

State Bottle Deposit Laws

APR POSITION: The APR supports deposit collection programs, including non-carbonated beverage bottles such as used water and juice containers.

Value: Bottle bills significantly increase the supply of high quality postconsumer plastic resources for recyclers and end users. No alternative mechanism has been identified to replace existing deposit laws that would provide a similar stream of consistent, high volume, high-quality supply as that generated by these programs. The loss of this supply would have significant consequences for the plastics recycling industry and the recycling infrastructure.

Key Messages:

- Recycling all available beverage bottles will increase recycling rates for municipalities and generate the volume, consistency, and quality of supply required by the plastics recycling industry.
- Increased recycling will help consumer goods companies satisfy their recycled content commitments.
- Repeal of bottle bills should not be proposed without a comparable replacement system to prevent a reduction in the collection rate and the supply of postconsumer plastics.
- Expansion of bottle bills should include all plastic beverage bottles.
- The growth of new plastic bottle categories necessitates that all containers be covered by the deposit law in order to promote equity in the marketplace.
- Collection responsibility must be clearly defined, specifically identifying collectors and collection points.
- The impact on retailers and the operations of these stakeholders needs to be equitable.
- The APR encourages plastic bottle manufacturers to consult The APR Design® Guide for Plastics Recyclability prior to initial market distribution.
- Repeal of bottle bill laws would be devastating to the postconsumer plastics recycling industry, as a significant portion of the supply today comes from these states, and will require additional investment in alternative collection systems and funding of this must be considered.
- Expansion of bottle bills should be considered to provide a level playing field for all plastic bottles.
- Adequate costs associated for plastic containers should be considered in comparison with glass and aluminum.
- The effects on municipal collection programs should be considered when crafting legislation.
- Programs should also have fraud prevention measures that are equitable to brands and producers.
- APR will continue to coordinate with all plastic recycling stakeholders to implement various programs to increase supply and improve quality of recyclable material.
- Infrastructure and funding structures should be clearly defined in newly proposed bottle bills.

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