

Container and Packaging Recycling UPDATE

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CRI Research Shows Congress Wasted Millions of Beverage Containers Since 1995

Everyday the Congress of the United States is throwing away hard-earned taxpayer dollars and precious resources. After a months-long independent analysis, environmental groups recently released findings showing millions of dollars have been lost over the past 5 years due to poor recycling and waste management practices at the U.S. Capitol. Records from the Architect of the Capitol, who manages these programs, show that 71 percent of the paper collected in fiscal year 1999 for recycling was so contaminated that Congress received no revenue.

Taxpayers lost at least \$300,000 due to failure to separate paper for recycling at the source in congressional offices, and keep it free of contamination. More money was lost in FY-2000, the groups said, due to the higher market value of recycled papers, particularly high-grade office paper, cardboard and newspaper.

The Container Recycling Institute got involved after news reports indicated that the Architect of the Capitol is doing very little beverage container recycling and Congress received almost no revenue for millions of containers discarded in the past several years. "Our elected representatives in Washington should follow the example of the majority of Americans who recycle

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Beverage Container Waste Sets Record in 1998, Recycling Declines

Beverage container waste increased by 48 percent from 1992 to 1998. Americans threw away a record 94.2 billion beverage containers in 1998. These findings are based upon analysis of industry data by the Container Recycling Institute (CRI).

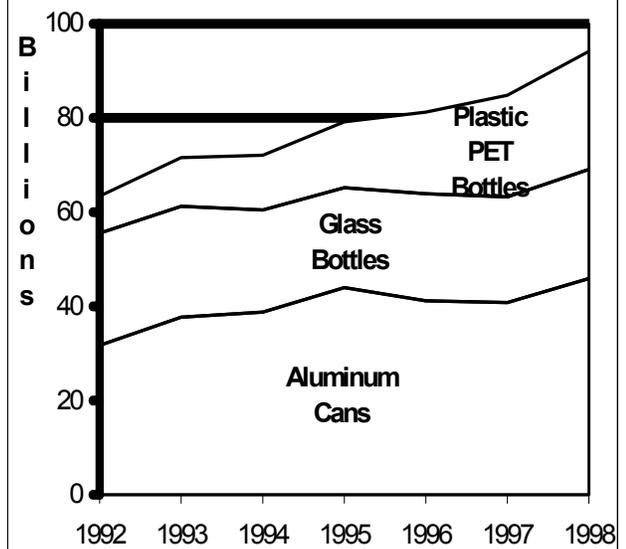
The recycling rate for beverage containers dropped from 53.8 percent in 1992 to 44.7 percent in 1998. (see graph on page 8) During the seven-year period beverage sales grew from 137 billion to 170 billion containers. Beverage container waste increased at twice the rate of

beverage container sales. The analysis covered the years from 1992 to 1998. Beverages included in the analysis were soft drinks, beer, wine, spirits, water, juice, teas and sport drinks.

CRI identified growth in single-serving beverages as a major factor in the growing waste problem. Single-serve beverages are often purchased and consumed away from home, where there are fewer opportunities to recycle.

The wasting of both plastic and aluminum grew dramatically, while glass container waste remained fairly constant. One explanation for this, according to CRI, is the fact that beer bottles comprise 71 percent of glass beverage packaging. Beer is a beverage

Wasted Beverage Containers



Source: CRI calculations based on data from Beverage Marketing Corporation, Aluminum Association, Glass Packaging Institute, American Plastics Council.

generally consumed at home or in commercial establishments where recycling opportunities are well established.

Recycling rates in states with beverage container deposit systems remain two to three times higher than in non-deposit states. Those rates, too, are declining. One state, Michigan, con-

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Letter from the Editor

From Iowa to Israel consumers and policymakers are embracing bottle bills as a sustainable program for reducing litter and waste, conserving energy, and reclaiming recyclable materials that would otherwise be needlessly discarded and destroyed.

