, and HDPE average \$0.01 per container to redemption centers, curbside programs and other programs. All RCs and programs also keep revenue from scrap sales. | - 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% | 91% |
| Hawaii | 74% | 71% | 67% | 65% | 62% | 63% | 63% | 62% | 62% | 58% | Deposit containers collected at curbside (in Honolulu only) are included in reported statewide redemption rates; deducted here to show true refund redemption. | 5¢ | Variable fees, effective 10-01-2022: aluminum & bi-metal: 3.4¢ glass 8.7¢, plastic 4.3¢ RCs also keep revenue from scrap sales. | - Beer & malt beverages - Carbonated soft drinks & sparkling water - All other non-alcoholic beverages - Wine coolers & distilled spirits coolers - Excluded: milk, wine, spirits | 88% | 77% |
| New York | 62% | 64% | 65% | 66% | 65% | 64% | 64% | 64% | 70% | 70% | 5% | 5¢ | 3.5¢ | - Beer & malt beverages - Carbonated soft drinks & sparkling water - Bottled water including flavored water - Wine coolers | 78% | 95% |
| Iowa | 78% | | | 65% | | | | | | | 2016 recycling rate was 71%. An estimated 6% of containers sold are recycled through curbside & dropoff programs. | 5¢ | Dealer agents 1¢ Redemption centers and dealers: 3¢ | - Beer & malt beverages - Carbonated soft drinks & sparkling water - Wine coolers - Wine & Liquor | 63% | 76% |
| Massachusetts | 66% | 66% | 59% | 56% | 57% | 52% | 50% | 43% | 38% | 38% | 10% | 5¢ | Redemption centers: 3.25¢ Retailers: 2.25¢ | - Beer & malt beverages - Carbonated soft drinks & sparkling water | 40% | 77% |
| Connecticut | 57% | 53% | 51% | 49% | 52% | 50% | 50% | 44% | 46% | 45% | 10% | 5¢ (increases to 10¢ on 1/1/24) | Beer: 2.5¢ Other beverages: 3.5¢ Liquor "nips" have 5¢ sales fee | - All beverages except wine, distilled liquor, spirit-based hard seltzers, dairy milk and plant-based milk, and infant formula. | 85% | 86% |

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States with deposit taxes are struggling to keep redemption centers open. Many are closing creating redemption deserts, leaving consumers with no practical way to get their deposits back.