

OREGON'S BOTTLE BILL OVERVIEW & HISTORY

Presented by Jim Helget | April 18, 2024



OREGON'S BOTTLE BILL

HISTORY & OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM

- **1971 - Oregon Leads by Enacting the Nation's First Bottle Bill**
 - Goal: Reduce litter and clean up Oregon's beaches, highways, rivers and other public areas
 - The bill assigns OLCC as the administrator
 - Training, education, and partnership approach
 - Bottle Bill touches nearly every Oregonian



EVOLUTION OF THE PROGRAM

RESPONDING TO MARKET GROWTH

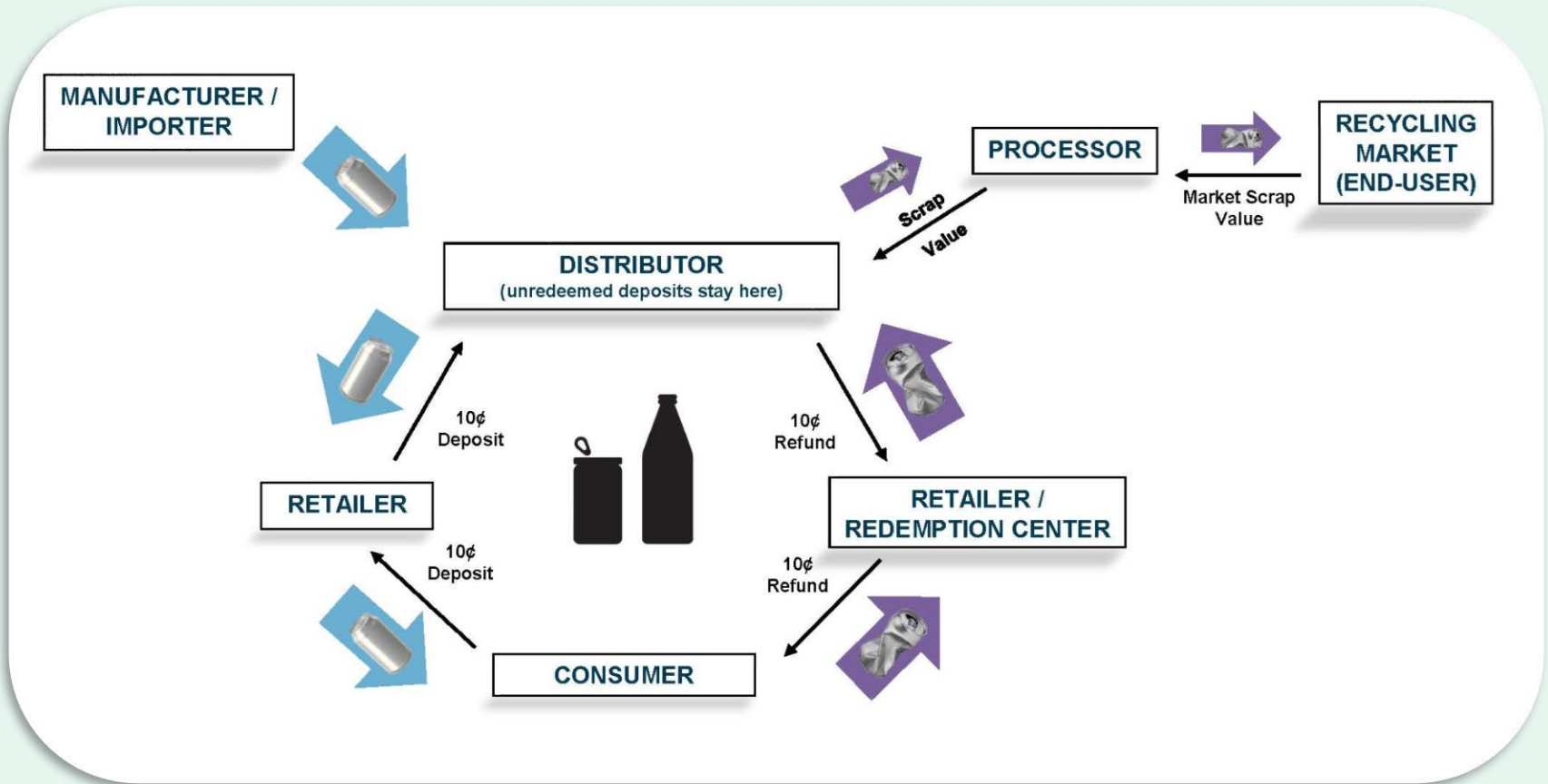
- **Initial Products**

- 1971 – Beer and Malt Beverages, Mineral Water, Soda Water, Soft drinks (5 cents)

