



# The Great Bottle Round-Up!

**Deputy Deposit**

**says.....**

"Round-up them deposit bottles and cans ....  
Help the environment and wrangle up some  
cash! Yee Haw"



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Bureau of Waste Reduction & Recycling

printed on 30% post-consumer recycled paper

So... My recycling buckaroos, here is some info to get ya thinkin...

### **What is the Returnable Container Act... the Deposit Law... the Bottle Bill?**

The Returnable Container Act (RCA), the Deposit Law, the Bottle Bill are all names for the same thing! The purpose of New York's RCA was to reduce litter, ease the burden on solid waste facilities and encourage recycling activities. It was enacted on June 15, 1982 and implemented on July 1, 1983

The RCA requires at least a 5 cent deposit on carbonated soft drinks, beer and other malt beverages, mineral water, soda water, and wine cooler containers. Although commonly called the Bottle Bill, the RCA includes more than bottles - a deposit is required on glass, metal and plastic containers that hold one gallon or less. To encourage reuse and recycling, both refillable and nonrefillable containers carry a deposit.

There are now eleven states that have a Bottle Bill. Oregon passed the first Bottle Bill in 1971 and Hawaii is the latest state in 2002.

### **Environmental Impacts**

**Litter:** Several studies reported dramatic reductions in litter after the implementation of the RCA. One study estimated that beverage container litter was reduced between 70-80 percent.

**Solid Waste and Recycling:** The New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) estimates the overall redemption rates for deposit containers to be 69.9 percent for 2001.

Redemption rates for various container types are as follows:

beer	77.6 percent
soft drinks	60.3 percent
wine coolers	73.5 percent

### **Since the Law was passed in 1982...**

- ( NYS experienced a 70 to 80% reduction in container litter.
- ( 70 billion deposit containers have been recycled.
- ( Over 3,800,000 tons of glass have been recycled.
- ( Over 600,000 tons of plastics have been recycled.
- ( Over 850,000 tons of aluminum have been recycled.

Unfortunately, it is estimated that 21% of beverage containers produced today are not covered by RCA which means one out of five drink containers do not have deposits on them and often end up in the trash. All those non-carbonated drinks.. water, sports drinks, etc. are non-deposit bottles.

# Ya'll ready to get started?

## **So What is the Great Bottle Round-Up?**

The Great Bottle Round-Up is an opportunity for your school or youth organization to collect deposit cans and bottles! You collect deposit cans and bottles and return them for their deposits and then let us know how well you did.

## **Where are the Best Places to Collect Deposit Cans and Bottles?**

Besides your home, you will find deposit cans and bottles at sporting events, arenas, parks, playgrounds, restaurants, cafeterias - any place deposit drinks are sold. Check with the manager or owner to see if you can leave a collection box.

## **Why Should We Participate?**

This is a great way to raise funds for your school or organization. It also helps raise awareness on our Bottle Bill. The deposit redemption rates have been dropping the last few years and we would like to see that trend turned around.

In addition, each school or organization that participates will receive a **"Certificate of Accomplishment"** from NYSDEC and recycling educational materials.

## **How Do We Round-Up This Event?**

Use the attached announcements to notify families in your school/youth organization and community. Add your local information (See Step 4 on page 2) in the space provided. Make as many copies as you need (try to use recycle-content paper).

### **Mohonasen High School Marching Band, Rotterdam, Schenectady County**

The school's marching band holds two bottle drives a year, one in the spring and one in the fall. Flyers announcing the bottle drive are distributed to district homes the week before the event. On the day of the event, students go through the districts neighborhoods to pick up the donated bottles or they can be dropped off at the school parking lot. They use the school parking lot to count and package the containers according to their redemption center's direction. This semi-annual event has collected an average \$4,000 a year. Their Spring of 2002 drive collected 55,342 bottles which is \$2,767.10 in just under 6 hours.

## **STEP 1** Organize Your Posse (Planning Team)

**T** Form a Posse (team or committee.)

**T** Select a Sheriff (team leader) for your deposit bottle round-up.

**T** Assign Deputies (people) to be responsible for the following steps.

**T** Decide what the money will be used for so you can let the community know about your worthwhile event.

## **STEP 2** Y'all Call Your Local Deposit Bottle Redemption Center

**X** To locate a local Deposit Bottle Redemption Center call: (518) 402-8705

**X** Make arrangements with the Redemption Center on how they want the deposit bottles sorted and if they provide plastic bags for delivery to the Redemption Center.

