

Economic Impacts

Research shows that deposit return systems create at least five times more jobs in beverage container collection, sorting, and transport than in garbage collecting, hauling, and landfilling, and can also drive more jobs than a curbside recycling system for beverage containers³². These jobs are associated with the collection of containers at retailers and in redemption centers; transporting, counting, and sorting of containers; maintenance of technology; auditing and monitoring; and administration of the system. Roughly 9,000 would be directly employed with DRS in the five states. While there is the potential for modernization to result in 608 disposal-related jobs losses (e.g. collections and operations associated with landfill or incineration), 3,359 jobs would be gained through collecting and sorting the materials in a DRS. This results in **a net gain of 2,751 jobs in the entire region.**

That said, the transition to a modernized DRS will require thoughtful implementation and support within the existing recycling infrastructure.

MRFs will see fewer beverage containers flow through their facilities, lowering revenue from tipping fees. This will also result in the revenue loss associated with higher-value materials such as aluminum cans and PET bottles. However, MRFs will also see reduced volumes of materials such as glass and cartons that are costly to process and have limited markets.

Reduced volumes of problematic materials and overall cost savings to towns and cities will help to offset the negative impacts of DRS modernization. In addition, unclaimed deposits from the early phases of transition can be used to upgrade and modernize MRFs and other key infrastructure to better adapt to new systems and manage hard-to-recycle materials. More about facilitating an equitable transition is explained below.

Generally, the changes to regional DRSs will also have a wider benefit to Gross Domestic Product. **The gross value added (GVA)³³ of the improved system will amount to between \$1.3 and \$1.4 billion each year** due to increased tax revenues to the states from increased employment and other factors.