

**California's
Beverage Container Recycling
and
Litter Reduction Program**

Fact Sheet



Fact

In 2020, Californians recycled an average of 49,185,201 beverage containers each day, which equates to more than 18.0 billion CRV beverage containers for the year.

**California Environmental Protection
Agency
Department of Resources Recycling and
Recovery
Division of Recycling**

Information accurate as of August 2021.
Values shown may change over time. Due
to rounding, figures may not add to 100%

2021 Containers per Pound (Recycling Centers Only)*

Material	# of Containers	Refund Value
Aluminum	29.7	\$1.65
Glass	1.97	\$0.104
#1 PET	22.6	\$1.27
#2 HDPE	6.8	\$0.56
#3 PVC	9.7	\$0.48
#4 LDPE	39.5	\$1.97
#5 PP	11	\$0.55
#6 PS	110.0	\$5.50
#7 Other	3.1	\$0.31
Bimetal	8.0	\$0.40

* Rates effective 1/1/2021, as published in 2021 Recycling Program Rates published 11/25/2020.

Containers Currently Included in the Beverage Container Recycling Program

- Beer and other malt beverages
- Wine coolers and distilled spirit coolers
- Carbonated fruit drinks
- Carbonated water, including soda and carbonated mineral water
- Carbonated soft drinks
- Non-carbonated water
- Non-carbonated soft drinks and “sport” drinks
- Non-carbonated fruit drinks that contain any percentage of fruit juice (excluding 100% fruit juice in 46 oz. or larger containers)
- Coffee and tea drinks
- Vegetable juices in beverage containers
- of 16 oz. or smaller.

**Sales and Returns
Calendar Year 2020 (Millions of Containers)**

Material	Sales	Returns
Aluminum	9,906.74	7,231.12
Glass	3,136.49	1,864.47
#1 PET	12,802.23	8,761.77
#2 HDPE	187.89	101.80
#3 PVC	0.44	0.00
#4 LDPE	8.04	0.24
#5 PP	5.36	0.83
#6 PS	178.03	34.45
#7 Other	25.49	2.64
Bimetal	42.26	4.44
All Materials	26,292.96	18,001.78

**Recycling Rates
Calendar Years**

Material	2018	2019	2020
Aluminum	83%	81%	73%
Glass	66%	67%	59%
#1 PET	74%	74%	68%
#2 HDPE	65%	68%	54%
#3 PVC	14%	1%	0%
#4 LDPE	3%	5%	3%
#5 PP	11%	19%	15%
#6 PS	27%	22%	19%
#7 Other	7%	8%	10%
Bimetal	14%	13%	11%
All Materials	76%	75%	68%

Processing Fee Measurements

2021 Recycling Center Cost per Ton*

Material	Cost per Ton
Aluminum	\$658.57
Glass	\$153.40
#1 PET	\$580.87
#2 HDPE	\$968.81
#3 PVC	\$1,523.95
#4 LDPE	\$2,174.05
#5 PP	\$1,950.41
#6 PS	\$1,208.11
#7 OTHER	\$1,323.67
Bimetal	\$1,221.24

* 2020 costs with reasonable financial return plus Cost of Living Adjustment as published in 2021 Processing Fees Notice dated 12/16/2020.

2020 Annualized Scrap Values per Ton*

Material	Scrap Value per Ton
Aluminum	\$999.11
Glass	-\$5.19
#1 PET	\$126.87
#2 HDPE	\$188.30
#3 PVC	-\$0.01
#4 LDPE	-\$7.72
#5 PP	-\$9.92
#6 PS	\$4.37
#7 Other	\$0.57
Bimetal	\$1.21

* For period 10/2019–09/2020 as published in 2021 Processing Fees Notice dated 12/16/2020.

2021 Processing Payments to RC, CS, CP/DP, SP per Ton*

Material	Processing Payment
Glass	\$158.59
#1 PET	\$454.00
#2 HDPE	\$780.51
#3 PVC	\$1,523.96
#4 LDPE	\$2,181.77
#5 PP	\$1,960.33
#6 PS	\$1,203.74
#7 Other	\$1,323.10
Bimetal	\$1,220.03

* Rates effective 1/1/2021, as published in 2021 Processing Payments Notice dated 12/16/2020. No Processing Payment for Aluminum.

2021 Processing Fee Paid by Manufacturers per Container Sold*

Material	Processing Fee per Container Sold
Glass	\$0.00417
#1 PET	\$0.00094
#2 HDPE	\$0.00689
#3 PVC	\$0.05106
#4 LDPE	\$0.01795
#5 PP	\$0.05792
#6 PS	\$0.00356
#7 Other	\$0.13871
Bimetal	\$0.04956

* Rates effective 1/1/2021, as published in 2021 Processing Fees Notice dated 12/16/2020. No Processing Fee for Aluminum.

