



Who We Are

The Coalition for High Performance Recycling (CHPR) is a diverse group of consumer brands, environmental nonprofits, material manufacturers, packaging suppliers, trade associations, and material collection and sorting technology providers. Together, CHPR members collaborate to advance a comprehensive policy solution that pairs extended producer responsibility (EPR) with recycling refunds (RR), or modernized “bottle bills,” to help ensure all packaging is recycled at the highest rate and most efficient cost.

A High Performance Recycling System for Rhode Island

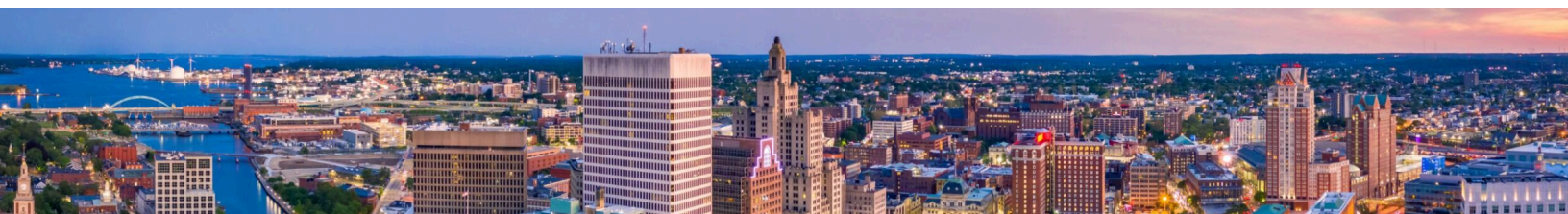
A hybrid EPR + RR model presents the best opportunity to drive higher recovery and recycling rates for beverage containers, while ensuring investment in improving systems for all packaging and paper products. These recycling reforms, proposed by HB 7911/SB 3012, would create an **effective and convenient producer-funded recycling system in Rhode Island** at the most efficient cost, while reducing litter and protecting the environment.

- **Extended producer responsibility (EPR)** is a policy that holds brands and companies (“producers”) responsible for the collection and recycling of packaging they place on the market, shifting the financial responsibility for these programs from municipalities to producers. EPR primarily addresses household waste by supporting curbside recycling programs.
- **Recycling refunds (RR)** place a small, refundable fee on purchases of bottles and cans. When consumers return their beverage containers to designated drop-off locations, that fee is refunded— incentivizing consumers to recycle containers that are at risk of becoming litter.

Efficient and Effective Recycling Reforms

Together, EPR + RR are much-needed recycling reforms that have been proven to:

- **Increase recycling rates:** Despite 80% of residents having access to recycling, Rhode Island only has a 26% recycling rate for packaging. Well-designed RR have been shown to achieve recycling rates of 80-90% for beverage containers—a rate that cannot be achieved through EPR alone.
- **Reduce litter:** Glass, plastic, and aluminum beverage containers are the single most littered item in Rhode Island.
- **Reduce landfill waste:** Recycling reforms will divert recyclable materials from the nearly full Johnston landfill and return them to the market, generating millions of dollars in value.
- **Save taxpayer money:** In addition to reducing litter and landfill disposal costs, recycling reforms will shift costs from municipalities to industry, saving municipalities and taxpayers an estimated \$15.6 million per year.





CHPR Members Include

- Ball Corporation
- Can Manufacturers Institute
- Constellium N.V.
- Crown Holdings
- Diageo North America
- Glass Packaging Institute
- Indorama Ventures North America
- Kaiser Aluminum
- New Belgium Brewing Company
- Novelis
- Pernod Ricard
- Primo Brands
- Red Bell North America
- Reloop Platform
- The Aluminum Association
- The Association of Plastic Recyclers
- The Recycling Partnership
- TOMRA
- Tri-Arrows Aluminum