## **STEP 3** Lasso the Bottles & Cans (Select a Method of Collection)

There are two methods of collection to choose from:

1. Collect door-to-door
2. Collect at a central site

1. Collection **door-to-door** is more convenient for residents, however it will require more volunteers and vehicles. Consult a map of your community and decide the size of the area you will canvas. Remember to concentrate on residential areas. Make sure there is always an adult that goes with the students, never let students go door-to-door alone.

2. Collection at a **central site** is ideal for school groups or youth organizations that have access to a location where people can bring their empty deposit beverage containers. Deposit Bottle Round-Ups can be held at schools, churches, parking lots or other recreational areas. While this method involves less volunteers and vehicles, more publicity is needed to inform residents of your event and you must depend on people to bring the deposit bottles to you. Make sure there are adults present to supervise.

## **STEP 4** Get the Wanted Posters Up (News Out)

**Q** Decide on the date(s) and the collection method.

**Q** Having a reason for the drive creates a goal for the community to participate and reach for.

**Q** Publicize! Publicize!! Publicize!!! Ensure your publicity flyers are printed with the following: (You can make up your own or modify the one attached!)

- Name of your school or organization.
- Reason for the bottle drive (what you will use the money for).
- Date(s) and time of the round-up.

- Collection method (door-to-door or central site where they will be collected).
- Remember to state you are collecting deposit bottles and cans only and that they should be **clean and plastic caps removed**.
- Telephone number that people can call for information.

**Q** Distribute a flyer to every student and, if possible, every home in your school or organization area a few weeks before your collection.

**Q** Write a short statement for publication in your local community newspaper and as a public service announcement on local radio and television stations.

## **STEP 5** Assign Collection Posses (Teams) and Equipment

**P** If you have selected **door-to-door** collection, separate the collection area into smaller sections and assign collectors, drivers, and vehicles to each section. Make sure there is always an adult that goes with the students, never let students go door-to-door alone.

**P** If you have selected a **central location**, have a team to greet and assist people who bring their empty containers for the bottle drive. Again, make sure there are adults present.

**P** Assign team members to organize and sort the empty beverage containers. Many Redemption Centers require some type of separation; the basic separation is by container type:

- └ Plastic bottles (caps removed)
  - └ Glass bottles
  - └ Aluminum cans

NOTE: Work gloves or rubber gloves are important for those people sorting containers and be careful! There may be broken glass bottles in the bags.

You can also help support New York State/America Recycles Day!

Check out our website at:

[www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dshm/redrecy/recylday.htm](http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dshm/redrecy/recylday.htm)

# The Great Bottle Round-Up!

Please complete this form and return it to the address below. We will send your school/youth organization a "Certificate of Appreciation."

CONTACT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Number of students in the school \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children in the youth organization \_\_\_\_\_

Number of bottles and cans collected \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of money earned \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send this form to:**

**NYSDEC  
Great Bottle Round-Up  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233-7253**

Deputy Deposit says... "Thank'ya fer your efforts!"

## Environmental Dates

Your school can conduct other environmental and recycling education events.

These would be good activities to schedule on:

Earth Day (April 22),  
Arbor Day (last Friday in April)  
Water Week (May)  
National River Clean Up Week (May)  
Clean Air Month (May)  
National Wetlands Month (May)  
World Environment Day (June 5)  
New York State/America Recycles Day (November 15)  
Use Less Stuff Day (November 18)



## Here Are Some Ideas for Activities for The Great Bottle Round-up!

### 1. Plastic Deposit Bottle Chin Relay

**Goal** - To get the plastic deposit bottle through the line, using only your chin in the fastest time you can.

**Materials** - Clean, empty 20 fluid ounce plastic deposit soda bottles and one box for each team.

**Rules** - Divide your group into at least two teams with equal numbers of players. Have them form a line for each group. Mark off the starting line and a half way mark. Start with a clean, empty 20 fluid ounce plastic deposit bottle under the first players chin. The player will run or walk quickly from the starting line to the halfway mark and back to the starting line. Without using hands, the first player transfers the plastic deposit bottle to the next person in line. If the plastic deposit bottle falls to the floor, one person will pick up the deposit bottle and place it back under of the player that dropped it. The last player runs the relay and then drops the deposit bottle into the "Redemption Center" box. The first team that completes the relay and gets the deposit bottle in the Redemption Center box, wins!

**Modifications** - If you don't want to pass chin to chin, you can provide each player with a plastic 20 fluid ounce plastic bottle. Each players runs the relay race and then drop the plastic bottle in the Redemption Center Box. The first team to have all their deposit bottles in the Redemption Center Box, wins!

