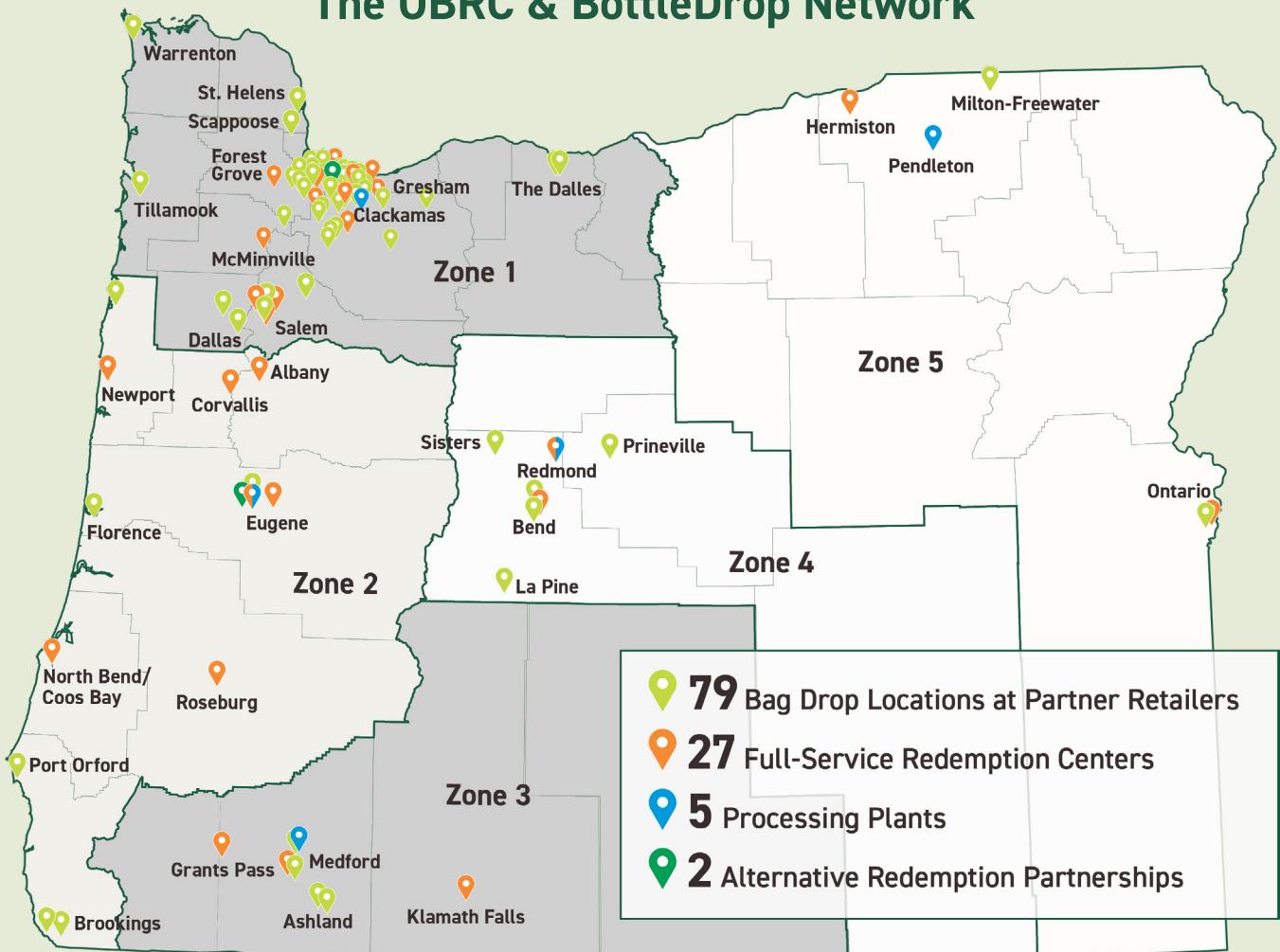


# 2025/2026 NETWORK EXPANSION REPORT



SB 1520 (2022) requires the statewide distributor cooperative serving as the operational steward of Oregon's Bottle Bill to report annually to the Legislature regarding the cooperative's success in expanding consumer convenience and access in the previous year as well as plans to expand access and redemption options in the current year, including alternative redemption partnerships to support individuals who rely on container returns on a daily basis.

