



2025

**Beverage
Container
Recycling**
IN CALIFORNIA

Beverage Container Recycling Rates

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Number of} \\ \text{Beverage} \\ \text{Containers} \\ \text{Returned} \\ \text{in CA} \end{array} \right\} \div \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Number of} \\ \text{Beverage} \\ \text{Containers} \\ \text{Sold in CA} \end{array} \right\} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Beverage} \\ \text{Container} \\ \text{Recycling} \\ \text{Rate} \end{array} \right\}$$

**The Beverage Container Recycling Program (BCRP)
Recycling Rate Goal is 80%**

The 2025 BCRP Recycling Rate is 71%

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{20.3 Billion Bottles} \\ \text{and Cans Returned} \end{array} \right\} \div \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{28.6 Billion} \\ \text{Beverages Sold} \end{array} \right\} = \text{71\%}$$



Collection Rates by Container Material Type



73%
Aluminum
Sales:
 10.74 Billion
Returns:
 7.79 Billion



61%
Glass
Sales:
 3.03 Billion
Returns:
 1.84 Billion



74%
#1 PET
Sales:
 14.12 Billion
Returns:
 10.51 Billion



54%
#2 HDPE
Sales:
 194.54 Million
Returns:
 104.95 Million



0.2%
#3 PVC
Sales:
 1.23 Million
Returns:
 2,368



3%
#4 LDPE
Sales:
 3.24 Million
Returns:
 84,688



92%
#5 PP
Sales:
 6.89 Million
Returns:
 6.32 Million



22%
#6 PS
Sales:
 224.14 Million
Returns:
 49.10 Million



2%
#7 Other
Sales:
 167.51 Million
Returns:
 2.91 Million



13%
Bimetal
Sales:
 50.34 Million
Returns:
 6.62 Million



2%
WDS-BIB
Sales:
 10.01 Million
Returns:
 156,999



13%
WDS-MLP
Sales:
 1.29 Million
Returns:
 165,858



9%
WDS-PC
Sales:
 25.46 Million
Returns:
 2.24 Million

Program Participants

CRV Recycling Collection Distribution



17.36 Billion
Containers Collected



2.52 Billion Containers
Collected



0.43 Billion Containers Collected



1,390

**Recycling
Centers**

Primarily Privately
Owned Businesses

637

**Curbside
Programs**

166

**Dropoff
Programs**

115

**Community
Service
Programs**

Other Program Participants



171

Processors



6,944

Distributors



6,749

**Beverage
Manufacturers**

Program Participant Payments for 2025

	Consumer	Recycling Centers	Curbside Programs	Community Service/ Neighborhood Dropoff Programs
Total Containers	N/A	17,358,562,819	2,523,021,717	432,368,209
California Refund Value (CRV)	\$ 955,021,642	CRV passes through recycling centers as it goes to consumers.	\$153,885,221	\$37,451,686
Handling Fees	N/A	\$89,057,534	N/A	N/A
Curbside Supplemental Payments	N/A	N/A	\$15,000,000	N/A
Processing Payments	N/A	\$154,367,355	\$77,432,082	\$15,216,599
Administrative Fees	N/A	\$7,086,248	\$1,133,084	N/A

Participant Shares for 2025

The below figures show the percentage of CRV paid out by each certified recycling program and the percentage of each material type redeemed through each program.

Certified Recycling Programs

	Recycling Centers	Curbside Programs	Community Service/Neighborhood Dropoff Programs
CRV Paid Out	83.3%	13.3%	3.4%
Aluminum	86.3%	10.7%	3.0%
Glass	45.3%	46.8%	7.9%
PET	81.3%	14.8%	3.9%
HDPE	60.3%	34.4%	5.3%
WDS-BIB	99.7%	0%	0.3%
WDS-MLP	100%	0%	0%
WDS-PC	100%	0%	0%

Grants and Other Payments for 2025

CalRecycle makes different payments to expand redemption sites, educate communities, and increase the amount of materials actually recycled into new products.