HB 7911/SB 3012 Legislative Sponsors

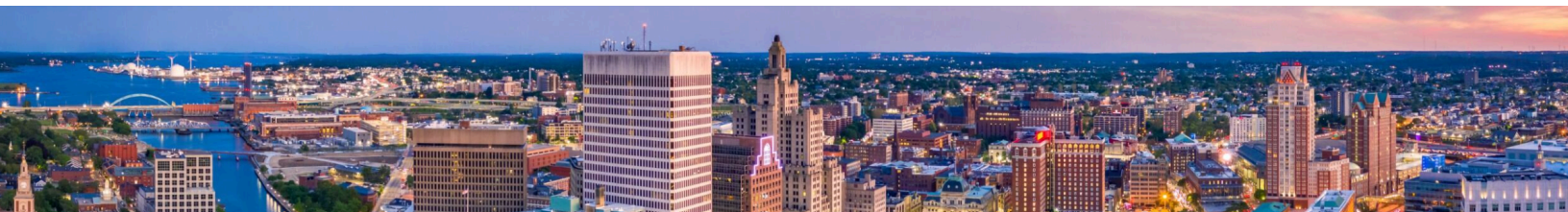
Rhode Island House (Bill 7911)

- Representative Carol Hagan McEntee
- Representative Tina Spears
- Representative David A. Bennett
- Representative Justine Caldwell
- Representative Katherine S. Kazarian
- Representative Arthur Handy
- Representative Jennifer Smith Boylan
- Representative Jason Knight
- Representative June Speakman
- Representative Susan R. Donovan
- Representative Michelle E. McGaw
- Representative Terri Cortvriend
- Representative Lauren H. Carson

Rhode Island Senate (Bill 3012)

- Senator Mark P. McKenney
- Senate President Valarie Lawson
- Senator David Tikoian
- Senator Matthew LaMountain
- Senator V. Susan Sosnowski
- Senator Lori Urso
- Senator Robert Britto
- Senator Melissa A. Murray
- Senator Lammis Vargas
- Senator Victoria Gu

Additional Partners & Supporters



BETTER BUDGETS, LOWER COSTS & IMPROVED RECYCLING

HOW RHODE ISLAND CITIES & TOWNS CAN SAVE MILLIONS

\$15.6M Total projected annual **savings** for Rhode Island and its municipalities with updated recycling programs.

Rhode Island's cities and towns are bearing the cost of an outdated and inefficient recycling system.

<p>121K</p> <p>Tons of recyclables going into the Central Landfill annually</p>	<p>132K</p> <p>Pieces of litter collected by Save The Bay on the shores of Narragansett Bay</p>	<p>26%</p> <p>Rhode Island's recycling rate, despite 80% of households having access</p>	<p>\$800K</p> <p>Rhode Island's annual spend on roadway litter cleanup</p>
--	--	---	---

Contaminated recycling costs Rhode Island cities and towns millions of dollars every year. Each truckload of rejected recycling results in a \$250 fee.

And those fees are adding up



Fees paid by municipalities in 2024. Source: NBC10

UNLOCKING SAVINGS WITH RECYCLING REFORM

Rhode Island has the opportunity to be a national leader in recycling, **boosting municipal budgets** through:

- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** - hold producers accountable for the entire lifecycle of materials and products, including the cost to collect and process recyclables.
- **Recycling Refunds** - empowers and encourages consumers to redeem, return and recycle beverage containers for cash!

Save Taxpayer Money—Protect the Local Environment

REFORM RHODE ISLAND RECYCLING



Rhode Island Recycling Reforms Frequently Asked Questions

What would recycling reforms look like for Rhode Island cities and towns?

- Rhode Island municipalities would receive reimbursement from producers (i.e., the brands and companies who place packaging on the market) for the cost of recycling packaging, as well as infrastructure and programmatic support to ensure recycling programs are operating as best they can.
- Municipalities would continue to pay for trash disposal. Cities and towns may need to rework recycling contracts with haulers and Rhode Island's recycling facility if they currently have bundled service for recycling and trash.
- For cities and towns that do not provide recycling services, those municipalities' residents would be provided with recycling services at no cost to the residents.

How will individual Rhode Islanders benefit?

- The number one benefit to Rhode Islanders is an improved recycling system. Recycling reforms will make recycling in the state convenient and accessible for residents. Additionally, a key goal of extended producer responsibility (EPR) is to harmonize what can be recycled across the state—meaning what is recyclable in Westerly can also be recycled in Woonsocket.
- For beverage containers, residents would place a \$0.10 deposit on each container at check-out. The brand owners for the beverage product will ensure that redemption centers and retail locations provide convenient takeback opportunities for containers. Once returned, residents will receive back their \$0.10 deposit.

