



## DELIVERING RESULTS FOR OREGON



2023  
OREGON BEVERAGE RECYCLING COOPERATIVE  
OBRC  
ANNUAL REPORT





## Celebrating Results

It's widely known that Oregon's Bottle Bill, often heralded as one of the nation's most innovative environmental policy achievements, delivers outstanding outcomes for Oregonians. Our redemption rate leads the nation, we enjoy a major reduction in litter along our beaches, rivers, roadsides and special places, and our clean recyclable material facilitates high-quality domestic recycling outcomes. What is less known is that Oregon's Bottle Bill created a unique industry-stewardship model, with the beverage industry actually serving as the operator of the system.

The beverage industry in Oregon is proud of the role it plays, helping provide the most convenient and successful container redemption system in the United States. We're also proud of the partnerships we have formed at the community level, helping over 5,600 nonprofits across Oregon raise over \$5 million each year through our BottleDrop Give program. The 2023 Annual Report is a testament to the beverage industry's commitment as stewards of the program and OBRC's efforts to go the extra mile to deliver results for the environment, consumers, local communities, grocery retail partners, and beverage distributor members.

The data in this report is impressive: Over 2 billion containers redeemed, \$208.8 million paid out to Oregonians and nonprofits in container refunds, and a preliminary OBRC redemption rate of over 90%. But behind those staggering numbers is the heart of our system: The 520 employees across Oregon who demonstrate daily resilience, commitment, and drive to ensure that Oregon's Bottle Bill remains a source of pride and inspiration for decades to come.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'John Andersen', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**John Andersen**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative

## 2023 by the Numbers

For the second straight year, Oregonians redeemed and recycled over 2 billion containers through Oregon's Bottle Bill and, for the first time since 2019, OBRC's preliminary redemption rate crested 90%. That's a direct result of the convenience provided through a statewide network of return options. Individuals and nonprofits received over \$208 million in refunds in 2023, and Oregonians everywhere enjoyed the outstanding environmental and recycling outcomes the system helps deliver.

**520** employees

**347** co-op participants

**160.7 million** pounds of materials processed

**116,055** new BottleDrop account sign-ups

**27** full-service BottleDrop Redemption Centers (1 new)

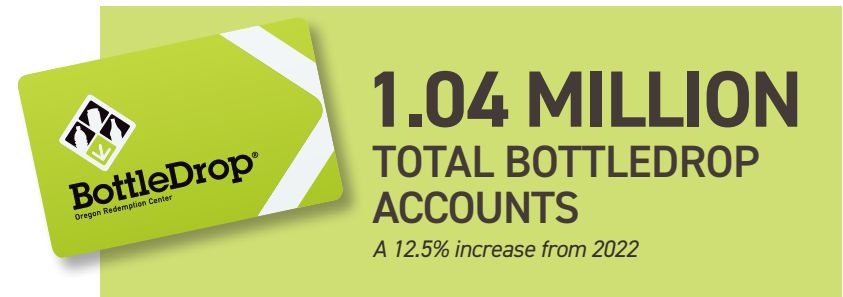
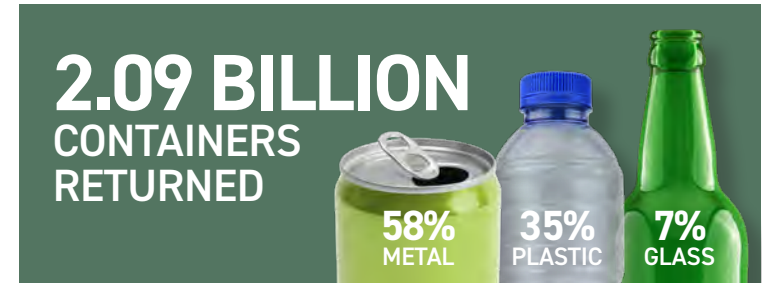
**99** bag drop locations

**53,496** metric tons of CO2 equivalent emissions reduced  
– comparable to taking 11,358 passenger cars off the road\*

**90.5%** redemption rate\*\*

*\*By recycling containers through OBRC vs. sending beverage containers to landfills, as calculated by US EPA Waste Reduction Model*

*\*\*Preliminary data. OBRC submits final data to OLCC in June of each year.*



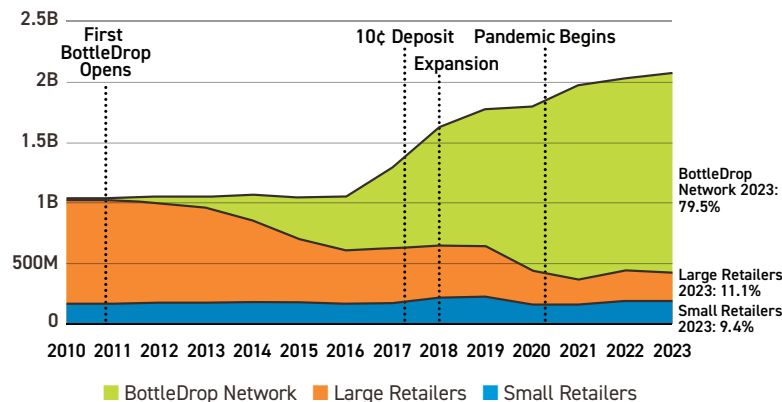
# Growing the BottleDrop Network

2023 was a year of expansion for the BottleDrop network. Longtime access priorities were realized by bringing the BottleDrop network to Crook, Wasco, and Curry Counties for the first time, with new Green Bag drop locations deployed at Erickson's Thriftway in Prineville, Fred Meyer in The Dalles, and Fred Meyer in Brookings. Yamhill County also received its first full-service BottleDrop Redemption Center in McMinnville, which opened in September. The BottleDrop network reached another milestone during 2023, eclipsing 100 total Green and Blue Bag drop off locations across Oregon for the first time, before ending the year at 99 locations.