171 Certified Processors	Administrative Fees	\$28,516,982
7 Competitive Grantees	Beverage Container Recycling Grants	\$1,500,000
430 Local Governments	City and County Payments	\$9,511,921
14 Local Community Conservation Corps	Local Conservation Corps Grants	\$3,392,967
6 Quality Incentive Payment Participants	Glass Quality Incentive Payments	\$9,900,966
4 Glass Beverage Container Manufacturers	Glass Market Development Payments	\$11,229,970
24 Plastic Reclaimers and Plastic Product Manufacturers	Plastic Market Development Payments	\$16,420,088

Rates Paid for Containers Per Pound at Recycling Centers

(Effective Jan. 1, 2026)

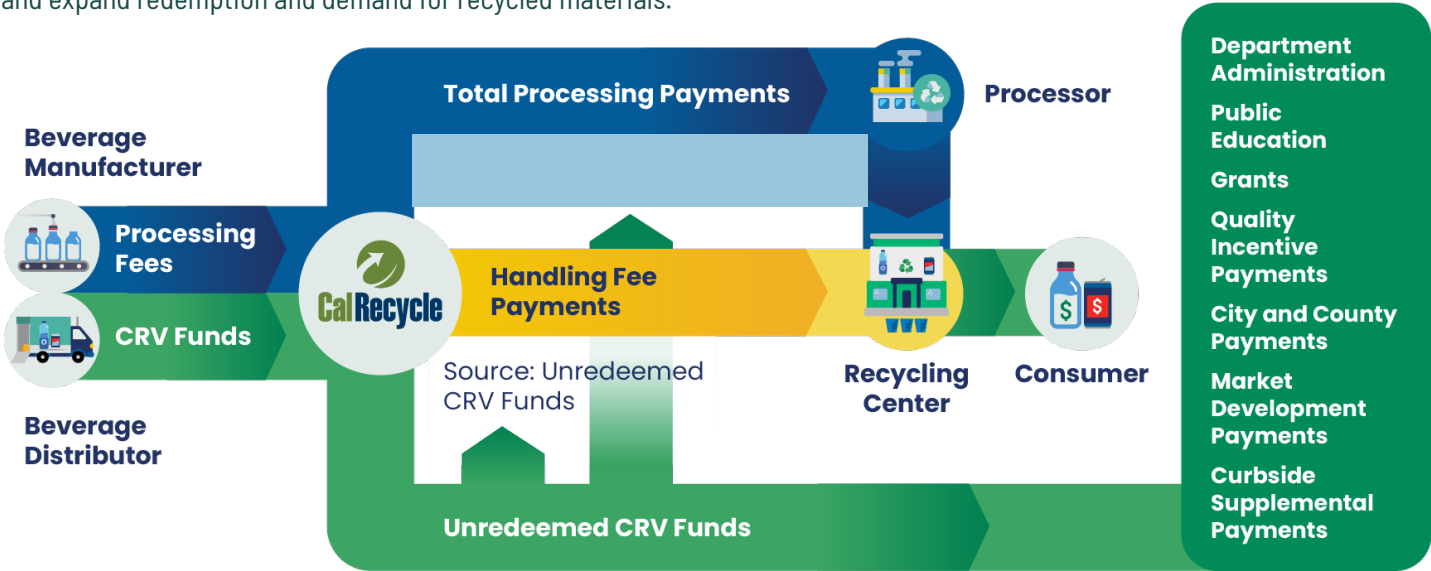
Recycling centers may issue CRV refunds by weight if customers do not request payment by count.

CalRecycle calculates the average number of containers per pound by conducting recycling center surveys.

Material Type	# of Containers per Pound	Refund Value per Pound
Aluminum	31.1	\$1.66
Glass	1.79	\$0.101
#1 PET	26.7	\$1.46
#2 HDPE	9.3	\$0.67
#3 PVC	9.7	\$0.48
#4 LDPE	39.7	\$1.98
#5 PP	11.2	\$0.56
#6 PS	109.0	\$5.45
#7 Other	3.1	\$0.31
Bimetal	8.6	\$0.43
WDS-Multi-Layer Pouch	17.4	\$4.35
WDS-Bag-in-Box	1.5	\$0.38
WDS-Paperboard Carton	17.1	\$4.26

Flow of Funds to Support Program Operation

Beverage Container Recycling Program funds pay to run the program, subsidize recycling participants, and expand redemption and demand for recycled materials.



Processing Payments and Fees

Beverage manufacturers' processing fees help pay processors for the cost to recycle materials whose scrap value doesn't cover costs.

