



March 16, 2026

NOTICE

To: All Interested Parties

Subject: 2nd Quarter 2026 Processing Payment Adjustments

Section 14575 of the Public Resources Code (PRC) requires the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to establish a processing payments for any beverage container type that has a scrap value less than the cost of recycling. This notice announces there will be adjustments to the processing payment for glass, #1 PET, and #2 HDPE. Table 1 of Attachment 1 provides details on the inputs used for calculating the adjustments of processing payments for glass, #1 PET, and #2 HDPE.

Pursuant to PRC Section 14575, the calculations of the processing payments are based on 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. [Senate Bill 353 \(Dodd, Chapter 868, Statutes of 2023\)](#) amended the process of how the quarterly adjustment to the processing payment is determined. CalRecycle may make an adjustment to the processing payment not more than once every three months using the preceding 3-month or 12-month average scrap value, whichever is lower. The scrap values used to calculate the processing payments for the 2nd Quarter of 2026 are based on the average scrap values paid to recyclers for the 3-month period between October 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025.

The average scrap values for glass, #1 PET, and #2 HDPE for the 3-month period between October 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025, are lower than both the 12-month period between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025, and the scrap values used to determine the current processing payment effective January 1, 2026. Processing payments for bimetal and plastics #3 through #7 are not being adjusted as the scrap values for these container material types are highly volatile and based on small volumes.

Table 1 displays the scrap values used to determine the processing payments adjustments. Table 2 displays the difference of the estimated annualized processing payments for glass, #1 PET, and #2 HDPE if the processing payments were adjusted.

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Updated information regarding the program, including all processing payment rates (Attachment 2), is available on CalRecycle's Beverage Container Recycling Program home page at <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/BevContainer/Notices/>.

For further information on the determination of processing payments, please contact the Statistical Information Section, at MarketInformation@calrecycle.ca.gov or (916) 323-5778.

If you have any questions concerning processing payment reporting requirements or completion of the Shipping Report, please contact the Recycler Training and Review Section at (916) 323-3008.

Sincerely,

Zoe Heller
Director

Attachment 1

Table 1. Estimated Processing Payments

	Glass	#1 PET	#2 HDPE
Scrap Value Basis for Current Processing Payment	\$6.20	\$273.02	\$296.54
3-Month Avg (October 2025 – December 2025)	\$2.70	\$76.56	\$244.18
12-Month Avg (January 2025 - December 2025)	\$5.58	\$222.09	\$292.88
Lowest Scrap Value	\$2.70	\$76.56	\$244.18
Scrap Value Percent Change	-56.45%	-71.96%	-17.66%
Current Processing Payment per Ton (Effective 1/1/2026)	\$252.32	\$480.79	\$1,240.04
Calculated 2 nd Quarter Processing Payment per Ton	\$255.82	\$677.25	\$1,292.40
Current Processing Payment per pound (Effective 1/1/2026)	\$0.12616	\$0.24039	\$0.62002
Calculated 2 nd Quarter Processing Payment per pound	\$0.12791	\$0.33862	\$0.64620
Percent Change to Processing Payment per Pound	1.39%	40.86%	4.22%
Processing Payment per Pound Effective 4/1/2026	\$0.12791	\$0.33862	\$0.64620

Table 2 – Estimated Annualized Processing Payments

	Glass	#1 PET	#2 HDPE
Estimated Current PP Payout	\$131,996,264	\$95,043,990	\$7,098,224
Estimated Adjusted PP Payout	\$133,831,627	\$133,906,422	\$7,397,399
Difference (For Year)	\$1,835,362	\$38,862,432	\$299,175
Difference (For Remaining 3 Quarters)	\$1,376,522	\$29,146,824	\$224,381

Attachment 2**2nd Quarter 2026 Processing Payments for Recyclers**

(Effective April 1, 2026)

	Glass	PET	HDPE	Vinyl	LDPE	PP	PS	Other	BiMetal	WDS-BIB	WDS-MLP	WDS-PC
Cost of Recycling per Ton & COLA	\$ 235.02	\$ 685.28	\$ 1,396.89	\$ 2,197.12	\$ 3,134.37	\$ 2,811.96	\$ 1,741.76	\$ 1,908.38	\$ 1,760.70	\$ 1,368.81	\$ 1,368.81	\$ 1,368.81
Reasonable Financial Return	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Cost of Recycling per Ton with Reasonable Financial Return & COLA	\$ 258.52	\$ 753.81	\$ 1,536.58	\$ 2,416.83	\$ 3,447.81	\$ 3,093.16	\$ 1,915.94	\$ 2,099.22	\$ 1,936.77	\$ 1,505.69	\$ 1,505.69	\$ 1,505.69
Scrap Value per Ton	\$ 2.70	\$ 76.56	\$ 244.18	\$ -	\$ 1.51	\$ 5.32	\$ 3.12	\$ 1.88	\$ 15.57	\$ 5.56	\$ 5.56	\$ 5.56
Processing Payment per Ton	\$ 255.82	\$ 677.25	\$ 1,292.40	\$ 2,416.83	\$ 3,446.30	\$ 3,087.84	\$ 1,912.82	\$ 2,097.34	\$ 1,921.20	\$ 1,500.13	\$ 1,500.13	\$ 1,500.13
Processing Payment per Pound	\$ 0.12791	\$ 0.33862	\$ 0.64620	\$ 1.20842	\$ 1.72315	\$ 1.54392	\$ 0.95641	\$ 1.04867	\$ 0.96060	\$ 0.75007	\$ 0.75007	\$ 0.75007