## The OBRC & BottleDrop Network



[LEARN MORE](#)

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## 2025 EXPANSION OF GREEN AND BLUE BAG DROP OFF LOCATIONS

In 2025, OBRC expanded access to the Green and Blue Bag program by nearly 10% in partnership with retailers at seven new store locations across Oregon:



OBRC's Jason Jordan and Dave Kauder of New Seasons

### Happy Valley – BottleDrop Dash (New Seasons)

**March 18:** OBRC proudly launched BottleDrop Dash, the newest addition to the BottleDrop lineup, at New Seasons Market in Happy Valley. A trusted and innovative partner, New Seasons demonstrated its commitment to enhancing the customer experience by piloting this new in-store model, supported by customers whom have shown curiosity and enthusiasm about trying a new way to return Green and Blue Bags.



#### HERE'S HOW THE DASH MODEL WORKS

1. Customers bring their tagged Green or Blue Bags inside the store to a BottleDrop kiosk near the front, allowing store staff to easily see when a customer approaches.
2. A store employee meets the customer at the kiosk and scans the bag tag stickers, linking the bags to the customer's BottleDrop account.
3. The employee then takes the bags to a secure area inside the store, where they are later picked up and counted by OBRC.
4. The refund value is credited to the customer's account within seven days, and often sooner.
5. Finally, OBRC sorts, consolidates and sends the containers for recycling – either here in Oregon or elsewhere in the United States.



### Port Orford – BottleDrop Express (Ray's Food Place)

**March 21:** The beautiful South Coast town of Port Orford is home to the second Green and Blue Bag drop location to open in 2025 at Ray's Food Place. A welcoming host and valued retail partner, Ray's also served as the first site to introduce BottleDrop's new, unmistakable signage package highlighting the iconic bottles and cans at the heart of the Oregon Bottle Bill.

**"I've long heard from folks in Port Orford about the need for a local Green and Blue Bag drop site, so seeing this location open at Ray's is especially meaningful. I'm also delighted to see access expanded along the South Coast, with another site opening at McKay's in Brookings in 2025, ensuring more residents can conveniently use the BottleDrop network close to home."**

– State Sen. David Brock Smith

### Greater Beaverton – Dealer Redemption Center (Target, Cedar Mill)

**May 17:** The Cedar Hill community, an unincorporated area of Washington County, now has its own Green and Blue Bag drop site at Target–Cedar Mill. This location marks the second active bag drop site at a Target store in Oregon, expanding convenient access for local residents.

### Brookings – Dealer Redemption Center (McKay's Market)

**June 10:** Traveling down Highway 101 brings you to another South Coast location that opened in 2025 at McKay's Market in Brookings. A long-standing, employee-owned Oregon grocer with deep roots in coastal communities, McKay's Market in Brookings became the first store in its chain to host a Green and Blue Bag drop site and the second Dealer Redemption Center to open within the city of Brookings.



### Hillsboro - Dealer Redemption Center (WinCo Foods)

**June 19:** WinCo Foods opened its second Dealer Redemption Center in Oregon at the Sun West Shopping Center in Hillsboro. Thanks to WinCo's partnership, this new location expands convenient access in an area with high BottleDrop utilization, making it easier for Hillsboro residents to return Green and Blue Bags close to where they shop. This site is the westernmost Dealer Redemption Center location in the Portland metro area.



### The Dalles - Dealer Redemption Center (Bi-Mart)

**November 5:** The Dalles strengthened its role as an efficient container redemption access point for communities throughout the Columbia Gorge by adding a second Green and Blue Bag drop site at Bi-Mart. In this area, local, convenient container return options have become increasingly important. Through its partnership with Bi-Mart, BottleDrop is helping The Dalles residents and their neighbors access bag drop options closer to home.

**"The BottleDrop Dash at New Seasons in Lake Oswego shows how innovation and collaboration between retailers and beverage distributors keep Oregon's Bottle Bill convenient, effective and community-focused. The program makes it even easier to protect our environment and shore up resources to strengthen our local schools."**

- State Rep. Daniel Nguyen



*Jason Jordan, OBRC, State Rep. Daniel Nguyen, State Sen. President Rob Wagner, Whitney Woolf, Lake Oswego Schools Foundation, Amy Wolf, New Seasons Markets, Mayor Joe Buck, Lake Oswego*

### Lake Oswego - BottleDrop Dash (New Seasons)

**December 5:** OBRC partnered once again with New Seasons to open the first BottleDrop location in Lake Oswego, where it has been enthusiastically received by community leaders and customers. The new access point provides residents with an efficient way to redeem containers and support BottleDrop Give nonprofits. BottleDrop Dash is designed for communities like Lake Oswego, where customers value convenience, sustainability and strong local partnerships.

