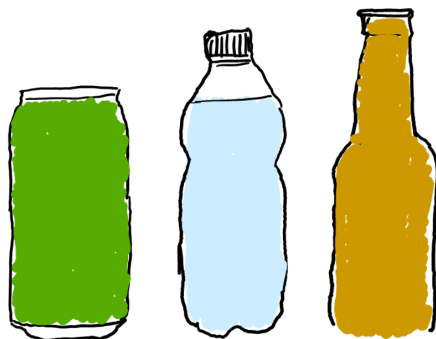


FAIR FEES IN RECYCLING REFUND SYSTEMS ENSURE EACH CONTAINER TYPE PAYS ITS OWN WAY



WHAT ARE BEVERAGE CONTAINER RECYCLING REFUND SYSTEMS (I.E., DEPOSIT RETURN SYSTEMS)?

In a recycling refund system, consumers pay an upfront deposit when purchasing a beverage that is refunded when the empty beverage container is returned. These systems deliver much **higher recycling rates** and **cleaner material** for recycling, which translates into a significant environmental and economic impact.

WHAT ARE FAIR RECYCLING REFUND SYSTEMS?

Elements of a fair recycling refund system include:

1. Using **unredeemed** deposits strictly for program costs that enhance the recycling refund system;
2. Ensuring the recycling refund system is **centrally managed** with respect to finances; and
3. Allowing the system to track costs and revenues by container **type** for fair allocation of fees.

REPORT CONCLUSION

Systems that are most fair in ensuring each container type pays its own way do the following:

- ✓ Track container sales and redemptions by container type;
- ✓ Administer periodic cost studies by container type for redemption activities, transportation & processing;
- ✓ Allocate revenues from unredeemed deposits to entities who pay supplemental fees to support the system;
- ✓ For container types where revenues exceed costs, offset future net costs for that material type and/or reduce future supplemental fee rates by crediting the excess revenues to a container-specific fund.

REPORT METHODOLOGY

In December 2022, Circular Matters assessed the financial responsibility of who pays for net costs of single-use beverage containers collected in recycling refund systems and how their cost share is calculated. Access the full report to view a summary table and descriptive analysis of four states, two provinces and two countries that have information on each recycling refund system's effectiveness, costs, flow of funds and level of equity in fee setting.

[READ FULL REPORT HERE](#)

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