

CALIFORNIA RECYCLING PROGRAM RATES
January 1, 2026

Table 1: RECYCLING CENTERS (RC)

Material Type	Containers Per Segregated Pound	Refund Value Per Segregated Pound
Aluminum	31.1	\$1.66
Glass	1.79	\$0.101
#1 PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate)	26.7	\$1.46
#2 HDPE (High Density Polyethylene)	9.3	\$0.67
#3 PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride)	9.7	\$0.48
#4 LDPE (Low Density Polyethylene)	39.7	\$1.98
#5 PP (Polypropylene)	11.2	\$0.56
#6 PS (Polystyrene)	109.0	\$5.45
#7 Other Plastic	3.1	\$0.31
Bi-metal	8.6	\$0.43
Multi-Layer Pouch	17.4	\$4.35
Bag-in-Box	1.5	\$0.38
Paperboard Carton	17.1	\$4.26

California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 2500(e) (2), requires Recycling Centers to post refund prices by weight, by container, and by material type

Table 2: REVERSE VENDING MACHINES (RVM)*

Material Type	Containers Per Segregated Pound	Refund Value Per Commingled Pound	Refund Value Per Segregated Pound	CRV %
Aluminum	32.7	\$1.69	\$1.69	100.00%
Glass	1.49	\$0.091	\$0.092	98.91%
PET Plastic	30.1	\$1.60	\$1.61	99.37%
HDPE Plastic	19.3	\$0.96	\$0.97	98.97%

Table 3: CURBSIDE PROGRAMS (CS)

Material Type	Containers Per Segregated Pound	Refund Value Per Commingled Pound	Refund Value Per Segregated Pound	CRV %
Aluminum	31.8	\$1.64	\$1.64	100%
Glass	1.26	\$0.076	\$0.088	86.36%
PET Plastic	14.6	\$0.65	\$0.91	71.43%
HDPE Plastic	5.7	\$0.034	\$0.52	6.54%

Table 4: DROP-OFF / COLLECTION PROGRAMS (CP)*

Material Type	Containers Per Segregated Pound	Refund Value Per Commingled Pound	Refund Value Per Segregated Pound	CRV %
Aluminum	29.6	\$1.62	\$1.62	100%
Glass	1.2	\$0.077	\$0.085	90.59%
PET Plastic	16.0	\$0.70	\$0.95	73.68%
HDPE Plastic	5.6	\$0.020	\$0.50	4%

Table 5: COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS (SP)*

Material Type	Containers Per Segregated Pound	Refund Value Per Commingled Pound	Refund Value Per Segregated Pound	CRV %
Aluminum	31.4	\$1.63	\$1.63	100%
Glass	1.35	\$0.08	\$0.092	86.96%
PET Plastic	17.4	\$0.87	\$1.04	83.65%
HDPE Plastic	4.9	\$0.045	\$0.48	9.38%

*The January 1, 2025 program rates will remain in effect for 2026. The number of samples collected during the 2026 Survey Cycle was less than 70% of the planned samples as presented at the 2026 Rate Determination Survey Methodology Workshop. The Department has determined the collected samples are insufficient for calculating the most accurate rates feasible to properly compensate consumers and industry.

Note: The containers that produce the Containers per Segregated Pound (CPP) vary in size, volume, and weight. The refund value is \$0.05 for some containers (<24 oz.) and \$0.10 for others (>24 oz.). Therefore, you cannot simply multiply the CPP average by either refund value to get the Refund Value per Segregated Pound rates. The refund value for wine and distilled spirits in multi-layer pouches, bag-in-box and paperboard carton containers is \$0.25 regardless of size.