

## Addressing the Informal Sector

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**DRS systems benefit and rely heavily on canners despite the lack of data to demonstrate this. This group will be affected when the deposit rate increases, the types of deposit-eligible containers expands, and the number of littered beverage containers declines.**

High-performing DRSs are those designed with the redeemer in mind, be it a consumer or a canner. In recognition of the role canners play, and of the impact DRS reforms will have on their livelihoods, Reloop is committed to working with partners such as Sure We Can, a Brooklyn-based non-profit recycling center and community space supporting area canners, and Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO), a global network focused on empowering the working low-income in the informal economy. Doing so will enable us to engage this sector and to identify and pursue the research and other work needed to both better understand the needs of canners and develop and facilitate the implementation of a robust standard for place-specific, inclusive DRS.

### Needed steps include:

- Perform a canner census in New York City to better understand, for example:
  - Total population and demographic profile of canners
  - How canner activity is organized (individually, cooperatively, an organized business)
  - From what sources and how much material canners collect
- Identify fair and equitable conditions for canners, like access to canner-friendly redemption sites
- Promote needed interventions such as government-supported siting of canner-oriented redemption centers and other incentives