

# **Our Bottle Bill**

# Oregon's Bottle Bill

## History & Overview of the Program

### 1971 - Oregon Leads by Enacting the Nation's First Bottle Bill

- Goal: Reduce litter and clean up Oregon's beaches, highways, rivers and other public areas
- OLCC administers the laws set by the legislature in ORS 459A.700-744
- Distributors and dealers (retailers) have stewardship obligations for their packaging
- OLCC ensures that manufacturers, distributors, and retailers comply with the requirements of the Bottle Bill and approves the establishment of Redemption Centers
- Training, education, and partnership approach
- Civil penalties may be issued by OLCC for non-compliance
- Bottle Bill touches nearly every Oregonian



# By the numbers

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More than **2 Billion** containers redeemed in 2023

Highest redemption rate nationally **87.3%** - 2023

A cooperative approach with industry stewards

**27** OBRC Full-Service Redemption Centers

**2,000** retail redemption locations

**100** OBRC Green/Blue Bag drop sites



# Adapting to Growth: Program Evolution



1

Initial Products: Beer, malt beverages, mineral water, soda water, and soft drinks were included in the Bottle Bill, with a 5-cent deposit.

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2009 Expansion: Water and flavored water were added, with a 5-cent deposit, expanding the program's scope.

3

BottleDrop Redemption Centers: Launched in 2010, BottleDrop became a new avenue for consumers to return containers.

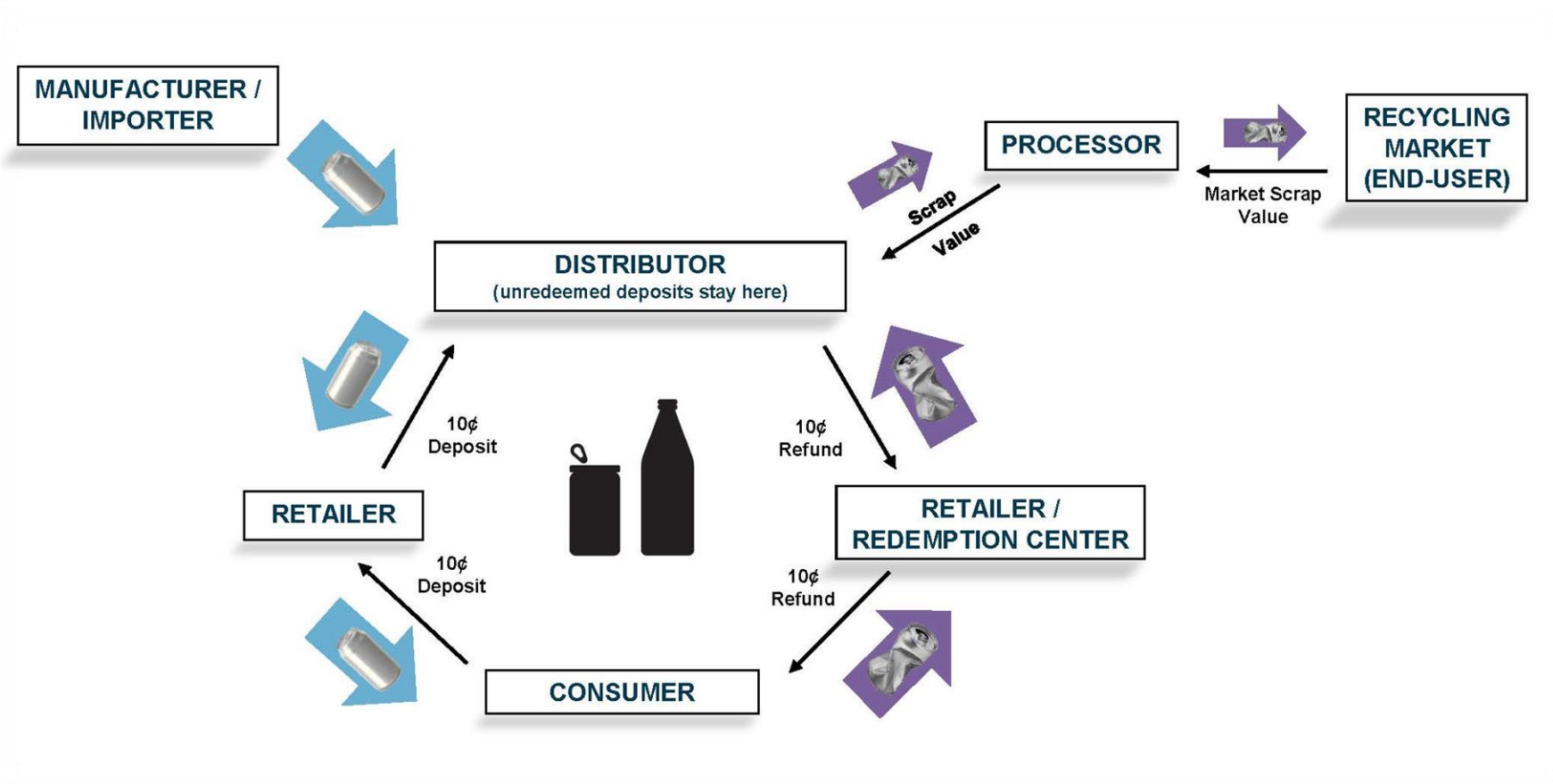
4

Increased Redemption Value: The redemption value for containers was increased to 10 cents in 2017.