**"For 55 years, Oregon's Bottle Bill has shown what's possible when we invest in smart, adaptable solutions that protect our natural spaces. Oregon continues to lead the nation with the highest bottle redemption rate in the country, and the new BottleDrop Dash at New Seasons - Mountain Park in Lake Oswego is a great example of how this landmark program continues to evolve for today's communities."**

- Oregon Senate President Rob Wagner

## 2025 IMPLEMENTATION OF SB 992

In the second half of 2025, OBRC prioritized implementation of Senate Bill 992, which was signed into law on June 3, 2025. SB 992 modernized Oregon's Bottle Bill by improving convenience and efficiency for consumers, with a particular emphasis on expanding use of the Green and Blue Bag program.



### Two provisions of SB 992 took effect immediately:

- Retailers statewide were permitted to limit container return hours to 8 a.m. through 8 p.m.
- Dealer Redemption Centers in Portland were given the option to refuse in-store container returns, affecting 29 locations.

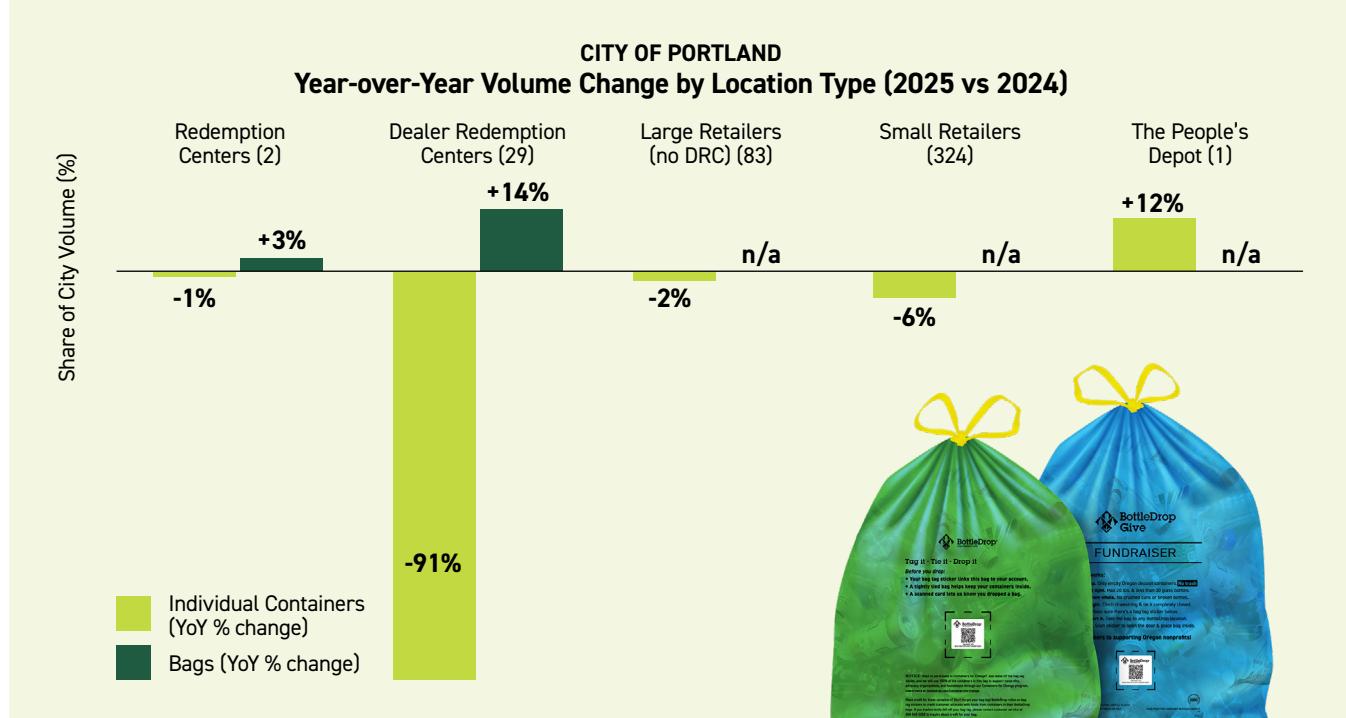
Given that much of SB 992 was designed to address operational and access challenges specific to Portland, OBRC is closely monitoring return patterns in the city following implementation to better understand the early impacts of these changes.