"Consumer convenience helps achieve strong recycling performance, and I'm thrilled to see the bag program make its way to The Dalles, which will help Oregon's container redemption system continue to lead in the nation."

– State Representative Jeff Helfrich

## CONTAINER RETURNS BY LOCATION

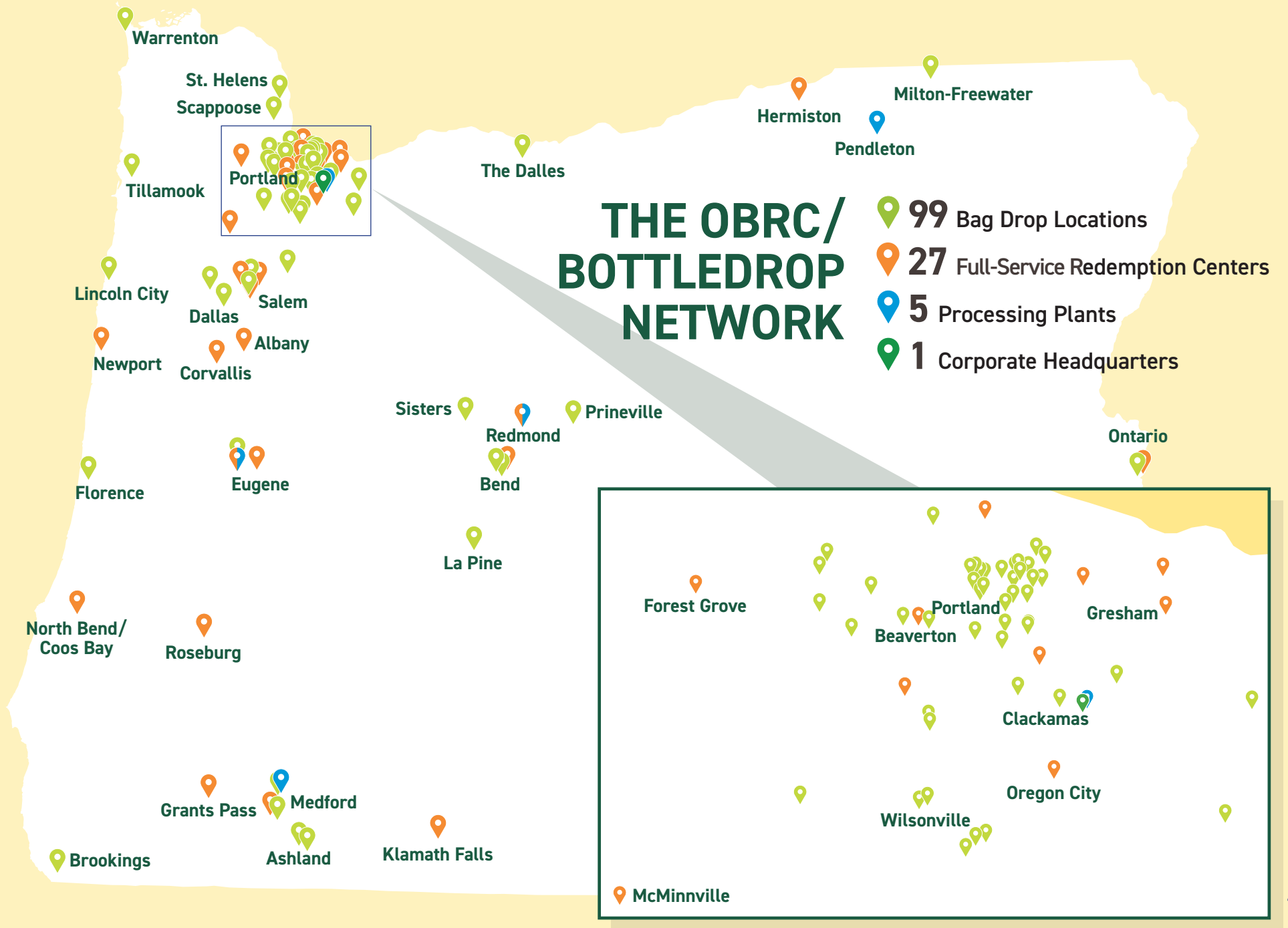


City Councilor Zack Geary drops off the inaugural Blue Bag at the McMinnville Redemption Center for the McMinnville Education Foundation.



Left to right: Erickson's Thriftway in Prineville, Fred Meyer in Brookings, the McMinnville Redemption Center and Fred Meyer in The Dalles





## Creating Positive Change Across Oregon

The Bottle Bill has long united Oregonians who work together to dramatically reduce litter and greatly boost recycling outcomes. That means more recyclable containers are redeemed for high-quality domestic recycling. From the beginning, it has helped protect Oregon's ocean, beaches, roadsides, and special places. Over the years, the Bottle Bill has also become a critical piece of the state's social infrastructure, as Oregonians put container refunds to work supporting local nonprofits and community groups. OBRC is proud to partner with groups across Oregon to provide additional support through OBRC's Containers for Change program, the OBRC Emergency Fund, and the BottleDrop Fund at the Oregon Community Foundation.

Volunteers from Build Lebanon Trails, a 2023 Containers for Change recipient

## 41 NONPROFITS RECEIVED FUNDING THROUGH CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE



## 12 nonprofits were awarded grants through the BottleDrop Fund at the Oregon Community Foundation.

**Ashland Community Composting**, helping reduce food waste through composting efforts at Jackson County Schools.

**Bonneville Environmental Foundation**, supporting youth and communities by building clean energy skills through STEM education in Oregon schools.

**CARTM**, revitalizing the local Master Recycler course and empowering Tillamook County residents with knowledge of proper recycling practices.

**Children's Forest of Central Oregon**, boosting access to the NatureHoods program, a free outdoor program for kindergarten – second grade students in Central Oregon.

**Clatsop County Master Gardener Association**, providing public education, outreach, and environmental conservation in Clatsop County.

**Columbia Gorge Discovery Center**, furthering the reach of education programs and enhancing the visitor experience in the Columbia Gorge.