- **Expansion (as a result of 2007 Task Force)**

- 2009 - Added Water & Flavored Water (still at 5 cents)
- 2017 – Redemption value increased to 10 cents
- 2018 – Bottle Bill is expanded to include most beverages
 - Coffee, tea, juice, kombucha, and others
 - Milk, infant formula, meal replacements, spirits, wine and others are still excluded

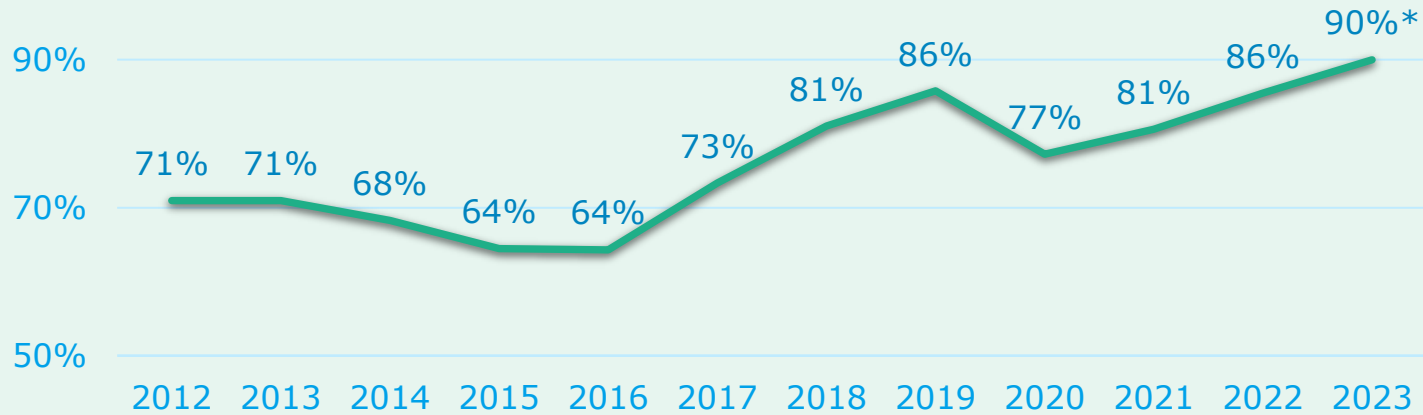
HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS



INCREASED PARTICIPATION ADAPTING TO GROWTH

Increased Redemption

Oregon's Annual Beverage Container Redemption Rates



***2023 rate is preliminary. Final redemption rate released annually in August**

CHALLENGES

RECENT AND ONGOING

- **Tri-Government Emergency Response to Fentanyl**
 - Implemented a narrowly scoped individual container return enforcement pause at two D/T retail locations, Safeway and Plaid Pantry
 - The effort is coordinated with the Governor's Office and Unified Central Command
 - Began this March, extended through April, and will be evaluated to either: expire, expand, or extend
 - Many other retailers requested the same exception due to unruly or intoxicated return customers, instances of violence toward staff, and safety concerns around needles, fentanyl foil, and other contaminants
 - OLCC received many complaints from individual container return customers upset with access and retailer compliance
 - Bottle Bill laws are set in statute and most changes require legislation
- **Out-of-State Container Returns**
 - Identified in the November 2020 Bottle Bill SOS audit as a significant problem to the system
 - If a deposit was never paid into the Oregon's system, there is a financial loss when the deposit is paid out of Oregon's system
 - Bottle Bill has a "return with intent to defraud" provision that makes out-of-state returns illegal
 - Purpose is to target fraud at scale, not to discourage a person from picking up a can off the side of the road

RECENT LEGISLATION

ADAPTING TO CHANGE

- **SB 1520** (2022) – Requires distributors to join OBRC or pay an annual fee to OLCC
 - First phase was for large distributors, second phase for mid-sized and small distributors
 - Requires OBRC to produce an annual Network Access Report to the legislature (Feb)
 - Dealers must post official OLCC notice that describes return requirements
 - Added canned wine effective July 1, 2025
- **SB 582** (2021) – Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act (RMA)
 - Administered by the Department of Environmental Quality
 - Program changes will start in July 2025
 - Producers and manufacturers of packaged items, will have Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), and be required to join a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO)
 - Glass manufactures such as wine and spirits are included in the RMA
 - Legislative workgroup convened to discuss inclusion of wine and/or spirits

53 YEARS OF BOTTLE BILL CONTINUED EVOLUTION...

- Educating the Public and Industry
- Partnering with OBRC and Grocers
- Providing Leadership and Education to Improve the Bottle Bill

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