Methodology

The goal of this research is to build high-performing, resilient recycling infrastructure that harmonizes existing deposit systems in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New York, and Vermont.

Modernizing these existing systems will bring a suite of environmental, social, and economic benefits and create a model that can be replicated in other states across the US.

The numbers presented below are the findings of analysis and modeling performed by Eunomia Research and Consulting Inc. for Reloop North America. The primary task was to **determine the impact of systems that align with Reloop's high-performance principles** once needed reforms were implemented.

The model compared current DRSs in the Northeast US against a hypothetical high-performance system, while calculating likely impacts if a high-performance system was implemented.

The analysis below is a critical step toward implementation, providing insight into the granular details that will enable the targeted states to modernize their existing DRSs.

Modernized DRSs may — but do not need to — include a "bag drop" option, whereby residents can return containers in bulk, sometimes for a "convenience fee" that recognizes the additional manual labor and transport required to process containers this way.

When a bag drop system is in place, most states would see between 11% and 25% of material return through bag drop. Additionally in this scenario, about 23%-35% of material would be returned through retailer reverse vending machines (RVMs). When bag drop is not included, then the rates for retail RVM return would be higher and they would exceed 50% in some states.

With the bag drop option, total system costs, total jobs, and per-container costs increase slightly; capital costs decline slightly compared to systems without bag drop because of the decreased need for RVMs with a bag drop system. According to the model, the total tonnage of containers recycled is effectively the same in either scenario, and the total greenhouse gas emissions are less than five percent higher. For this reason, the findings presented here only include bag drop scenario impacts where they are most pertinent.