**Columbia Slough Watershed Council**, enhancing access to outdoor spaces, providing environmental education and protecting North Portland's natural areas.

**Elakha Alliance**, working to restore sea otter populations on the Oregon Coast.

**Everyone Village**, partnering with a safe rest village in Eugene to provide alternative container redemption and vocational rehabilitation services.

**Oregon Bee Project**, supporting pollinator research to enhance bee habitats in Oregon.

**Oregon Environmental Council**, facilitating conversations in the Umatilla Basin to decrease contamination and enhance the quality of groundwater in the area.

**Rimrock Recycling**, helping boost recycling efforts in Harney County by supporting local volunteers.

The BottleDrop Fund awards larger grants to support nonprofits working to build community, protect the environment and help vulnerable people.



# Oregonians Unite to Help “Sister State” Hawaii

*OBRC’s Emergency Fund helped raise \$100,000 to support Maui wildfire relief in 2023*

In August 2023, the Hawaiian Island of Maui was devastated by wildfires, quickly spread by hurricane winds, that claimed more than 100 lives, destroyed property, and ravaged thousands of acres of natural areas. Having adopted the nation’s most recent Bottle Bill, Hawaii is a “sister state” to Oregon in employing a deposit return system to reduce litter and improve recycling outcomes.

As Oregonians sought ways to help those impacted by the nation’s deadliest wildfire in more than 100 years, OBRC announced that it would match donations up to \$25,000 from its Emergency Fund to help support Maui United Way’s wildfire relief efforts. The cooperative encouraged Oregonians to make container donations at BottleDrop Redemption Centers and invited BottleDrop account holders – 1 million at the time – to make donations to the Maui United Way directly from their online accounts.

The campaign generated \$75,000 in customer donations in less than a month. That meant that \$100,000 was sent to Maui United Way to help provide immediate support for families and local nonprofits offering disaster relief in the area.

This wasn’t the first time OBRC and Oregonians returning their containers teamed up to help others in need. Originally launched in 2020, the OBRC

- 
- **\$75,000 + \$25,000 match** from the OBRC Emergency Fund
  - **1,059** online donations, totaling **\$57,507**
  - Value of containers donated at Redemption Centers: **\$17,493**
- 



*Aerial view of fire damage near Lahaina’s Central Coast (photo courtesy of the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources)*

Emergency Fund aims to help communities and neighbors during times of crisis, often through matching campaigns or calls to action that provide opportunities for BottleDrop account holders and Oregonians to leverage the full redemptive power of their containers.

The Emergency Fund was first activated at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and raised \$200,000 for the Oregon Food Bank to help individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. The fund has also been activated to raise money for other important causes, such as supporting firefighters during devastating wildfires, funding warming and cooling shelters during extreme weather, and supporting humanitarian relief services being provided to Ukrainians through the Portland-based nonprofit Mercy Corps.

## Giving Back to Great Oregon Causes

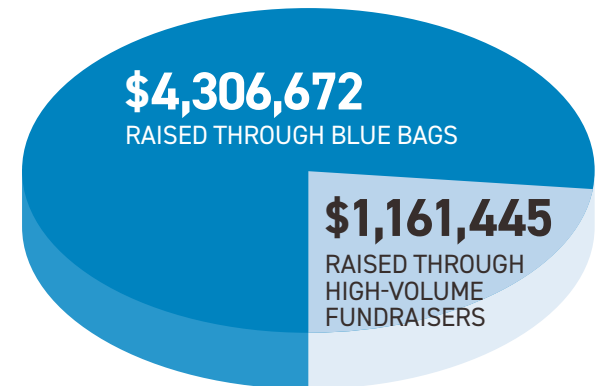
When it comes to partnerships, OBRC is in good company. With well over 5,000 community nonprofits across the state raising funds through BottleDrop Give, OBRC helps support the efforts and causes that matter most to Oregonians. Be it the local parent-teacher association, animal rescue, town festival, food provider, environmental group, or youth or senior service provider, BottleDrop Give is part of the tightly knit community fabric that enriches lives and families across Oregon.

**\$5.47m**  
raised for  
nonprofits in 2023

**577,943**  
Blue Bags processed  
*An 8% increase from 2022*

**5,618** participating  
nonprofits across Oregon\*

\*754 new groups signed up to raise funds through BottleDrop Give in 2023, but data was adjusted to remove duplicates from groups that raise funds through both the Blue Bag program and the high-volume plant fundraising program.





