

Consumer Recycling Refund Value Fact Sheet

Background to the California Beverage Container Recycling Background Recycling and Litter Reduction Program and Program

*California's Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Program is intended to provide customers the opportunity to return beverage containers conveniently, efficiently and economically. In order to accomplish this, recycling centers may pay based on the weight of beverage containers to reduce the time to complete a transaction. To create a weight-based returns system, the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (**CalRecycle**), Division of Recycling (**Division**) establishes separate minimum reimbursement rates for each material type, for example \$1.54 per pound for California Refund Value (**CRV**) aluminum.*

CRV is \$.05 for each container of less than 24-ounce capacity and \$.10 for each container of 24-ounce or greater capacity.

The minimum reimbursement rates are based on on-going statewide surveys of beverage containers received at recycling centers. Samples are collected throughout the year from all regions of the state. The containers sampled represent the total of containers redeemed in California.

As these minimum rates are statewide averages, they will approximate the amount that the materials are worth if redeemed by count.

Helpful Hints to Ensure Proper Payment of CRV:

- Request payment by weight if you are redeeming beverage containers that vary greatly in size and type.
- As plastic beverage containers vary greatly in size and type, request redemption payment by count if your beverage containers are all of similar size, for example all 500-milliliter (16.9 ounce) or all two-liter bottles.

The State of California does not own or operate recycling centers. Recycling centers are certified by the State and are required to honor any request for redemption payment by count for up to 50 empty beverage containers of each material type. A recycling center may choose to pay by count for more than the 50 containers, but is not required to do so.

Consumers with questions should call the division at 1-800-Recycle or should visit the division's website at www.calrecycle.ca.gov/BevContainer/