

Fact Sheet

A Bigger, Better Bottle Bill for New York!

Measuring the Success of New York's Bottle Bill . . .

- ✓ Since the bottle bill was passed in 1982, New Yorkers have returned more than **70 billion** beer and soft drink deposit containers for recycling, averaging a 75% recycling rate over the 20-year period. (Source: "Deposit and Redemption Statistics", NYS Department of Environmental Conservation)
- ✓ The bottle bill has diverted more than 3,700,000 tons of glass, 850,000 tons of aluminum, and 550,000 tons of plastic from the waste stream since 1982. (Source: "Deposit and Redemption Statistics", NYS DEC) The tons of beverage containers diverted from landfills saved New York taxpayers an estimated **\$300 million in landfill tipping fees**. (Source: NYS DEC)
- ✓ The state experienced a **70-80%** reduction in **beverage container litter** and a 30% reduction in overall litter after the bottle bill was implemented. (Source: "Final Report of the Temporary State Commission on Returnable Beverage Containers", New York, March 27, 1985)
- ✓ The state experienced a **net gain**, attributable to the bottle bill, of between **4,317 – 5,079 jobs** in the first year after implementation of the bottle bill. (Source: "Final Report of the Temporary State Commission on Returnable Beverage Containers", New York, March 27, 1985)
- ✓ Since passage of the bottle bill, New Yorkers have reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 4 million tons and saved the **energy equivalent of 25 million barrels of oil**, enough energy to provide electricity to all the homes in New York City for one year. (Source: Container Recycling Institute)
- ✓ Over **\$1 billion in unredeemed deposits** have been kept by the beverage industry since the implementation of the bottle bill. In Michigan and Massachusetts the state keeps these unclaimed deposits and uses them for environmental purposes. (Source: NYS DEC)
- ✓ The bottle bill has placed **the responsibility for managing beverage container waste** on the parties who create it: beverage producers and consumers.

An Expanded Bottle Bill Makes Sense . . .

- ✓ When the bottle bill was passed in 1982, non-carbonated beverages such as bottled water, fruit drinks, and sports drinks were virtually non-existent. Sales of these beverages have increased dramatically in the past two decades and today they make up an estimated 21% of the beverage container market in New York State. This means that more than 1 out of every 5 beverage containers is presently not covered by the bottle bill: 2.5 billion bottles and cans. (Source: Container Recycling Institute)
- ✓ Maine and California have expanded their deposit laws to include non-carbonated beverages such as bottled water, fruit drinks, and sports drinks. An expanded bottle bill would improve New York State's recycling program and eliminate littered beverage containers that are not covered by the 5-cent deposit.