As you read this issue of *Container and Packaging Recycling UPDATE* you will find that the system of mandatory container deposits, first enacted in the Canadian Province of British Columbia, has spread far beyond North America's shorelines. Israel's bottle bill will become law in November 2000 and South Australia's Minister announced in October that he will update his state's 25-year old Container Deposit Law (CDL) to include non-carbonated beverages.

The dramatic increase in non-carbonated, non-alcoholic beverages over the past decade prompted two states, Maine and California, and most Canadian provinces to update their bottle bills to include beverages that were not on the market when deposit laws were enacted.

Legislation to update bottle bills will be introduced in Iowa, New York and Connecticut in 2001. Proposals will include expanding existing laws to cover non-carbonated beverages, increasing the deposit amount, and generally keep up with the changing times and changing marketplace.

The beverage and packaging industries are scrambling to promote other methods of recovering beverage containers, particularly plastic beverage bottles, to address falling recycling rates and a lack of adequate supply of plastic bottles for the growing plastics recycling industry. From Pete's Big Bins to 'all plastic bottle' curbside programs' the rush is on to collect more

beverage containers – especially PET bottles.

The fact remains that the one and only proven method of recovering these resource-rich containers at high rates is the deposit-refund system or bottle bill.

The success of bottle bills cannot be denied. From litter reduction to increased recycling, bottle bills are a winner. But, as effective as they are, bottle bills are much maligned by a well-organized, well-financed and determined opposition led by manufactures, distributors and grocers. Beverage industry giants such as Coca-Cola and Anheuser-Busch have joined together to defeat more than 2,000 bottle bill proposals and initiatives since the sixties without ever implementing a viable alternative.

I ran across a quote recently from Dwight Reed, President of the National Soft Drink Association (NSDA) in the early 1980's. Reed told his members, "*Society is telling us in unmistakable terms that we share equally with the public, the responsibility for package retrieval and disposal . . .*" Apparently his statement fell on deaf ears. Twenty years later NSDA is at the forefront of the assault on bottle bills.

The beverage and grocery interests continue their attacks on bottle bills in spite of overwhelming popular support. Poll after poll at the state and national level shows that 3 out of 4 consumers support container deposits as a way of reducing litter and waste.

Bottle bills have survived despite continued assaults by beverage and packaging corporations. They have successfully blocked passage of bottle bills in recent years, but have failed to repeal even one bottle bill.

The most recent repeal attempt took place in Massachusetts where a bill was introduced in 1999 that would gradually replace the state's bottle bill with a 'comprehensive' litter abatement and recycling program

funded by government. After an extensive review of the bottle bill the recommendation of the subcommittee, announced in September 2000, was 'Keep the Bottle Bill'.

Earlier this year a bottle bill campaign in Kentucky was sabotaged by a number of cleverly worded, TV, radio and print ads paid for by a coalition of beverage manufacturers, distributors and retailers calling themselves Kentuckians for Comprehensive Recycling. In essence, the same companies who profited from the sale of billions of beverage cans and bottles in Kentucky prevented their own customers from making the choice to recycle those same containers.

In the U.S. alone, more than 90 billion beverage containers that could be recycled are trashed and burned. Billions are scattered along roadsides, tossed into rivers and streams or left to pile up in parks and playgrounds. When these same containers have a deposit value of 5 or 10 cents, 75 to 95% are captured and recycled, saving valuable, finite resources.

The undermining of bottle bills is out of step with the global trend toward greater producer responsibility. It is time for the beer, soft drink and grocery manufacturers to end their opposition to deposit laws. The deposit system or bottle bill offers these companies and their consumers around the world a method for attacking a global wasting problem.

In a matter of decades we have evolved from a planet of billions of inhabitants to a global village with 6 billion members. What each of us does now affects all of us in the future. The future is not ours to waste.

Beverage Container Waste (Continued from page 1)

continues to recycle deposit beverage containers at rates above 90 percent. The container deposit in Michigan is 10-cents while most deposit states have a 5-cent deposit.

