Modeling Impacts: the Potential of Modernized DRS

Under the conditions of the model, every targeted Northeast state would see an increase in the return rate for beverage containers.

Over nine billion additional containers — roughly 1.9 million tons of material — would be recycled across the five states each year, providing a 33% increase in the material available to replace virgin material in new beverage containers. In terms of increased beverage container recycling, plastic is estimated to see the largest increase, with an additional 5.9 billion units being recycled; aluminum and glass follow with an additional 1.9 billion and 1.4 billion containers processed respectively. Under high-performance DRS principles, about 463,000 tons of additional material will be recycled across the Northeast region annually.

This would both help cities and states to meet their climate, recycling and landfill diversion goals, and allow consumer packaging goods brands to meet up to half recycled content corporate commitments and regulatory obligations. The system would cost producers just one to 3.6 cents per container (differs by state), and much of their costs would be offset by material revenue and a portion of unclaimed deposits.

ADDITIONAL UNITS RECYCLED