10 U Fireballs Team Bryant • 1425 Wilsonville High School First Robotics • 1st Phoenix Community Center • 3 Rivers Landowners Association • 4-H Leaders Association • Adrian Lions Club • Agave Dogs Rescue • Albany Gleaners • Alder Creek Middle School PTO • Aloha High School WEX • Alston's Corner Assembly of God • Alzheimer's Association - Oregon Chapter • American Cancer Society • Making Strides Against Breast Cancer • American Legion Post 0090 • American Military Encouragement Network • Amity Youth Sports • Ammanuel Ethiopian Evangelical Church of Portland • Anchor Christian Academy • Animal Aid • APT Green Team • Arabian Horse Rescue & Education • Arco Iris Spanish Immersion Center • Ardenwald Elementary School PTO • Assistance League of Greater Portland • Astoria High School • Astoria Senior Celebration Committee • Astoria Senior Center • Barlow High School - College & Career Center • Beaverton Band Boosters • Beaverton Education Foundation • Bend Elks Lodge 1371 • Bethlehem Inn • Beverly Cleary School PTA • Beyond Backpacks • Bhikshu Buddhist Nun In Vietnamese • Big Little School • Birch Community Services • Blanchet House • Bloomin Boutique • Blue Barn Farm & Sanctuary • Born Again Pit Bull Rescue • Boy Scout Troop 0036 • Boy Scout Troop 51 • Boy Scout Troop 161 • Boy Scout Troop 216 • Boy Scout Troop 282 • Boy Scout Troop 4036 • Boy Scout Troop 7150 • Boy Scouts of America - Cascade Pacific Council • Boy Scouts of America - Sea Scout Ship Freedom 399 • Boy Scouts of America - Sea Scout Ship Tsunami • Boyd-Hargens House • Boys & Girls Club of the Umpqua Valley • Bridgeway Recovery Services • Brightside Animal Center • Brookings-Harbor Lions Club • Buena Vista Spanish Immersion School Parent Organization • Build Lebanon Trails • Calvary Chapel Fellowship in Salem • Camp Baker • Oregon Trail Council • Camp Meadowood Springs • Canby Booster Club • Cans for Kenya • Canyon Senior Center • Cardinal Booster Club • Care & Share Community Outreach • CASA of Lane County • Cascade Manor Community Outreach Committee • Cascade View Christian School • Cat Adoption Team • Cat Alliance Team Sanctuary • Cat Rescue and Adoption Network • Cat Utopia • Cathedral School • Catholic Daughters of the Americas 718 • Cat's Meow Cat Rescue • CEF Portland Westside Chapter • Centennial Elementary PTO • Central Coast Humane Society • Central Lions Club • Central Oregon Animal Friends • Central Oregon Locavore • Century High School Band • Chehalum Swim Team • Chemeketa Transition Program • Cherry Blossoms • Christ the King Parish Youth • Christmas for Kids of Douglas County • Clackamas United Soccer Club • Clatskanie High School • Community Action Team • Cleveland High School Foundation • Cloverdale Elementary School's 4th Grade Class • Coalition Advocating for Animals • Coffenberry Middle School FBLA • Colton Elementary School PTA • Colton High School Equestrian Team • Columbia County Relay for Life • Columbia County Sheriffs Posse • Columbia Pacific Food Bank • Columbia River Chorus • Committed Alliance to Strays • Community of Hope • Compassion First • Confederated Tribes of Coos Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians • Congregation Neveh Shalom • Coos County 4-H Association • Coos County Youth Sports • Corbett High School CHAMPS • Cottage Grove Elks Lodge 1904 • Crater High School Band & Guard • Creative Science School PTA • Creston Elementary PTA • Creswell Boy Scout Troop 28 • Creswell High School Class of 2024 PPC • Crook County High School • Crook County High School Equestrian Team • Crook County SPURS Basketball • Crooked River Ranch Lions • Crown Point Country Historical Society • Cub Scout Pack 582 • Cub Scout Troop 7360 • Dallas Foursquare Church • Dallas High School Turf Project • Dallas Retirement Foundation • Dayton Food Bank • Dennis Bennett Memorial • Desert Sky Montessori • Desert Streams Church • Diamond Back Clovers 4-H Club • Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary • Department of Oregon • Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary • Portland Unit 1 • Discover Your Forest • Doernbecher Children's Hospital Foundation • Dome School • Dove Medical • Dream Boosters • Drexel H Foundation • Eagle Cares • Eagle Ridge High School • Eastern Oregon Mission • Eastside Thorns 2006 Girls Red • Elmira Booster Club • Elmira Elementary School PTA • Emilio • Estacada High School Adult Transitions • Estacada High School Band and Choir • Eugene Mission • Exceed Enterprises • Family Church • Family Dogs New Life Shelter • Family Kitchen • Family Promise of Greater Washington County • Family Promise of Lincoln County • Family Promise of Metro East • Farmington View • Faubion Elementary PTA • Feed The Hungry • Felines First Rescue • Fences For Fido • Feral Cats Advocacy • Ferguson School Booster Club • Fern Hill Grange 592 • Fir Grove Elementary PTO • Florence Habitat for Humanity • FOOD For Lane County • Food Share of Lincoln County • Freedom for Great Apes • Friends Involved in Dog Outreach • Friends of Brooklyn Park • Friends of Hamlet Fire Protection District • Friends of Historic Forest Grove • Friends of Lincoln County Animals • Friends of Myrtle Creek Library • Friends of the Animal Shelter • Friends of the Milwaukie Center • Friends of the Winston Library • Friends of West Slope Library • Furry Freight Shelter Transport • Furry Friends Foundation • Fuzzball Animal Rescue • GAPS Swim Team • Gaston Youth Sports • Girl Scout Troop 35078 • Girl Scout Troop 40343 • Girl Scout Troop 45004 • Girl Scout Troop 45703 • Gladstone Boosters • Gladstone School District • Graduation Party Class of 2023 • Glencoe High School Band and Colorguard Boosters • Glendale Mat Club • Glide Booster Club • Gold Hill Community Development Organization • Good Samaritan Ministries Zambia Fund • Grace Lutheran School • Grand Sheramina Community Services • Grand View Christian Academy • Grande Ronde Academy • Greenhill Humane Society • Gresham Senior Center • Habitat for Humanity Junction City • Harrisburg, and Monroe • Happy Valley Elementary PTO • Harney County Senior and Community Services Center • Harrisburg Grad Celebration • Harrisburg Mat Club • Harvest Baptist Temple • Harvey Clarke Parent Teacher Organization • Hawks View Elementary School PAC • Hayden Island Neighborhood Network • Hazel's House Rescue • Healing Reins Therapeutic Riding Center • Heartland Humane Society • Heavenly Animal Rescue Team and Services • Hermiston Christian School • Hermiston Cross Country • Hermiston High Job Skills • Hillsboro High School • Hillsboro Schools Foundation • Hillsboro Soccer Club • Team Rush 11B Blue • Holladay Park Plaza • Holy Cross Catholic School • Holy Family Catholic School • Holy Redeemer Catholic Church of La Pine • Homeward Bound Pets • Honoring Heroes • Hoodland Senior Center • Hoofprints in the Sand Rescue • Horizon Christian School • Horses Adaptive Riding and Therapy • Horses of Hope Oregon • Humane Society of Central Oregon • Humane Society of Eastern Oregon Pet Rescue • Humane Society of the Ochocos • Illinois Valley Community Development • Imagine Possibilities • Indigo Rescue • Jacksonville Boosters Foundation • Jason Lee PTA • Joseph Charter School • Journey Roseburg Church • Junction City • Harrisburg Youth Football & Cheer League • Junction City High School Equestrian Team • Junction City Local Aid • Kelly School PTA • Kick'n Cancer • New Beginnings • King City Lion's Club • Klamath-Lake Counties Food Bank • Knights of Columbus • Father Luke Sheehan Council 1872 • Knights of Columbus Council 15263 • Knights of Columbus Council 15640 • Knights of Columbus Council 6602 • Knights of the Resurrection • Koa Bully Rescue and Sanctuary • Kutsinhira Cultural Arts Center • Lake Oswego High School • Lake Oswego Schools Foundation • Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association • Lebanon High School Grad Party • Lewis Elementary School PTA • Libby's Hope Foundation • Liberty Band Boosters • Liberty High School Band Club of Woodburn • Living Word Fellowship • Llewellyn Elementary School • London School Bridgeport • Madras High School Graduation Party • Malin PPA • Marion County Sheriff Mary Rieke PTA • Mary's Woods at Marylhurst • Masters Bible School • Mavericks Band High School