“The state with the highest deposit maintained its recycling rate over the period analyzed. CRI’s analysis suggests that in the current strong economy a higher deposit is necessary to maintain high recycling rates,” CRI Executive Director Pat Franklin said.

Plastics Lead Growth in Sales and Waste

Sales of beverages in PET plastic containers grew from 12 billion in 1992 to 34.6 billion in 1998, an increase of 190 percent. PET plastic bottle waste increased by 210 percent during the same period.

Wasting of PET custom bottles, such as water, juice, sports drinks and other non-carbonated beverages increased 400 percent during the seven-year period.

Aluminum Waste Increased Rapidly

Sales of beverages packaged in aluminum increased by a modest 10 percent from 92.4 billion cans in 1992 to 102 billion in 1998. By contrast, aluminum beverage container waste increased by 44 percent, from 32 billion to 46 billion cans during the same time period.

As in the case of single-serve plastic bottles, beverages in aluminum cans are often consumed away from home and discarded.

Glass Recycling Increases

Sales of beverages in glass bottles increased just two percent, from 32.9 billion bottles in 1992 to 33.8 billion in 1998. Recycling of glass bottles increased by 17 percent during that time period.

Glass is losing beverage market share to plastic, but remains the pack-

age of choice in the beer industry. Very little glass is used for soft drinks and glass is declining in the non-carbonated category of beverages.

Need for New Incentives, Collection Systems

The Container Recycling Institute analysis shows a growing crisis in beverage container recycling. “We see a need for new incentives and collection systems to stem the growing beverage container waste problem,” said Franklin.

For more information visit us on the web: www.Container-Recycling.org

Congress Recycling (Continued from page 1)

their beverage containers,” CRI Executive Director Pat Franklin said.

Research by CRI shows that an estimated 63 million beverage containers, worth nearly \$1 million dollars in secondary recycling markets, have been wasted by Congress since 1995. These findings were presented in a National Press Club news conference on October 2, 2000.

CRI joined Friends of the Earth, the GrassRoots Recycling Network, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 626 and former U.S. House of Representatives Recycling Coordinator Pat Dollar in detailing major problems in the congressional recycling program. Franklin recommended steps to reduce the wasting of beverage containers, including setting up new collection facilities in public areas such as restaurants, cafeterias and outside on the Capitol grounds.

CRI urges its readers and supporters to write, call or e-mail their representatives in Congress, to institute a successful recycling program that will serve as an example to other government and commercial office complexes across the country.

For more information check the Internet at www.recyclecongress.org.

APC ‘all bottle’ program draws criticism

The American Plastics Council (APC) and the National Soft Drink Association are promoting an ‘all bottle’ program to increase the supply of PET plastic bottles for recycling.

APC reports that the ‘all bottle’ program increases recovery of PET and HDPE bottles without increasing other resin types for which there are either limited markets or no markets, and reports a decrease in #3’s through #7’s with no evidence of contamination.

Local officials in some communities are critical of the ‘all bottle’ program. This summer Albany, New York switched from an all-plastic bottle program to collecting only PET and HDPE, due to contamination problems, according to Joe Giebelhaus, the city’s Solid Waste Manager.

Not all of the contamination was due to the ‘all plastic bottle’ program, but Giebelhaus says that the contamination rate dropped from 40 percent to 13 percent after the ‘all bottle program’ was discontinued.

Kevin Miller, Recycling Coordinator for the city of Napa, California says the ‘all bottle’ program perpetuates the notion that all plastic bottles are recyclable. “Nothing could be further from the truth,” said Miller. “Our experience with the ‘all bottle’ program in Napa was that bottles were collected and separated, only to be thrown out.” Napa was part of a 1997 APC ‘all bottle’ pilot study

CRI Executive Director, Pat Franklin cites three major concerns with the ‘all bottle’ program:

- 1) Contamination: Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) bottles are a major contaminant to the PET bottle recycling stream
- 2) Economics: ‘All bottle’ programs increase collection and sorting costs for local governments and recyclers.
- 3) Markets: Markets are limited for some of the #3 - #7 plastic bottles and virtually non-existent for others. These bottles will likely end up in a landfill.