## 2. Deposit Bottle or Can Tossing



**Goal** - To get as many deposit bottles in the bottle redemption box.

**Materials** - Two different size boxes for each team and plastic or can deposit bottles.

**Rules** - Place the smaller box inside the bigger box. The smaller box is the Redemption Center, the Bigger Box is the Landfill. Divide your group into equal teams, each player get two to three plastic or aluminum cans and tosses them into the boxes. They get five points for each deposit can or bottle that makes it into the Redemption Center Box and loose five points for each deposit can or bottle that lands in the Landfill. The team with the most points win!

## 3. Fill the Deposit Plastic Bottle

**Goal** - Fill a 20 fluid ounce or one liter plastic deposit bottle with water.

**Materials** - One 20 fluid ounce or one liter plastic deposit bottle, a pail of water, one tablespoon for each team.

**Rules** - Divide the players into equal number teams. Set up a starting point, where the players will begin, with a pail of water and one tablespoon. The finish line will have the deposit plastic bottle (you may want to put something on the floor, or place the deposit bottle in a bigger pail to keep water from spilling all over.) This is a great activity for outdoors on a warm day! The player will carry the tablespoon full of water to the finish line and pour it into the plastic deposit bottle, and return to tablespoon to the next person in the starting line. Keep going through the line until the plastic deposit bottle is filled. The team that fills the plastic deposit bottle first, wins!

### Recycling Environmental Savings

**For every ton of plastic recycled, we...**

Save 90% of the energy used to make plastic from virgin plastic.

**For every ton of glass recycled, we...**

Save enough energy to light a 100 watt light bulb for 4 hours.

Save 9 gallons of fuel oil.

Save 25 percent of the energy necessary to make glass with virgin materials.

**For every ton of aluminum recycled, we...**

Reduce energy use by 90 percent.

Save enough energy recycling just one can to run a TV for 3 hours.

Reduce air pollution by 95 percent.

Reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 13 tons!

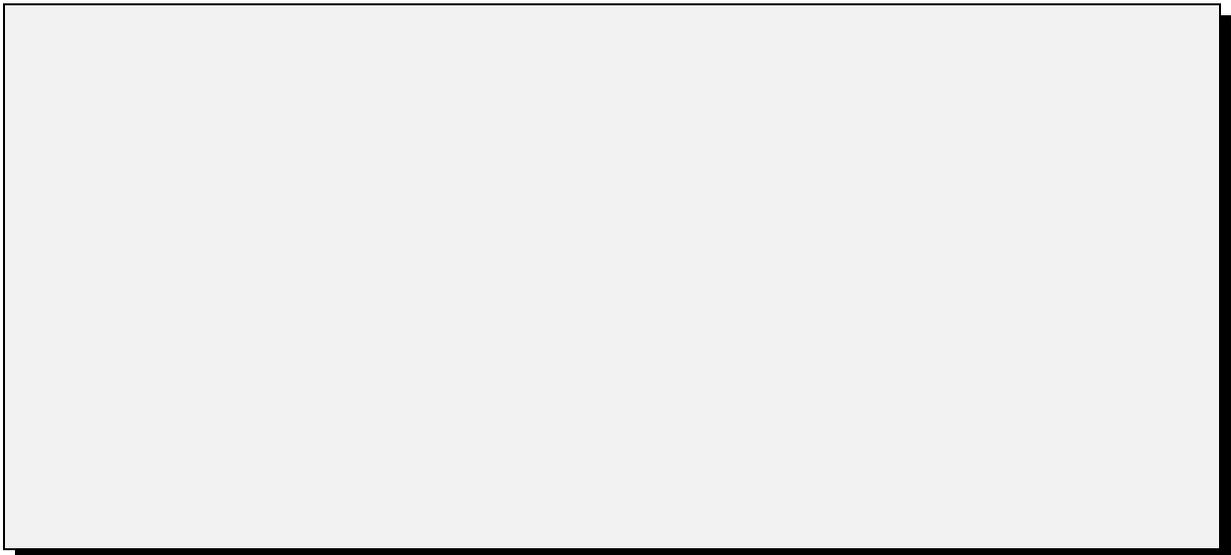




# The Great Bottle Round-Up

**Deputy Deposit says.....**

"Round-up them deposit bottles and cans ....  
Help the environment and wrangle up some cash!  
Yee Haw"





Our school is  
participating in  
the...  
The Great  
Bottle Round-Up

Round-up those deposit bottles and cans ....  
Help the environment and collect money, too!

Bring your Deposit cans and bottles to the  
school from \_\_\_\_\_

**Please**

**Rinse the deposit Cans and Bottles and  
Remove the Plastic Tops!**