Band Boosters • Meadows Ward • Meals for Seniors • Medford First Church of Village • Metropolitan Learning Center PTSA • Micah CTP • Mid Valley North Young Life • Mid-Charter School PSO • Molalla Adult Community Center • Molalla Booster Club • Molalla Clays • Mountainside PACT • Mt. Hood Meadows Oregon • Mt. Hood Select 14U • Mudbloms Council • Newberg Animal Shelter • Newberg Church of Christ • Newberg FISH Emergency Services • Newberg Graduation Party • North Clackamas Education Foundation • North Marion Class of 2025 • North Marion FFA Alumni • North Salem Band Boosters • Northgate Wesleyan Church • Northwest Animal Companions • Northwest Human Services • HOST program • Nyssa Feral Cat Project • Oak Hills Presbyterian Church • Oakland Booster Club • Oakridge Volunteer Firemen • Oldies but Goodies Senior Rescue • Ontario Feral Cat Project • Ontario Lions Club • Operation D.O.G. • Oregon Blaze Fastpitch • Team Drucker 12U • Oregon Blaze Fastpitch • Team Olivo • Oregon Cancer Foundation • Oregon City High School Cross Country • Oregon City Optimist • Oregon City Parks Foundation • Oregon City Swim Team • Oregon Coast Humane Society • Oregon Country Fair • Oregon Dog Rescue • Oregon Donkey Sanctuary Northwest • Oregon Food Bank • Oregon Friends Of Shelter Animals • Oregon Humane Society • Portland • Oregon Humane Society • Salem • Oregon International Air Show • Oregon Reign Softball • Team Marshall • Oregon Titans Fastpitch • Orphan Kitten Rescue of Oregon • Our Community Birth Center • Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church • Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church • Pacific Northwest Crisis and Evacuation Resources • Pacific Pug Rescue • Parkinson's Resources of Oregon • Parkrose Bronco Boosters • Path Church • Pathway Church • Youth Ministry • Pawsitively Saved Rescue • PDX Reign Basketball • Peace Lutheran Church • Pendleton Lions Foundation • People for Coburg School • Pet Evacuation Team • Philomath High School Baseball • Phoenix High School Construction Program • Pink Phoenix Dragon Boat Team • Pioneer Humane Society • Pleasant Hill Basketball • Portland Christian Center • Portland Christian Schools Booster Club • Portland Rescue Mission • Potluck in the Park • Pregnancy Resource Centers of Central Oregon • Prineville Lions Club • Project P2OCH • Puplandia Dog Rescue • Queen of Peace Catholic Church • Quiet Waters Outreach • Rabbit Advocates • Rainier Senior Citizens • Raining Dogs Rescue • Redmond Council for Senior Citizens • Reedsport Volunteer Fire Department • Relay for Life • Eugene Priority One • Relief Angels • Reynolds Senior All Night Party Committee • Riddle City Library • Rigler Elementary School PTA • Rise Up Family Fellowship • ROBC Holy Trinity Private School • Rockn EZ Rescue Ranch • Rogue Community College Foundation • Rogue Retreat • Rogue River Institute • Rogue Valley Humane Society • Rogue Valley Manor • Rose City Neighborhood Preschool • Rose Villa Foundation • Roseburg Alliance Church • Roseburg Christian Academy • Roseburg Rescue Mission • Rowe Middle School PTA • Sacred Heart Catholic Church • Sacred Heart Catholic School • Safe Haven Maternity Home • SafeHaven Humane Society • Saint Thomas More School • Salem Friends Of Felines • Salem Harvest • Salem Rugby Club • Sam Barlow High School • Sanctuary 101 • Sandy High School Structured Learning Center • Save The PT Boat • Saving Grace • Scalawags • Scappoose High School Safe and Sober • Scappoose Senior Citizens • Scholls Grange 338 • Scholls Heights Elementary PTO • Scio High School • All Night Party 2024 • Scio High School • Leadership • Scio Wildlife • Sellwood Middle Foundation • SevaDog • Sharing Hands • Sheldon High School Band • Shelter Friends • Shepherd of the Valley Catholic Church • Shepherd's House Ministries • Sheridan Graduation Party • Sherman Kids Zone • Sherwood Band Boosters • Sherwood High School Grad Night 2024 • Silver Bullets Softball Association • Silvertown Cat Rescue • Sisters School District Transition • Life Skills Program • Skopos Christian School • Skyline Baseball Club • SnowCap Community Charities • Soccer Chance Academy For the Community • Sojourner School PTA • SOLVE • Soroptimist International of Ashland • Soroptimist International of Junction City • SOS Lost Pet Rescue NW • Soul 2 Soul Animal Rescue • South Beaverton Youth Cheer • South Coast Humane Society • South Salem High DLC • South Salem High Music Boosters • Southern Deschutes Volleyball Association • Southern Oregon Goodwill Industries • Southern Oregon Humane Society • Southern Oregon Stand Down • Southern Oregon Youth Programs • Southridge High School Football Team • Southridge High School Grad Night • Southridge Instrumental Music and Dance Ensembles • Southside Church of Christ • Southwest Church of Christ • Special Forces Association • Lewis and Clark Chapter 47 • Sprague Boosters • Sprague High Band and Color Guard Boosters • Sprague Orchestra Boosters • Springfield Young Readers • St. Anne's Catholic School PTO • St. Cecilia Catholic Church • St. Edwards Catholic Church • St. Francis Youth • St. Helens Band Patrons • St. Helens High School Equestrian Team • St. John the Apostle Catholic School • St. John The Baptist Catholic Church • St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church • St. Mary's Academy • St. Mary's Episcopal Church • St. Paul Elementary PTC • St. Philip Benizi Church • St. Pius X Church and School • St. Rita Food Pantry • St. Therese School • St. Thomas Academy • StandUpGirl.com Foundation • Star of Hope Activity Center • Stardust Parent Club • Street Dog Hero • Sunset Apollo Marching Band and Auxiliary • Sutherlin Baseball • Sutherlin Lions Charities • Sweet Home High School • Sweet Home School District 55 • Takena Kiwanis • Tara's Tabbies and Tribulations • The Beaverton STARS • The City of Refuge International • The Cupcake Girls • The FISH of Roseburg • The Foundation for Tigard Tualatin Schools • The Fund for Portland Public Schools • The Gathering @ Madras • The Giving Plate • The Kindness Club of Dallas Oregon • The Kiwanis Foundation of Grants Pass • The Reagan Christine Memorial Fund • The Refuge Philomath • Think Wild • Tigard American Legion Post 158 • Tigard High School Band Boosters • Tight Blue Lines • Tillamook High School Band • Tidebearers Pathfinder Club • Tillamook High School Charity Drive • Tillamook K9 Rescue • Tillamook Moose Lodge 1260 • Timberwolf Support Organization • Toledo Community Foundation • Tower Theatre Foundation • Tualatin Riverkeepers • Tumwater Middle School PTO • UFK Northwest • Umpqua Athletics Boosters • Umpqua Community Center • Umpqua Joe 1859 ECV • Umpqua Valley Humane Society • Union County 4-H Association • Union County Youth Heritage Group • Union Gospel Mission of Portland • Union Gospel Mission of Salem • Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Oregon • United Evangelical Free Church • United Path Ministries • Vale FFA • Vale School District 84 • Vernonia High School Senior Class Trip • Veterans Care Centers of Oregon • Veterans for Students • Vida McKenzie Community Center • Vietnam Veterans of Oregon Memorial Fund • Vietnam War Memorial Fund • Village Foundation • Village Missions • Mohawk Community • Visitation school • Washington DC Kids • Volunteers of America • Al Forthan Memorial Scholarship • Wallowa School District • Warrior Band and Auxiliary Parents • Wasabi Paddling Club • West Albany High School Equestrian Team • West Linn Community Preschool • West Linn Food Pantry • West Salem Band Boosters • Westside Riders Association • Westside Service Center • Westview High School Band and Auxiliary • Wetnose Warriors Outreach • Wiggly Tails Dog Rescue • Wild Rivers Animal Rescue • Wildland Firefighter Foundation • Oregon Chapter • Willamette Family School Organization • Willamette View Association • Willamina Senior Grad Night • Willowcreek Community Support Organization • Wilsonville Wildcat Fastpitch • Winston Area Independence Day Committee • Womenspace • Woods Creek Rescue • Yamhill Carlton High School Trap Team • Yamhill Carlton Soccer Club • Yamhill County CASA • YC Community Pet Heroes • YMCA of Douglas County • Young Life OR218 • Young Life Pendleton • Zero Waste McMinnville Foundation