Socially Responsible Shareholders Push Coke and Pepsi on Recycling

Concerned about the growing problem of plastic bottle waste, Walden Asset Management, As You Sow Foundation and other socially responsible shareholders have filed a shareholder resolution with The Coca-Cola Co. and PepsiCo Inc., asking them to adopt recycling goals to use 25 percent recycled content in their soda bottles and to support programs to achieve a recycling rate of 80 percent for its beverage containers sold in the United States.

"We decided to take this action because the plastic bottle waste problem is growing rapidly and overall beverage container recycling is dropping," said Conrad MacKerron, director of the Corporate Accountability Program at As You Sow. "In the past 10 years, more than 75 billion Coke and Pepsi plastic bottles have been land-filled, incinerated or littered on our nation's highways and beaches, according to the Container Recycling Institute," said MacKerron. "At least half of those would have been recycled if all containers had deposits – effective programs strongly opposed by Coke and Pepsi."

"In effect, we are asking Coca-Cola and PepsiCo to stop opposing bottle bills or to offer an alternative policy that can achieve recycling rates equivalent to those in bottle bill states," said Ken Scott, Research Analyst for Walden Asset Management. "The companies have the technology to use 25 percent recycled content in their plastic

bottles. At their bottling facilities in Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland and Sweden, Coke uses at least 25 percent recycled-content plastic. They should do the same here," Said Scott.

This year, after pressure from advocacy groups and social investors, the company started recycling a small amount – 2.5 percent—in their plastic bottles again. Pepsi uses no recycled plastic.

Plastics recyclers say health of plastics recycling at risk

The health of the plastics recycling industry is at risk, according to the Association of Post-consumer Plastics Recyclers (APR), a national trade association. APR represents companies who acquire, reprocess, and use post-consumer plastic bottles.

The limited supply of quality PET (#1 plastic bottles) and HDPE (#2 plastic bottles) prompted APR to hold a

1 out of 4 of Coke's plastic soda bottles contains 10 percent recycled content.



one-day 'supply summit' in Atlanta, Georgia in mid-July to generate ideas for increasing the supply of the two most recyclable plastics on the market.

Phil Cavin of

Mohawk Industries, the world's largest carpet manufacturer, located in Summerville, Georgia, told attendees at the APR meeting, "Two of the largest post-consumer PET buyers reside in a state where a reported 75 percent of the PET bottles go to the landfill. The system is broken and we need to fix it and we need the whole packaging industry chain to focus on a sustainable solution."

An APR advisory group will expand on the various ideas proposed at the 'summit' and develop an action plan, which will include encouraging support from all segments of industry, according to APR Director Robin Cotchan.

"It is time to do something serious and concrete to stimulate more bottle collection in this country, whether it is through public relations, consumer targeted programs, or bottle bill legislation," Cotchan said.

"The inadequate growth in the collection of bottles hurts community recycling programs, state solid waste planning, consumer brand companies, and APR members. We see the need for greater cooperation by all parties to achieve a common goal, making plastics recycling flourish," Cotchan said.

This is the second time this year that the APR has mentioned deposit legislation as a means of increasing the supply of plastic bottles to the plastics recycling industry.

CRI launches Bottle Bill 'Resource Guide' at www.BottleBill.org



CRI launched a new website in August 2000. BottleBill.org was designed by one of CRI's summer interns, Chinedu Ekechukwu, a senior at Cornell University. BottleBill.org serves as a valuable resource guide on container deposit legislation and keeps viewers updated on current bottle bill campaigns and activities in the U.S. and abroad.

In early December BottleBill.org will have an interactive component that will allow visitors to send a message to Coca-Cola President, Doug Daft, calling on Coke to accept responsibility for their containers and support bottle bills.