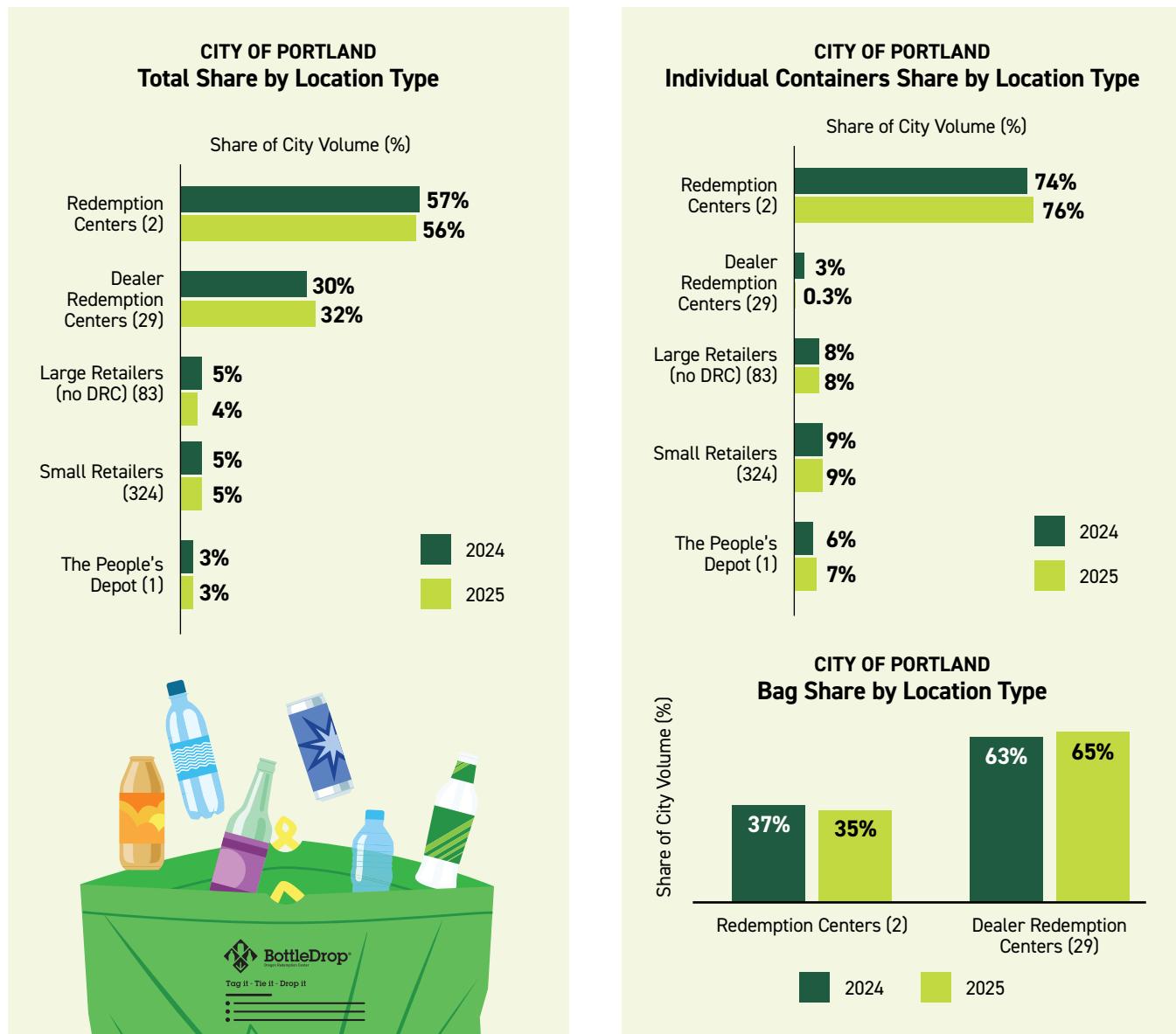
### TOPLINE INITIAL RESULTS (PORTLAND, JUNE-DECEMBER 2024 VS 2025):

Overall container redemption volume in Portland increased modestly year over year, rising 2% between June and December. During this period, individual (cash) container returns declined by 4%, while Green and Blue Bag returns increased by 10%. As a result, bag returns accounted for a larger share of total returns, growing from 45% in 2024 to 48% in 2025, reflecting an immediate shift toward bag-based redemption in Portland following adoption of SB 992.

