



October 28, 2025

NOTICE

Subject: 2026 Recycling Program Rates Effective January 1, 2026

In accordance with California Code of Regulations 2900, this notice announces the changes to recycling program rates, including refund value per segregated pound, refund value per commingled pound, and containers per segregated pound for each type of recycling program.

Attachment 1

This attachment shows the rates for refund value per pound and containers per pound by program type.

- **Table 1** - Applies only to recycling centers (RCs) where individual consumer transactions take place.
- **Table 2** - Applies only to material redeemed through reverse vending machines (RVMs). California Code of Regulations Section §2540(c) (1) requires RVM operators to be reimbursed at the applicable commingled rate. Exceptions can be made upon verification by the Division of Recycling, that the "reverse vending machine distinguishes 100% of the time between empty [CRV] beverage containers and other [non-CRV] containers."
- **Table 3** - Applies only to Curbside Programs (CSs).
- **Table 4** - Applies only to Drop-Off / Collection Programs (CPs).
- **Table 5** - Applies only to Community Service Programs (SPs).

Note to Certified Recycling Centers

If changes to the refund value per segregated pound rates overlap a receipt and log period, complete a Shipping Report for the period with the old rate, and then complete a separate Shipping Report for the period with the new rate. Failure to separate the weights may delay your payment, and CalRecycle will only reimburse operators at the lower rate for the entire reporting period.

Attachment 2

Attachment 2 is a refund value conversion chart to be used by RC operators only. It reflects the refund values paid for consumer transactions. The chart provides refund values based on weight received rounded to the nearest one-tenth of a pound. The chart is not for curbside, drop-off / collection, community service program transactions or for materials redeemed through a reverse vending machine. Attachment 2 is no longer published with this notice. You may request a copy of Attachment 2 from RateDetermination@CalRecycle.ca.gov.

Attachment 3

This attachment provides January 1, 2026, Individual Commingled Rate Survey (ICRS) program Refund Values per Pound for qualified programs and is used to determine correct payment to applicable curbside, drop-off / collection, and community service programs. All qualified curbside, drop-off / collection, and community service programs not listed on Attachment 3 will receive payment at the statewide average refund value per commingled pound rates for all material types.

Please note that the ICRS program was suspended via Notice dated August 29, 2012. CalRecycle authorized continued extension of rates for participants who earned Individual Commingled Rates for the 2013 calendar year. For participants who continue to qualify, Individual Commingled Rates will remain in effect until further notice.

If you have questions regarding this Notice or these rates, please email RateDetermination@CalRecycle.ca.gov.

CalRecycle – Division of Recycling
Rate Determination
1001 I Street, MS 9A
P.O. Box 4025
Sacramento, CA 95812

Thank you,

Monica Torres
Branch Chief
Financial Analysis and Policy Development Branch

CALIFORNIA RECYCLING PROGRAM RATES
January 1, 2026

Table 1: RECYCLING CENTERS (RC)

Material Type	Containers Per Segregated Pound	Refund Value Per Segregated Pound
Aluminum	31.1	\$1.66
Glass	1.79	\$0.101
#1 PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate)	26.7	\$1.46
#2 HDPE (High Density Polyethylene)	9.3	\$0.67
#3 PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride)	9.7	\$0.48
#4 LDPE (Low Density Polyethylene)	39.7	\$1.98
#5 PP (Polypropylene)	11.2	\$0.56
#6 PS (Polystyrene)	109.0	\$5.45
#7 Other Plastic	3.1	\$0.31
Bi-metal	8.6	\$0.43
Multi-Layer Pouch	17.4	\$4.35
Bag-in-Box	1.5	\$0.38
Paperboard Carton	17.1	\$4.26

California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 2500(e) (2), requires Recycling Centers to post refund prices by weight, by container, and by material type

Table 2: REVERSE VENDING MACHINES (RVM)*

Material Type	Containers Per Segregated Pound	Refund Value Per Commingled Pound	Refund Value Per Segregated Pound	CRV %
Aluminum	32.7	\$1.69	\$1.69	100.00%
Glass	1.49	\$0.091	\$0.092	98.91%
PET Plastic	30.1	\$1.60	\$1.61	99.37%
HDPE Plastic	19.3	\$0.96	\$0.97	98.97%

Table 3: CURBSIDE PROGRAMS (CS)

Material Type	Containers Per Segregated Pound	Refund Value Per Commingled Pound	Refund Value Per Segregated Pound	CRV %
Aluminum	31.8	\$1.64	\$1.64	100%
Glass	1.26	\$0.076	\$0.088	86.36%
PET Plastic	14.6	\$0.65	\$0.91	71.43%
HDPE Plastic	5.7	\$0.034	\$0.52	6.54%

Table 4: DROP-OFF / COLLECTION PROGRAMS (CP)*

Material Type	Containers Per Segregated Pound	Refund Value Per Commingled Pound	Refund Value Per Segregated Pound	CRV %
Aluminum	29.6	\$1.62	\$1.62	100%
Glass	1.2	\$0.077	\$0.085	90.59%
PET Plastic	16.0	\$0.70	\$0.95	73.68%
HDPE Plastic	5.6	\$0.020	\$0.50	4%

Table 5: COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS (SP)*

Material Type	Containers Per Segregated Pound	Refund Value Per Commingled Pound	Refund Value Per Segregated Pound	CRV %
Aluminum	31.4	\$1.63	\$1.63	100%
Glass	1.35	\$0.08	\$0.092	86.96%
PET Plastic	17.4	\$0.87	\$1.04	83.65%
HDPE Plastic	4.9	\$0.045	\$0.48	9.38%

*The January 1, 2025 program rates will remain in effect for 2026. The number of samples collected during the 2026 Survey Cycle was less than 70% of the planned samples as presented at the 2026 Rate Determination Survey Methodology Workshop. The Department has determined the collected samples are insufficient for calculating the most accurate rates feasible to properly compensate consumers and industry.

Note: The containers that produce the Containers per Segregated Pound (CPP) vary in size, volume, and weight. The refund value is \$0.05 for some containers (<24 oz.) and \$0.10 for others (>24 oz.). Therefore, you cannot simply multiply the CPP average by either refund value to get the Refund Value per Segregated Pound rates. The refund value for wine and distilled spirits in multi-layer pouches, bag-in-box and paperboard carton containers is \$0.25 regardless of size.