STATE UPDATE

Massachusetts: Legislative Task Force says 'Keep the Bottle Bill'

Massachusetts should keep the state's 17-year old bottle bill, according to a report released in September 2000 by the Legislature's Bottle Bill Task Force. The Task Force also recommended against expanding the law to include non-carbonated beverages.

The Task Force proposed an increase in the handling fee from \$.0225 per container to \$.0260 to assist struggling redemption centers. It proposed a change in the statute that would allocate 25 percent of the unclaimed deposits to bottlers and distributors. Under current law all of the unclaimed deposits go to the Clean Environment Fund (CEF).

Jennifer Gitlitz, MassRecycle Executive Director, said, "We are relieved that the report did not recommend repealing the Bottle Bill. We believe, however, that the recommendation to allocate 25 percent of the CEF, about \$7.5 million, to bottlers and distributors may jeopardize funds originally designated to promote recycling in the Commonwealth."

Scott Cassell, testifying on behalf of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs at one of the ten hearings held last spring, told the Task Force that the Bottle Bill is the most successful recycling initiative in Massachusetts for the collection of beverage containers. He said the average recycling rate for deposit containers from 1991 to 1999 was 79 percent, compared to the national average of 34 percent for the same type of containers.

Phil Emma of Coca-Cola, New England suggested replacing the bottle bill with pay-as-you-throw and curbside pick-up programs. Emma encouraged the task force to support House Bill 4552, a bill introduced in 1999 designed to repeal the bottle bill.

HB 4552, the catalyst for the formation of the Bottle Bill Task Force, purported to 'update' the bottle bill, but

in fact it would have repealed the bottle bill and dismantled the Clean Environment Fund.

Stakeholders representing grocers, beer distributors, soft drink bottlers, redemption center owners, reverse vending machine companies, government agencies, beverage manufactures,

Iowa: Department of Natural Resources Supports Expanded Deposit System; Iowans send message to grocers "Support the Bottle Bill"

Support is building for expanding the bottle bill and defending it from attacks. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has jumped off the fence in the debate over expansion, coming down in support of the expansion effort. DNR is drafting a bill that will be pre-filed in December.

Although the governor's position is not yet known, his Enterprise Teams included the bottle bill expansion proposal in the governor's top 30 proposals for the 2001 legislature, from a pool of 300 proposals.

Iowa's grocers, who led a campaign to repeal the bottle bill in 1998, have begun receiving cards asking them to support the bottle bill expansion effort spearheaded by the Beautiful Land Coalition. The Coalition printed 600,000 Support Cards (see cards below) the size of a large business card with messages printed on both sides. On one side the card says: "I support the Bottle Bill! I recycle! I shop here!" On the other side it says, "Support and Update Iowa's Bottle Bill."

The cards are being distributed

environmental groups testified before the Task Force. After hearing from many sectors impacted by the state's container deposit law, the panel of seven legislators concluded that "an adequate alternative to the Bottle Bill has not been presented at this time."

through dozens of organizations that support updating the bottle bill. Consumers are encouraged to give the cards to grocery store managers or cashiers or present them at redemption centers to show their support for updating Iowa's bottle bill. The Support Card Campaign provides an opportunity for consumers to show their support for the bottle bill and win grocers over to their position.

Voters are encouraged to send cards to their state legislators in Des Moines after first changing the message to "I support the Bottle Bill! I recycle! I vote here!"

Judi Hoffman, Mayor Pro Temp of the Ames, Iowa City Council said, "The Iowa Bottle Bill Support Cards are a quiet, simple, portable way of letting Iowa grocers know that Iowans are committed to updating the bottle bill. The bottle bill support cards, like the bottle bill itself, offer a simple way for every individual to participate in the Iowa recycling effort.

Iowa City recently passed an expansion resolution and a similar resolution will be introduced in Ames, according to Ms. Hoffman.



Kentucky: House Majority Leader Stumbo to continue bottle bill fight in 2001

Kentucky House Majority Leader Greg Stumbo prefiled the bottle bill soon after learning that the voters had approved a ballot measure in November for annual state legislative sessions.

