

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

# FACT SHEET



**Fact**

In 2019, Californians recycled an average of 50,595,497 beverage containers each day, which equates to more than 18.5 billion CRV beverage containers for the year.

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

Information accurate as of May 2020.  
Values shown may change over time. Due to  
rounding, figures may not add to 100%

**2020 CONTAINERS PER POUND  
(Recycling Centers Only)\***

Material	# of Containers	Refund Value
Aluminum	29.5	\$1.61
Glass	1.92	\$0.104
#1 PET	23	\$1.28
#2 HDPE	6.9	\$0.58
#3 PVC	9.7	\$0.48
#4 LDPE	40.8	\$2.04
#5 PP	11	\$0.55
#6 PS	109.7	\$5.49
#7 Other	3.1	\$0.31
Bimetal	8.1	\$0.41

\* Rates effective 1/1/2020, as published in 2020 Recycling Program Rates published 12/1/2019.

**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	8,702.31	7,067.70
Glass	3,085.46	2,064.30
#1 PET	12,369.21	9,172.96
#2 HDPE	176.96	119.65
#3 PVC	0.21	0.00
#4 LDPE	6.98	0.32
#5 PP	3.50	0.68
#6 PS	151.19	33.94
#7 Other	32.54	2.63
Bimetal	39.46	5.17
All Materials	24,567.82	18,467.36

**RECYCLING RATES  
Calendar Years**

Material	2017	2018	2019
Aluminum	84%	83%	81%
Glass	69%	66%	67%
#1 PET	73%	74%	74%
#2 HDPE	64%	65%	68%
#3 PVC	11%	14%	1%
#4 LDPE	3%	3%	5%
#5 PP	7%	11%	19%
#6 PS	26%	27%	22%
#7 Other	7%	7%	8%
Bimetal	12%	14%	13%
All Materials	75%	76%	75%

## PROCESSING FEE MEASUREMENTS

### 2020 RECYCLING CENTER COST PER TON\*

Material	Cost per Ton
Aluminum	\$646.66
Glass	\$150.62
#1 PET	\$570.37
#2 HDPE	\$951.30
#3 PVC	\$1,496.40
#4 LDPE	\$2,134.75
#5 PP	\$1,915.16
#6 PS	\$1,186.27
#7 OTHER	\$1,299.75
Bimetal	\$1,199.17

\* 2019 costs with reasonable financial return plus Cost of Living Adjustment as published in 2020 Processing Fees Notice dated 12/16/2020.

### 2019 ANNUALIZED SCRAP VALUES PER TON\*

Material	Scrap Value per Ton
Aluminum	\$1,142.22
Glass	-\$2.38
#1 PET	\$194.23
#2 HDPE	\$195.92
#3 PVC	\$0
#4 LDPE	\$5.99
#5 PP	\$28.84
#6 PS	\$12.67
#7 Other	\$1.52
Bimetal	\$3.07

\* For period 10/2018–09/2019 as published in 2020 Processing Fees Notice dated 12/16/2019.

### 2020 PROCESSING PAYMENTS TO RC, CS, CP/DP, SP PER TON\*

Material	Processing Payment
Glass	\$153.00
#1 PET	\$376.14
#2 HDPE	\$755.38
#3 PVC	\$1,496.40
#4 LDPE	\$2,128.76
#5 PP	\$1,886.32
#6 PS	\$1,173.60
#7 Other	1,298.23
Bimetal	1,196.10

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

### 2020 PROCESSING FEE PAID BY MANUFACTURERS PER CONTAINER SOLD\*

Material	Processing Fee per Container Sold
Glass	\$0.00375
#1 PET	\$0.00066
#2 HDPE	\$0.00602
#3 PVC	\$0.05014
#4 LDPE	\$0.01696
#5 PP	\$0.05573
#6 PS	\$0.00348
#7 Other	\$0.13610
Bimetal	\$0.04799

\* Rates effective 1/1/2020, as published in 2020 Processing Fees Notice dated 12/16/2019. No Processing Fee for Aluminum.