Here is a more detailed breakdown of the preliminary impacts:



And here is a snapshot of proportional/share changes, YoY by location type<sup>1</sup>.



<sup>1</sup>Note that the number of sites in each category for the graphs is based on locations serviced by OBRC.

## CONVERSION TO LOW IMPACT REDEMPTION CENTERS

The legislation also codified the designation of Low Impact Redemption Centers, with eligibility based on two criteria: (1) annual return volume to large stores in the existing convenience zone two is less than 3% of the total volume returned to the associated redemption center in the prior year, and (2) the redemption center facility has been in operation for at least three years.

Based on these criteria, the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission determined that 15 redemption centers statewide qualified for reclassification. As a result, each

center now operates within a single, uniform convenience zone, and large stores that were previously located in convenience zone two may decline to redeem the 24 containers per person per day. This change has resulted in a limited redistribution of container returns to the redemption center or nearby small-format stores.

The reclassifications were implemented between October and December 2025. To date, container volumes within the affected zones remain consistent with pre-conversion levels, and neither OBRC nor OLCC has received concerns from customers, stores or constituents regarding the transition.

## INCREASED INDUSTRY COOPERATION

The beverage industry is proud to serve as the steward and operator of Oregon's Bottle Bill. OBRC's distributor members are the heart and soul of the Cooperative, and the Co-op was pleased to welcome new members during 2025. OBRC began the year with 413 members and participants and ended 2025 with 441 members and participants (a 7% increase). Industry participation and cooperation helps unlock access in key areas, which ensures the most streamlined and efficient container return experience possible for Oregonians.

## EXPANSION PRIORITIES FOR 2026

In 2026, OBRC expects to significantly expand Green and Blue Bag access statewide, with plans to open at least 20 new bag drop sites at retail locations across Oregon. A major focus will be North Portland, where a substantial expansion of Green and Blue Bag access is underway, with additional details to be announced soon.

OBRC also plans to open several new Dealer Redemption Centers in communities outside of Portland, including an early-year priority location in Pendleton. This expansion will build on the recent (November 2025) installation of our patented rapid bag-counting technology – Stream Count AI and combined Material Sortation Unit – at the Hermiston Redemption Center, significantly increasing the capacity to expand Green and Blue Bag redemption access throughout Eastern Oregon.

In addition, OBRC will open a new high-volume, state-of-the-art Redemption Center in Hillsboro in the fall of 2026. This next-generation facility will showcase the latest technology and innovations, including enhanced information displays and bilingual tools to better serve customers. After 15 years of operating a growing statewide network, we've seen that each redemption center reflects the community it serves. At Hillsboro, we will honor that understanding by incorporating local art to create a space that is functional, welcoming, inclusive and community-centered.

## ALTERNATIVE REDEMPTION PARTNERSHIPS

OBRC was grateful to once again support two outstanding Oregon nonprofit organizations and their redemption services programs during 2025. Each program offers a unique approach to helping their depot staff develop employable skills while also effectively serving daily redeemers of beverage containers.

**Portland: The People's Depot.** 2025 was another successful year for The People's Depot, operated by Ground Score Association. The Depot maintained its operations in Portland's Central Eastside for 2.25 hours per day, five days a week, under the Morrison Bridge. The People's Depot provides critical alternative access in the area, redeeming just over **10 million** containers during 2025. The People's Depot is operated by "canners" (daily redeemers of beverage containers) and provides employment opportunities (employing 11 individuals in 2025). It also provides several additional wrap-around services in partnership with other nonprofits serving vulnerable people in the area. The Depot naturally diverts significant container return volume away from retailers in Portland's central core.

In March of 2025, [The People's Depot partnered with DHM Research to complete a survey of their customers, which revealed that the vast majority rely on beverage containers](#) as a source of income to pay for basic necessities. Most also travel throughout the city to collect containers, reside or stay 3-5 miles away from the Depot and depart the area immediately after completing their business at the Depot.