The processing payments CalRecycle makes to processors fluctuate with the market value of materials.

2025 Processing Payments to Businesses:

\$247 MILLION

How Processing Fees and Payments Are Calculated

The formulas for determining the calculation of processing fees and payments are set by statute.

Processing payments equal the difference between the scrap values offered to recyclers and the sum of the actual costs of recycling for certified recycling centers, excluding centers receiving handling fees, plus a reasonable financial return. Processing fees equal the processing payments converted into pounds, then reduced based on the recyclability of the material type.

(Jan. 1 2026)

Material Type	Scrap Value per Ton	Cost per Ton	PP per Ton	PF per Container
Aluminum	\$1,660.00	\$889.60	N/A	N/A
Glass	\$6.20	\$258.52	\$252.32	\$0.00855
#1 PET	\$273.02	\$753.81	\$480.79	\$0.00085
#2 HDPE	\$296.54	\$1,536.58	\$1,240.04	\$0.00867
#3 PVC	\$0.00	\$2,416.83	\$2,416.83	\$0.08098
#4 LDPE	\$1.51	\$3,447.81	\$3,446.30	\$0.02821
#5 PP	\$5.32	\$3,093.16	\$3,087.84	\$0.01516
#6 PS	\$3.12	\$1,915.94	\$1,912.82	\$0.00570
#7 Other	\$1.88	\$2,099.22	\$2,097.34	\$0.21988
Bimetal	\$15.57	\$1,936.77	\$1,921.20	\$0.07260
WDS-BIB	\$5.56	\$1,505.69	\$1,500.13	\$0.32503
WDS-MLP	\$5.56	\$1,505.69	\$1,500.13	\$0.02802
WDS-PC	\$5.56	\$1,505.69	\$1,500.13	\$0.02851

Processing Payments Paid and Fees Collected in Calendar Year 2025 (Millions)

Material Type	Processing Payments Paid	Processing Fees Collected
Glass	\$128.017	\$20.874
#1 PET	\$109.955	\$15.793
#2 HDPE	\$6.069	\$1.432
#3 PVC	\$291.60 (exact amount, not in millions)	\$329.38 (exact amount, not in millions)
#4 LDPE	\$2,127.93 (exact amount, not in millions)	\$0.126
#5 PP	\$1.283	\$0.623
#6 PS	\$0.301	\$1.167
#7 Other	\$0.689	\$2.87
Bimetal	\$0.562	\$3.781
WDS-BIB	\$0.05	\$0.081
WDS-MLP	\$3,042.17 (exact amount, not in millions)	\$0.006
WDS-PC	\$0.084	\$0.117
Total	\$247.016	\$46.87

Handling Fees

CalRecycle pays handling fees to help supermarket, nonprofit, and rural recycling center businesses operate in high-cost locations, giving consumers convenient places to recycle containers.

2025 Handling Fees:

\$89.1 MILLION

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Enforcement Actions and Inspections During 2025



Beverage Container Manufacturers and Distributors

Compliance Audits Completed: **55**
Audit Findings: **\$8,369,102**

Processors

Load Inspections: **450**
Claims Denied or Reduced: **116**

Dealers (Retailers)

Inspections: **1,430**
Notice of Noncompliance Issued: **401**
Notice of Violation Issued: **297**

Recycling Centers

Inspections Conducted: **1,286**
Notice of Noncompliance Issued: **519**
Notice of Violation Issued: **263**
Investigations: **76**
Businesses Placed on Prepayment Controls: **12**
Probationary Reviews Completed: **262**
Handling Fee Reviewed: **74**
Handling Fee Denied: **27**

Legislative Bills Enacted in 2025

AB 720

(Rogers, Chapter 562, Statutes of 2025)

Sets criteria for QR code labeling or machine-readable indicia including eligibility to use the chasing arrows symbol; adds estate tasting event permits for winegrowers under the Business and Professions code.

AB 899

(Ransom, Chapter 627, Statutes of 2025)

Increases glass market development payments authorized under PRC section 14549.7 from \$50 to \$150 per ton; extends the program sunset date to January 1, 2030; and sets an annual funding appropriation of twenty million dollars to make these payments.



Overview of Beverage Container Recycling Program



Flow of Consumer Funds through CRV Program