### TOTAL 2019 PROCESSING PAYMENTS PAID TO RC, CS, CP/DP, SP (MILLIONS)

Material	Processing Payments Paid
Glass	\$66.347
#1 PET	\$62.710
#2 HDPE	\$4.236
#3 PVC	\$0.000
#4 LDPE	\$0.006
#5 PP	\$0.038
#6 PS	\$0.123
#7 Other	\$0.374
Bimetal	\$0.264
Total Processing Payment	\$134.097

### TOTAL 2019 PROCESSING FEES PAID BY MANUFACTURERS (MILLIONS)

Material	Processing Fees Paid
Glass	\$9.285
#1 PET	\$8.821
#2 HDPE	\$0.858
#3 PVC	\$0.001
#4 LDPE	\$0.194
#5 PP	\$0.148
#6 PS	\$0.482
#7 Other	\$2.227
Bimetal	\$1.760
Total Processing Fees	\$23.777

## 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

## FUNDS PAID TO CITIES AND COUNTIES Fiscal Year 2019-20

Total Funds Awarded: \$9.5M  
 Total Funds Available: \$10.5M  
 Eligible Cities and Counties: 539  
 Number of Recipients: 411

## LOCAL COMMUNITY CONSERVATION CORPS GRANTS – Fiscal Year 2019-20

Total Funding Provided: \$16.5 M  
 Number of Applicants for Grants: 14

## BEVERAGE CONTAINER RECYCLING GRANTS – Fiscal Year 2018-19

Total Funds Awarded: \$1.29M  
 Number of Recipients: 6

**CALIFORNIA BEVERAGE CONTAINER  
RECYCLING FUND ACTIVITY**

**Fiscal Year 2019-20 Estimated**

<b>Estimated Revenues</b>	(Millions)
CRV In (minus 1.5% admin fee from Distributors)	\$1,319.2
Interest	\$3.8

<b>Estimated Expenditures</b>	(Millions)
CRV Out (plus 2.5% admin fee to Processors)	\$1,075.0
Processing Fee Offset	\$124.9
DOR Administration	\$59.3
Handling Fees (to CZ RCs)	\$46.0
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	\$8.5
Nonprofit Competitive Grants	\$1.5

**PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

<b>Participants</b>	<b>Count</b>
Processors (PR)	166
Buyback Centers (RC)	1,253
Curbside Programs	603
Collection/Drop-Off (CP/DP)	175
Community Service (SP)	179
Beverage Manufacturers	2,207
Distributors	2,293

**CONVENIENCE ZONE RECYCLERS -  
Calendar Year 2019**

Number of Handling Fee Sites: 820  
Average Handling Fee: \$5,420.34

**PARTICIPANT SHARES  
Calendar Year 2019**

<b>Participant</b>	<b>CRV Out (%)</b>	<b>AL (%)</b>	<b>GL (%)</b>	<b>P1 (%)</b>	<b>P2 (%)</b>
Traditional RCs	55	57	45	54	37
Supermarket-Sited Handling Fee RCs	27	27	18	27	19
Supermarket-Sited Non-Handling Fee RCs	6	6	5	6	6
Curbside Programs	10	7	25	11	31
CP/DP/SP	3	2	7	3	6

**ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS AND INSPECTIONS**

**Calendar Year 2019**

Compliance Audits Completed: 58  
Audit Findings: \$7.011M  
Processor Load Inspections: 2,994  
Claims Denied or Reduced: 14  
Recycler Inspections Conducted: 1,974  
Notice of Noncompliance issued: 408  
Notices of Violation Issued: 152  
Investigations Completed: 97  
Recyclers placed on Prepayment Controls: 30  
Probationary Reviews Completed: 147  
Handling Fee Review: 56  
Handling Fee Denied: 33  
Dealer Inspections Conducted: 2540  
Notices of Noncompliance Issued: 1,658  
Notices of Violation Issued: 152