5

2018 Expansion: The Bottle Bill expanded to include most beverage containers, further promoting recycling.

# How the System Works



# **Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative**

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**A private not-for-profit distributor cooperative that handles the day-to-day operations alongside retailers**

- Full-service Redemption Centers**
- Dealer Redemption Centers**
- BottleDrop Express**

# Full-Service Redemption Centers

## Application

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### Contents of Application ORS 459A.735 & OAR 845-020-0020/25

- Must identify the convenience zone(s)
- List the dealers that will be served by the center
- Located in commercial zoning or an area that will provide more convenient service
- Shall include such additional information as the Commission may require

# Full-Service Redemption Centers

## Order Approving Redemption Center

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### Contents of Approval Order ORS 459A.735 (3)

- Shall state the location of the convenience zones
- The dealers participating/not participating
- The services provided by the Redemption Center
- Whether the center will be located in an area zoned for commercial use under state statute or local ordinance, or in a more convenient area
- Such other provisions the Commission may determine



# Retailer Requirements

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Businesses that sell redeemable containers must accept back and pay the refund value of redeemable containers.\*

The requirements vary based on the square footage of the location and its proximity to a Redemption Center.



\*Dealers 5,000 or more square feet located in convenience zone 1 that participate in their corresponding redemption center may refuse to accept redeemable beverage containers.

# Distributor Requirements

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Businesses that sell redeemable beverage containers to retailers or sell redeemable containers they manufacture directly to Oregon consumers are required to:

- Pick up empties wherever they are redeemed
- Pay store or redemption center 10 cents per container
- Pay annual fee unless member of OBRC
- Annually register containers

Patrons of the Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative have these obligations met through their membership agreement

# Further Requirements

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## **ORS 459A.718 (7)(b)**

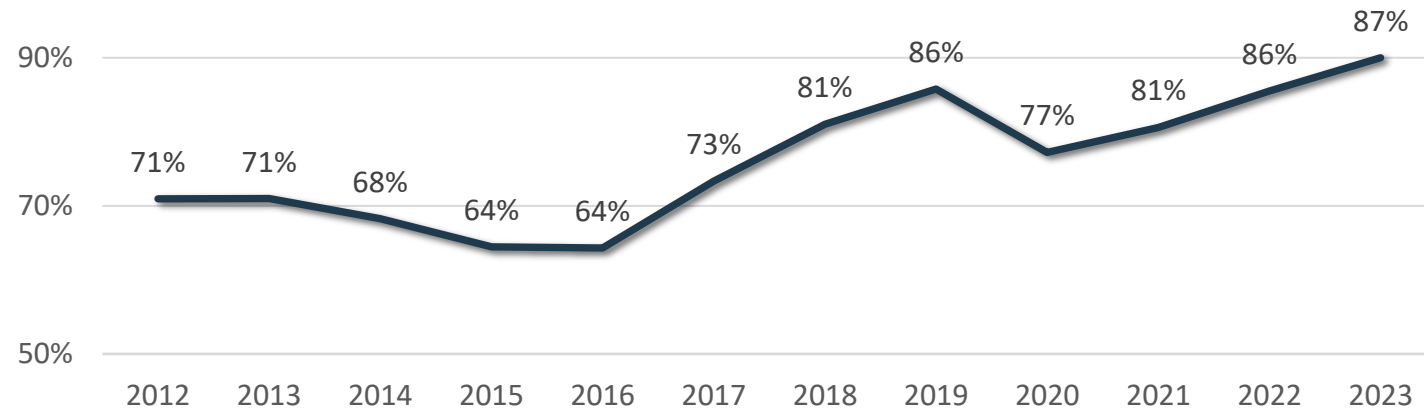
Businesses must annually report their sales and return data of redeemable beverage containers sold in the previous calendar year. Any business that manufactures or distributes beverages must complete the report.

## **ORS 459A.718 (8)(a)**

OLCC must compile the beverage container return data and post the annual redemption rate by material type to its website by August 1.

# Increased Participation Adapting to Growth

Increased Redemption  
Oregon's Annual Beverage  
Container Redemption Rates



Final redemption rate is released annually in August

# **Tri-Government Emergency Response to Fentanyl**

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**Two downtown Portland locations**

**Initiated: March 2024**

**Concluded: May 2024**

# Out-of-State Container Returns

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On-going concern

Loss of revenue

Target large-scale fraud

# Recent Legislation - Adapting to Change

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## **SB 1520 (2022)**

Requires distributors to join OBRC or pay an annual fee to OLCC

## **SB 582 (2021)**

Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act (RMA)

# Recent Legislation - Adapting to Change

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## SB 869 (2025 Session)

Specifies hours during which dealers must accept returns of beverage containers



**Thank you.**