

THE PROBLEM

CT municipalities are facing a crippling waste crisis. While it was once profitable for them to collect recyclables through single-stream programs, changing global markets have turned this asset into a huge liability.

Glass is one of the most expensive types of waste, it makes up 20-28% of the weight of single stream recycling, with wine and liquor bottles accounting for 60% of that total glass weight. All that glass in the single stream drives up the cost of recycling for municipalities, which can be upwards of \$95 per ton.

In addition to its high cost to municipalities, glass collected through curbside single-stream recycling has a larger greenhouse gas impact than drop-off programs. Just a little broken glass will contaminate paper bales, reducing its commodity value, and driving up recycling tip fees. The separated single stream glass itself is too dirty to be sold as a commodity and instead is sent as far as 500 miles out of state for disposal.

Glass is 100% recyclable when collected separately and is an eco-friendly alternative to plastic, but all the environmental benefits of glass disappear when it is not disposed of properly. Glass bottles sitting in a landfill will outlive generations of people, and littered glass can injure people, pets and wildlife. When glass beverage containers aren't properly recycled, they must be replaced with new bottles made from virgin materials, which requires more energy and raw materials.

With the underperforming state of recycling in Connecticut and the lack of disposal capacity, putting a deposit on more glass bottles like wine and liquor should be a top priority.

A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

The glass collected from bottle deposit programs is uniform, highly recyclable, and has established end markets throughout the region. Bottle Bill glass earns a positive scrap value on the commodities market, unlike non-deposit glass. Municipalities and Municipal Redemption Facilities must pay to get rid of scrap glass through landfill disposal or other end markets such as Urban Mining. **Adding more glass containers to the Bottle Bill program will relieve municipalities of the operational and financial burden of collection.**



Bottle deposit programs incentivize our residents to recycle correctly. **Adding a deposit to more glass containers will help prevent hundreds of tons of glass from being wasted each year, provide real cost savings for Connecticut tax payers, and help clean up our waste stream and our environment.**

Industry efforts to recycle degraded glass from the single stream recycling program are in the works. This is an important step towards glass recycling, but it is only a fraction of the overall solution to our waste crisis.

FAST FACTS

- ◆ Non-deposit glass in the U.S is recycled at a rate of 27% while glass with a 10-cent deposit is recycled at a rate of **87.5%**.
- ◆ At least 19 territories around the world have a deposit on wine & liquor, including the states of VT, ME, and IA. Iowa and Maine each boast recycling rates of more than **80%** for glass bottles.
- ◆ Recycling rates for non-deposit glass containers are as low as 12% in Connecticut, with as much as **16,000 tons** of non-deposit glass being discarded in our state each year.

MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the Bottle Bill, contact:

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