Stumbo told reporters, "I'll go to my grave believing that container deposit legislation is the best solution for roadside litter and streamside litter."

Stumbo's bottle bill was blocked in 2000 but he is prepared to continue to push for a measure he has long supported. A *Lexington Herald-Leader* editorial on September 24th said, "It's commonplace for good ideas to take several legislative sessions to prevail. And this year, the idea of requiring a nickel or dime deposit on drink bottles and cans made real progress."

Connecticut: Non-deposit bottle and can litter on the rise

Non-deposit littered bottles and cans are a growing problem on playgrounds, beaches and streets in Connecticut, where only beer and soft drink containers have a 5-cent deposit.

Rep. Richard Roy of Milford said that letters and calls from constituents concerned about the reoccurrence of bottle and can litter prompted him and several other legislators to propose expanding the current law to include non-carbonated beverage containers. Those proposals provided the impetus for the formation of a Bottle Bill Working Group to study the Connecticut deposit law.

"These containers did not exist when the original bottle bill was passed 20 years ago," said Roy, "and the public is telling us they want them included."

The Bottle Bill Working Group is made up of five beverage and grocery industry lobbyists and executives, one recycling professional, two representatives from environmental/consumer groups, four legislators and one municipal leader. The group is co-chaired by Rep. Richard Roy and Martin Heft, 1st Selectman of the Town of Chester.

Betty McLaughlin, director of legislative issues for the Connecticut chapter of the Sierra Club, said "the working group is unbalanced, favoring the beverage industry."

We continue to hope that the legislature will expand the existing deposit law to include non-carbonated beverage containers," McLaughlin told CRI.

New York: Report recommends expansion of New York State bottle bill to reduce costs to New York City and increase waste diversion

A report prepared by Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) for the New York City Department of Sanitation says the city would realize considerable benefits by expanding the state's bottle bill requiring a 5-cent refundable deposit on beer and soft drink cans and bottles. The purpose of the study was to determine the costs and savings to the city if the state's 17 year-old deposit law were expanded.

The report, released in September 2000, recommends that New York City support an expanded bottle bill that would include wine and liquor bottles and non-carbonated beverage

containers such as juice drinks, sports drinks and bottled water and raise the deposit from 5 to 10 cents.

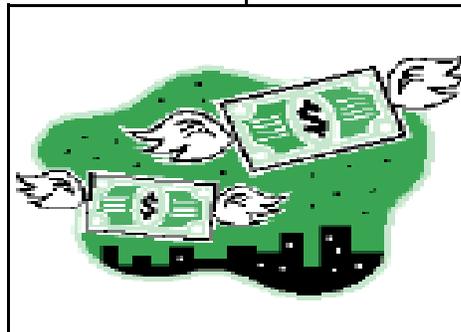
The Packaging Restrictions Report, which was written in 1997, projected that if the bottle bill were expanded, New York City would remove an additional 190,000 tons of waste per year (primarily glass and plastic) from the waste stream and reduce waste management costs by more than \$8.6 million a year by 2000. Reduction of litter on New York City streets would be an added benefit.

The potential costs of expansion outlined in the report include increased handling costs and increased storage space requirements for NYC retailers who take back deposit materials. The report says expansion could result in a potential increase of between 3 to 8 cents per unit the cost of wine, liquor and new age beverages to NYC consumers

The SAIC report said the efficiency of the city's commercial recycling program "is limited by the value of the materials collected; since PET and glass are low value high volume commodities, the economic incentive is minimal. Expanding deposit legislation to include PET and glass would provide a strong incentive to remove these materials from the waste stream."

SAIC found the majority of New Yorkers in favor of expanding the bottle bill and predictably, beer and soft drink manufacturers, bottlers, distributors and retailers were diametrically opposed.

The city may have an opportunity to support expansion in 2001, when New York State Attorney General Elliot Spitzer introduces a program bill that would require a minimum 5-cent deposit on bottle water, iced tea, juice drinks, and other non-carbonated beverage containers.