## THE \$2,000 CLUB

572 of the 5,618 Give nonprofits raised more than \$2,000 in 2023 through BottleDrop Give



## A MILLION REASONS TO CELEBRATE COLLEGE SAVINGS

“This partnership is making a real difference in Oregon’s future. By breaking down barriers to education savings, BottleDrop and the Oregon College Savings Plan are contributing to new opportunities. As we celebrate more than \$1 million that have made their way to college savings accounts through BottleDrop’s Green Bags, we imagine the limitless potential of Oregon’s kids and look forward to future milestones.”

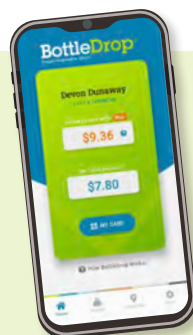
– **Tobias Read**  
Oregon State Treasurer

## Making Every Dime Count

Container redemption is about more than just the dime. Oregon’s Bottle Bill boosts community organizations across the state, helps keep Oregon beautiful by reducing litter and waste, reaches new heights through creative partnerships and continues to improve through relentless innovation.



In 2023, BottleDrop account holders transferred **more than \$472,972** to **4,528** Oregon College Savings Plan accounts. Oregon is the only place in the world where people can directly save for education through container redemption.



A growing number of account holders continued to download and use the BottleDrop mobile app, making accessing Green Bag accounts easier on the go. Since the mobile app launched in 2021, it has been downloaded over **420,000** times.

## BottleDrop Plus



**218,856** BottleDrop account holders took advantage of BottleDrop Plus in 2023, making their redemption dollars stretch farther by getting an extra 20% added to their funds to shop with in-store credit at participating retailers. That’s a **9.7% increase from 2022**.



BottleDrop account holders made **3,554** online donations, totaling **\$182,437**, directly from their Green Bag accounts to support BottleDrop Give nonprofits in 2023.