Total 2020 Processing Payments Paid to RC, CS, CP/DP, SP (Millions)

Material	Processing Payments Paid
Glass	\$75.116
#1 PET	\$78.482
#2 HDPE	\$6.208
#3 PVC	\$0.000
#4 LDPE	\$0.007
#5 PP	\$0.072
#6 PS	\$0.182
#7 Other	\$0.547
Bimetal	\$0.327
Total Processing Payment	\$160.944

Total 2020 Processing Fees Paid by Manufacturers (Millions)

Material	Processing Fees Paid
Glass	\$12.511
#1 PET	\$12.183
#2 HDPE	\$1.455
#3 PVC	\$0.001
#4 LDPE	\$0.319
#5 PP	\$0.650
#6 PS	\$0.841
#7 Other	\$2.623
Bimetal	\$3.235
Total Processing Fees	\$33.818

Plastic Resin Code Description

Code	Plastic Resin
	Polyethylene terephthalate
	High-density polyethylene
	Polyvinyl chloride/vinyl
	Low-density polyethylene
	Polypropylene
	Polystyrene
	Other plastics, includes multilayer

Program History

AB 2020 (Margolin), authorizing legislation, signed 9/28/86

- Distributor labeling requirements and redemption payments began 9/1/87
- Dealer signage requirements and consumer redemptions began 10/1/87

Over 75 Bills enacted since 1987, including:

- SB 1221 (Hart), 1989: Two-for-a-nickel
- AB 87 (Sher), 1992: Processing fees, handling fees
- SB 1178 (O'Connell, Sher), 1995: Processing fees, handling fees
- SB 332 (Sher), 2000: New containers, program expenditures
- processing payments, expenditures
- AB 3056 (Nat'l Res Comm.), 2006: CRV, processing fees, processing payments, expenditures
- SB 63 (Strickland), 2009: Merged the Integrated Waste Management Board and the Division of Recycling into the new Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
- AB 7 (8X) (Budget Comm.), 2010: Fiscal solvency
- AB 1933 (Gordon), 2012: Enforcement authority, handling fees
- SB 861 (Budget Comm.), 2014: Enforcement; Community Conservation Corps
- AB 1005 (Gordon), 2016: Extended the plastic market development program, until 1/1/2018
- AB 2530 (Gordon), 2016: Established plastic content reporting requirements

- SB 458 (Wiener), 2017; Established the Beverage Container Recycling Pilot Program
- SB 854 (Budget Comm.), 2018: Enforcement authority
- SB 875 (Budget Comm.), 2018: Added new definitions and extended the plastic market development program to 2022
- AB 2493 (Bloom), 2018: Electronic payments, RVM requirements
- AB 54 (Ting), 2019: Pilot project extension, funding, and revision of requirements; dealer temporary exemptions
- AB 793 (Ting), 2020: Plastic beverage container minimum recycled content
- AB 107 (Committee on Budget), 2020: Frequency of reporting the status of the Fund to the Legislature

Beverage Container Recycling Grants – Fiscal Year 2020-21

Total Funds Awarded: \$1.5M
Number of Recipients: 7

Funds Paid to Cities and Counties Fiscal Year 2020-21

Total Funds Awarded: \$9.6M
Total Funds Available: \$10.5M
Eligible Cities and Counties: 539
Number of Recipients: 439

Local Community Conservation Corps Grants – Fiscal Year 2020-21

Total Funding Provided: \$9M
Number of Applicants for Grants: 14

California Beverage Container Recycling Fund Activity

Fiscal Year 2020-21 Estimated

Estimated Revenues	(Millions)
CRV In (minus 1.5% admin fee from Distributors)	\$1,493.5
Interest	\$3.9

Estimated Expenditures (Millions)

CRV Out (plus 2.5% admin fee to Processors)	\$1,044.2
Processing Fee Offset	\$133.5
DOR Administration	\$55.1
Handling Fees (to CZ RCs)	\$46.7
Curbside/Neighborhood Drop-Off Supplemental Payments	\$15.0
Cities and Counties Payments	\$10.5
Public Education	\$5.0
Quality Incentive Payment Program (for single-stream glass cleaning/color sorting)	\$10.0
Market Development Payments (for plastics)	\$10.0
Community Conservation Corps Grants	\$9.3
Nonprofit Competitive Grants	\$1.5

Program Participants

Participants	Count
Processors (PR)	159
Buyback Centers (RC)	1,220
Curbside Programs	601
Collection/Drop-Off (CP/DP)	169
Community Service (SP)	153
Beverage Manufacturers	2,275
Distributors	2,325

Convenience Zone Recyclers - Calendar Year 2020

Number of Handling Fee Sites: 578
Average Handling Fee: \$7,339.96

Participant Shares

Calendar Year 2020

Participant	CRV Out (%)	AL (%)	GL (%)	P1 (%)	P2 (%)
Traditional RCs	54	55	43	53	38
Supermarket-Sited Handling Fee RCs	26	27	18	26	20
Supermarket-Sited Non-Handling Fee RCs	5	5	4	5	6
Curbside Programs	12	10	29	12	30
CP/DP/SP	3	2	6	3	6

Enforcement Actions and Inspections Calendar Year 2020

Compliance Audits Completed: 71
Audit Findings: \$3.334M
Processor Load Inspections: 417
Claims Denied or Reduced: 8
Recycler Inspections Conducted: 920
Notice of Noncompliance issued: 51
Notices of Violation Issued: 11
Investigations Completed: 71
Recyclers placed on Prepayment Controls: 8
Probationary Reviews Completed: 218
Handling Fee Review: 8
Handling Fee Denied: 0
Dealer Inspections Conducted: 1616
Notices of Noncompliance Issued: 663
Notices of Violation Issued: 224