Report says expanding state's bottle bill would save New York City \$8.6 million annually

New South Wales to conduct extensive review of container deposit legislation

The New South Wales (NSW) Minister for the Environment has commissioned an independent review of Container Deposit Legislation (CDL). A significant component of the review will include stakeholder and public input through interviews and submissions. In addition it is proposed that the views and preferences of the community be explored through representative and deliberative processes, including a survey and a citizen's panel.

The review will assess the costs and benefits of CDL in environmental, economic, social and institutional terms, including its relationship to the broader concept of extended producer responsibility. Dr. Stuart White, Deputy Director of the Institute for Sustainable Futures, will be conducting the inquiry. A summary report and draft recommendations will be provided to the Minister at the end of the 2000, with a final report and recommendations to follow in late January 2001.

Peter Hopper, a longtime bottle bill proponent in Australia said, "An inquiry of this scope and depth is long overdue. The terms of reference and methodology give me some confidence that the scandalous way the beverage and packaging companies have made the whole community, rather than their consumers, pay for beverage packaging collection will finally be exposed. CDL insures companies recognize such cost as part of their business, and look at ways to minimize the expense. Refilling and recycling of their containers is an obvious answer."



Mr. Hopper told CRI there is a strong push for CDL, or its expansion, in many of Australia's eight states and territories. South Australia introduced CDL in the mid-late 1970s, but since then beverage and packaging interests have successfully blocked attempts to have it introduced elsewhere.

"The world is fast coming to expect that industry take full life-cycle responsibility, both physical and financial, for their products and packaging. Refundable-deposit systems are an ideal way to bring this about," Hopper said.

*For more information contact:
Dr Stuart White, Deputy Director,
Institute for Sustainable Futures
email:Stuart. @utsedu.au
[http://www.isf.uts.edu.au/
CDL_Review](http://www.isf.uts.edu.au/CDL_Review)*

South Australia's container deposit system widened to include non-carbonated drinks

Minister for Environment and Heritage Lain Evans announced in October that South Australia's successful Container Deposit Legislation (CDL) will soon be widened to embrace a range of additional 9 beverages to further reduce litter, increase recycling and remove a number of long standing and controversial anomalies.

In an October 1, 2000 statement, Mr. Evans said that South Australia's CDL has been an outstanding success since its introduction in 1975, but has not kept pace with the changing drink market. "The range and style of take-away drinks has increased enormously over the past 25 years, but the legislation has not been amended to reflect the strong changes in the consumer market," said Mr. Evans.

"For example we have had the ridiculous situation in the past whereby deposits are placed on containers for

carbonated sports drinks but not on containers for non-carbonated sports drinks. The time is right for change - it seems only fair that competing beverages in the market should, where practical, be treated equally."

The updated law will include flavoured milk, 'sports drinks', fruit juices and drinks and flavoured waters. The proposal also removes exemptions applying to drinks such as alcoholic ciders and other alcoholic fruit drinks.

According to Mr. Evans, a recent report on the state's container deposit law recommended that it should be amended to cover additional beverages and remove current anomalies within the Act. The new regulations will start on January 1, 2003 to allow industry time to adjust for the changes.

For more information on CDL in South Australia visit their website www.ministers.sa.gov.au

Israel's Bottle Bill to become law on April 1, 2001

Israel's bottle bill, first proposed nearly a decade ago, will become law in April 2001. Under the law, sponsored by Knesset Member Avraham Poraz, a 5-cent deposit will be required on single-serve beverage containers under 1.5 liters.

Eyal Artzy of the Israel Union for Environmental Defense (IUED) was critical of the limit on the size of containers covered by the law, but told CRI "the law will reduce the amount of litter polluting the public domain, keep bottles and cans out of landfills and promote recycling and re-use of beverage containers."

The deposit system will be established and operated by manufacturers, retailers and distributors who will keep the unclaimed deposits.

Israel's Bottle Bill sets a recycling target of 50 percent for 2001 that increases to 85 percent by 2005.

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