Photo courtesy of The People's Depot

**"The People's Depot changes lives one container at a time. Our team of 11 former canners and gleaners earn a living wage while helping others redeem containers with dignity. With OBRC's support, we redeemed more than 10 million containers in 2025. While recycling is central to our mission, our greatest success is a workforce that feels like family – where we are supporting each other in the pursuit of stable housing and community engagement. In 2026, we are excited to expand our impact by moving operations indoors through an Alternative Access Redemption Center, allowing us to better serve our customers and care for our people."**

– Kris Brown, Operations Manager, The People's Depot – A Ground Score Association program

## ALTERNATIVE ACCESS REDEMPTION CENTER: SB 992

In addition to all that was outlined above, SB 992 also formally authorized an enhanced version of The People's Depot model. An Alternative Access Redemption Center (AARC) is a nonprofit-run container redemption model that improves access for canners – while providing retailers with operational relief through an exemption from in-store return requirements. The model is available only in Portland.

The current People's Depot site is outdoors, lacks basic infrastructure and cannot meet growing demand. The new facility will increase capacity and improve conditions for canners, People's Depot staff and the surrounding community by offering indoor queuing, clean facilities and efficient redemptions using OBRC's Stream Count AI technology alongside hand counting.

Funded jointly by OBRC and participating grocers, the AARC will operate within a three-mile convenience zone, accept up to 350 containers per person per day, and is expected to process 20-25 million containers annually. A site has been identified in Southeast Portland, with plans to open in mid to late 2026.



*Photo courtesy of The People's Depot*

**Eugene: Everyone Village.** OBRC was pleased to support Everyone Village's (E1V) redemption services program for a third year in 2025! E1V is a city-sanctioned safe rest village for unhoused residents, and the Village philosophy is centered on providing "a hand up not a handout," with a goal of helping residents regain a sense of empowerment and control over their everyday lives. Every villager contributes in some way to make the Village run successfully. An example of this is the option to participate in the Everyone Village redemption services program, which provides workforce development and an opportunity to earn income for team members.



*Photo courtesy of Everyone Village*

## TESTIMONIALS FROM EVERYONE VILLAGE ABCRS EMPLOYEES

**"It helped me find confidence within myself that I can make a fresh start and build more strength within a team environment."** - Dusty

**"Working for you has helped me tremendously. Having to go to work every day and being held accountable made me want to do more, and I also realized I could get back into the habit of having a job. Knowing I was capable of having a job and being in the habit has been huge for me."** - Steven

**"It's helped me get back into the job market. The slow transition of one day a week to now, five days a week, has had a significant impact on my health. Having had a heart attack two years ago, I needed a slow transition to working every day, and this has given me that opportunity to rebuild resilience and stamina. It has also motivated me to continue to work on my health. I am now am working out every day."** - Scott

**"It was a job that helped because I had physical problems, and it has helped me get through them while getting some income and now being able to look for further work beyond this position."** - Jason

**"I had my license taken away due to non-payment of child support, and this job has helped me start paying child support and get my license back. I was out on the streets and haven't worked forever, and this has helped me get back into the working society and back in the habit of working."** - Josh



In 2025, the Alternative Beverage Container Redemption Services (ABCRS) program at Everyone Village saw remarkable growth, doubling its total redemptions compared to 2024 and surpassing the previous year's total by mid-July redeeming a total of 1.094 million containers. Operational changes, including employing a dedicated program director to lead, the removal of reverse vending machines and transitioning to hand-count sorting, allowed the team to adapt to increased redemptions while staying within budget. The program also expanded its customer base, serving more non-Village residents, and implemented new strategies like sorting as they go to improve efficiency.



Photo courtesy of Everyone Village

Workforce development was a key focus, with the program helping six team members transition to employment outside the Village in 2025 and employing 13 individuals throughout the year. The "Discipline Without Punishment" approach fostered accountability and growth, enabling participants to overcome hurdles like punctuality, attendance and communication. Testimonials from employees reflect the program's positive impact on their confidence, health and ability to reintegrate into the workforce. Overall, the ABCRS program has not only achieved operational success, but it has also made a meaningful difference in the lives of its team members and the community.

**"This past year has been incredibly rewarding, not just in terms of surpassing our goals, but in witnessing the personal growth and resilience of our team members. The opportunity to work alongside them, support their development and see them transition into permanent employment and housing has been truly humbling. This program is more than just about redemptions – it's about building relationships, fostering accountability and creating a space where individuals can grow, adapt and thrive."**

– Mikki Washburn, Program Director,  
Everyone Village Alternative Beverage Container  
Redemption Services program



Your Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative deeply appreciates being in the position to operate and innovate within Oregon's beverage container redemption system to find new ways to ensure our Bottle Bill continues to serve as a program for all Oregonians and as an example of excellence in stewardship.

It's your Bottle Bill, Oregon.