Won't this raise grocery prices in Rhode Island?

- EPR for packaging and bottle bills have existed in Canada and the EU for decades. A study of consumer prices for the same goods in neighboring Canadian provinces—one with EPR and the other without—could not detect a noticeable difference in shelf prices for the same goods¹.
- EPR ensures that packaging producers foot the bill for collecting and recycling packaging, and there are limitations to how much of their compliance costs can be passed through to consumers. There are also other underlying cost drivers such as labor and product sourcing that impact costs more significantly.

Do recycling refunds amount to a tax on Rhode Islanders?

- Deposits are not a tax. Unlike a tax, residents are able to get their full \$0.10 back if they return their containers. Because producers are required to ensure there are sufficient and convenient takeback locations, residents will have no trouble returning their containers for the deposit.

¹ [RRS Study: Impact of EPR for PPP on Recycling Market Stability, prepared for Oregon DEQ \(May 2020\)](#)

Why is now the time to pass recycling reforms? Should we wait until the results of the implementation study are published?

- In 2023, a Joint Commission of the House & Senate was created to study what is and what isn't working. The Commission's 2025 report provided recommendations – a potential roadmap – for how to improve our recycling. Last year, the General Assembly furthered that effort by authorizing an analysis to detail how to implement that roadmap. A report due back in December will be helpful, but we shouldn't wait to pass legislation that has already been proven to drive better recycling when fully operational.

Is there broad support for recycling reforms?

- Yes! Multiple Rhode Island municipalities have passed resolutions supporting recycling reforms, recognizing. Additionally, a 2025 poll conducted on behalf of Save The Bay found that 55% of Rhode Islanders support recycling refund programs, with 57% planning to participate when information about convenient return center locations was shared.
- These reforms are also supported by local organizations including Save The Bay, Clean Water Action Rhode Island, Just Zero, and Zero Waste Providence.
- The business community has also shown support for reforming Rhode Island's recycling system, including the members of the Coalition for High Performance Recycling (CHPR) which is made up of a diverse group of consumer brands, environmental nonprofits, material manufacturers, packaging suppliers, trade associations, and material collection and sorting technology providers.

Why shouldn't we pass these reforms as separate bills?

- To reap the full benefits of these proven solutions to increase recycling rates, recycling refunds and EPR should be passed and implemented together. EPR by itself will help improve recycling rates and support the high cost of recycling for Rhode Island municipalities. But on its own, EPR will not tackle Rhode Island's litter problem, nor achieve the very high recycling possible for beverage containers under recycling refunds.
- The combined approach will improve recycling rates, reduce costs for municipalities, and reduce litter. Combining EPR and recycling refunds also helps recover the highest-quality material possible to achieve recycled content goals—higher quality than can be achieved through curbside recycling alone.

Where can I get more information?

- Visit CHPRcycling.org/RhodeIsland for more!

Key Findings from 2025 Mellman Poll on Recycling Refunds

In 2025, Save the Bay commissioned a survey of Rhode Islanders to gauge public support for recycling refunds, also known as a Bottle Bill. Below is a summary of key findings:

- **A majority of those surveyed think Rhode Island's current recycling system is not working and are concerned that the Central Landfill is nearing capacity.**
 - 71% of respondents are concerned that the current recycling system is not working, including 46% who feel a great deal of concern.
 - 73% of respondents are concerned about landfill capacity, with 47% expressing “great concern.”
- **A majority of those surveyed support recycling refund legislation.**
 - 55% of respondents expressed support for the legislation.
 - 36% of respondents opposed the legislation.
 - After voters hear arguments from both sides, support increases to 58%, with less than a third (31%) opposed.
- **A majority of those surveyed plan to participate by returning their own bottles.**
 - Two versions of this question were tested, one which included information on return center locations and another without it.
 - In both, a majority of voters reported they would return bottles, but 57% of voters reported they would when return center locations were shared.