# An Annual Celebration of Oregon's Bottle Bill

In 2023, OBRC once again celebrated the Bottle Bill's anniversary (52!) by engaging Oregonians in a statewide hunt for hidden commemorative bottles. Each lucky finder got to direct a \$1,000 donation to the BottleDrop Give nonprofit of their choice.



**Helene Wren and family of Portland**  
Found in Astoria's Columbia Field Park  
**SELECTED NONPROFIT:** Rabbit Advocates



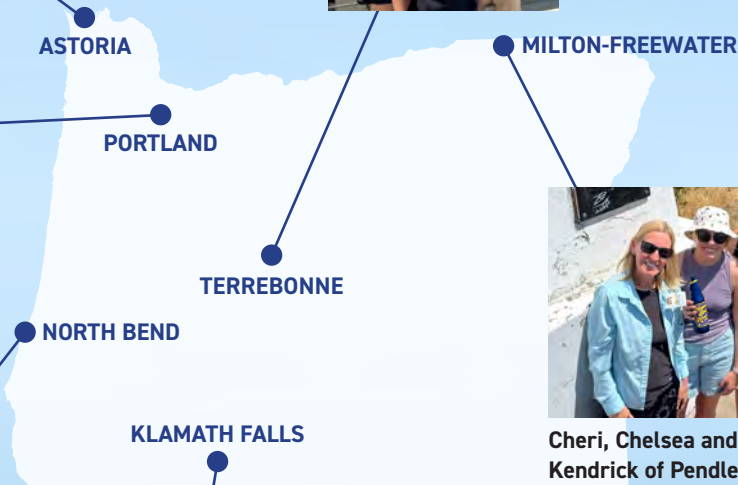
**Crystal Roberts and family of Bend**  
Found at Peter Skene Ogden State Scenic Viewpoint near Terrebonne  
**SELECTED NONPROFIT:** Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation of Oregon and SW Washington



**Anna Soderberg of Portland**  
Found in Portland's Mt. Tabor Park  
**SELECTED NONPROFIT:** Hygiene4All



**Scott Lanini of Salem**  
Found in North Bend's Simpson Park  
**SELECTED NONPROFIT:** Camp Odakoda



**Kylan Taylor, family and friends of Klamath Falls**  
Found in Klamath Falls' Moore Park  
**SELECTED NONPROFIT:** Tater Tots Pediatric Therapy



**Cheri, Chelsea and Hailey Kendrick of Pendleton**  
Found in Milton-Freewater's Marie Dorion Park  
**SELECTED NONPROFIT:** Pendleton Cultural Foundation



Repurposed from the BottleDrop Refillable bottle program, 2023's bottles were designed in the spirit of the Oregon State flag.

YES,  
HE  
CAN!

## Never Too Young to Make an Impact

When Levi Roberts was just nine years old, he was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D). He spent four long days in the hospital, learning about and preparing for his big lifestyle changes ahead. Throughout the difficult days in St. Charles Hospital in Bend, one program in particular, the Child Life Specialists, brought cheer. On top of providing emotional support for the family, the caretakers also brought toys for Levi and other kids in the hospital system. These moments were small joys that made a huge impact.

After being discharged, Levi wanted to give back. So, he turned to his BottleDrop Green Bag account and his community connections. He partnered with Sarah Burke, a family friend and neighbor, to help gather as many bottles and cans as possible. By placing a sign in Sarah's office inviting coworkers to bring in redeemable containers for charity, the Roberts began receiving bags filled with containers.

"A part of our healing process was thinking in the mindset of, 'How can we help others who are also going through a hard time?' It really shifts your perspective on what you're going through, and it was also a way for us to grapple with and accept his diagnosis in a way," said Levi's mother, Crystal, as she recounted the transition for their family. "When you're in despair, it feels really good when someone reaches out to help you, so we just wanted to pay that forward."

Cut to the summer of 2023, Levi is now entering middle school. Adapted to his new lifestyle with T1D, Levi is also a young philanthropist and strong advocate for juvenile diabetes. With bottles and cans, Levi has raised over \$650 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation of Oregon and Southwest Washington (JDRF), Toys for Tots, Child Life Specialists at St. Charles Hospital, and the Humane Society of the Ochocos through BottleDrop.

Serendipitously, Levi and his family also won the Zone 4 Hidden Bottle Hunt in July (learn more on page 10!) after participating each of the past three years. Without hesitation, they directed their \$1,000 prize donation to JDRF. Levi's unique BottleDrop fundraising efforts show what's possible when Oregonians put the BottleDrop network to work and help enrich their communities.



Levi receives treatment for his Type 1 Diabetes diagnosis at St. Charles Hospital in Bend.



Watch Levi's  
BottleDrop story





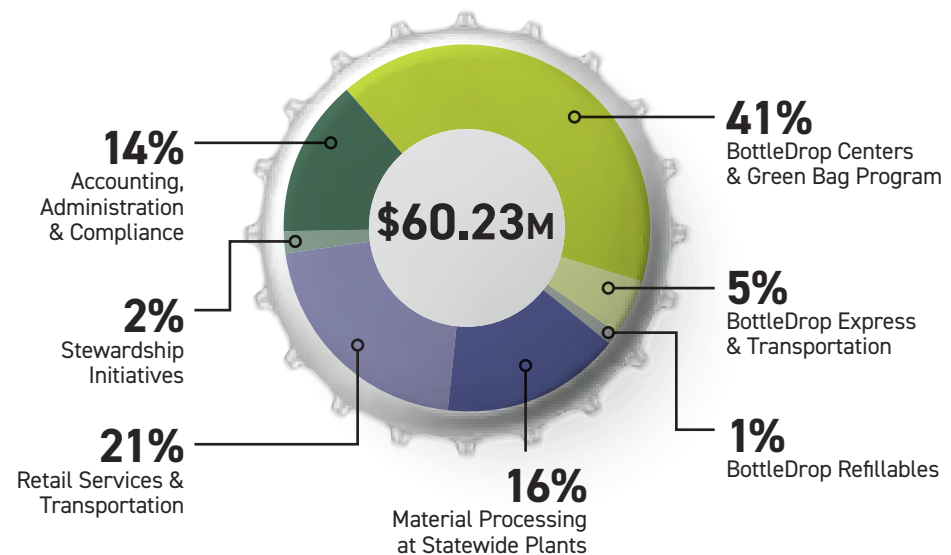
The entire value of unclaimed refunds is fully invested in the operation of the redemption system.\*

\*Additional funds in the operating budget come from fees paid by OBRC members, retailers and other system revenues.

## Big Returns. Zero Tax Dollars.

Oregonians who redeem their containers responsibly get to enjoy the system's strong environmental and recycling outcomes at almost no cost – and at no taxpayer expense. That's because Oregon's Bottle Bill is an advanced form of Extended Producer Responsibility, where OBRC serves as the operational steward on behalf of the beverage industry and invests the value of unclaimed refunds directly into the operation and expansion of the network. Additionally, beverage distributors make significant financial contributions to cover the remaining costs of the program.

### 2023 Annual Budget<sup>1,2</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Pie chart percentages and data reviewed by the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC).

<sup>2</sup>Budget and redemption data for 2023 in this report is preliminary. OBRC is committed to accurate and transparent accounting and files an official report with the OLCC as required by Oregon's Bottle Bill in June of each calendar year. OBRC does not include the value of scrap material sold in its operating budget.

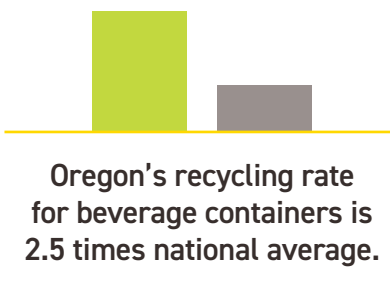
## Access + Efficiency = Outcomes

The past year was one of milestones for OBRC, especially when it came to recycling outcomes.

For starters, in August the number of Green Bag account holders hit and then surpassed 1 million. That's not only a big feat, but a testament to the popularity, convenience and accessibility the Green Bag program offers. With around 100 (and growing) Green and Blue Bag drop locations around the state, it's more convenient than ever for Oregonians to return beverage containers and receive their refunds. BottleDrop account holders dropped off a record 12.05 million bags in 2023.

Perhaps even more impressive, the Container Recycling Institute, the nation's leading nonpartisan national beverage container recycling think tank, announced in August that, for the second straight year, Oregon had the highest redemption rate in the United States.

Oregon's redemption rate crested 85.5% in 2022, with the next closest state, Maine, coming in at 78%. That trend continues in the 2023 data, with OBRC's preliminary redemption rate coming in at a staggering 90.5%. Nationally, the average recycling rate for beverage containers is only 35%, which shows the dramatic increase in performance made possible through deposit return systems. But we know there's more to it than that.



Not only does Oregon's nationally recognized system get results, but it remains extremely popular with consumers. A recent statewide survey conducted by DHM Research shows that 86% of Oregonians are familiar with the Bottle Bill, and 94% of them agree that it's good for Oregon.

In 1971, the Oregon Legislature created an industry-responsibility model while launching Oregon's Bottle Bill, entrusting the beverage industry with the stewardship responsibility to create and operate the redemption program. With decades of experience refining the system over time, the beverage industry has created the most convenient redemption options for consumers anywhere in the United States, the most efficient program for industry, and continues to achieve nation-leading recycling results. OBRC is proud to serve Oregonians across the state, as well as our beverage distributor and grocery retailer members and participants.



With around 100 (and growing) Green and Blue Bag drop locations around the state, it's more convenient than ever for Oregonians to return beverage containers and receive their refunds.



The number of Green Bag account holders surpassed 1 million in 2023.

## An Unrelenting Focus on Quality

### *Separating Truth from Noise about Beverage Container Recycling in Oregon*

When it comes to contemporary conversations about consumer recycling, skepticism often prevails. It's no wonder, with recent media stories chronicling instances of recyclable material being shipped overseas and ultimately finding its way into the ocean or material being collected curbside as "recycling" but ultimately being sent to a landfill instead.

Too often, that leaves consumers frustrated and confused. Fortunately, thanks to beverage industry stewardship in Oregon, when it comes to beverage containers collected and redeemed through the Bottle Bill, Oregonians can have confidence that their material is being recycled domestically and maintains its Grade-A quality throughout the process.

It's no secret in recycling policy circles that Bottle Bills dramatically increase the amount of material that makes its way back for recycling. According to the recent "50 States of Recycling" report, 9 of the 10 states with the best recycling rates all have one thing in common: They've adopted Oregon-style redemption programs for beverage containers. What is less known is that these systems also protect the quality of the material more than other recycling streams, producing much better recycling outcomes.

In Oregon, all material collected through OBRC's statewide network is recycled in the United States. Plastic containers go to a recycling facility in St. Helens, glass goes to bottle manufacturing facilities in the West, and aluminum is shipped by rail to recycling facilities in the Midwest and the South, which are home to aluminum smelters and can manufacturers.

---

**9 of the 10 states with the best recycling rates all have one thing in common: They've adopted Oregon-style redemption programs for beverage containers.**

---



Glass, plastic and aluminum beverage containers enter an OBRC Material Separation Unit.

With Oregon's pioneering Bottle Bill leading the way, Bottle Bill states account for 47% of all packaging recycled, despite only comprising 27% of the U.S. population. Not only does that mean less litter and vastly more material recovered, but it facilitates more circular outcomes, with 34% of material recycled into a new version of the same product, versus only 7% "closed-loop" recycling occurring in states without these programs.

Get more back. Keep it clean. Process it close to home. Give it another life. That's the Oregon way.





**BottleDrop®**  
Oregon Redemption Center

**LEARN MORE**

EMAIL  
[PR@obrc.com](mailto:PR@obrc.com)

WEBSITES  
[OBRC.com](http://OBRC.com)  
[BottleDrop.com](http://BottleDrop.com)