

## **California Redemption Value (CRV) Changes on the Horizon Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **What is CRV?**

California Redemption Value (CRV) is a Statewide program to mandate beverage container recycling by charging and reimbursing consumers when they purchase and recycle beverage containers. Consumers pay a CRV fee when they purchase covered beverages packaged in aluminum, glass, plastic, or bi-metal containers. The fee is 5 cents for containers under 24 ounces and 10 cents for containers 24 ounces or more. Boxes, bladders, or pouches containing wine, distilled spirits, wine coolers, or distilled spirit coolers were covered beginning January 1, 2024, for a 25-cent fee/refund.

The funds from the California Redemption Value (CRV) Program primarily support California's recycling programs. Most of the money is returned to consumers who recycle their eligible beverage containers at certified recycling centers. The County does not earn any revenue from the CRV program; instead, we cover the costs associated with supporting the program.

### **What important CRV changes should you know about?**

State law has mandated CRV improvements scheduled to start January 1, 2025, to give Californians more ways to redeem their CRV deposits. Beverage retailers not served by a recycling center will no longer be able to opt out from redeeming containers. Starting January 1, 2025, retailers required to redeem beverage containers will have to:

1. Redeem CRV containers in store, or
2. Join a retailer cooperative that redeems on their behalf.

Removing retailers' option to pay a small fine instead of providing CRV redemption services will result in more physical locations that accept CRV.

### **Why is the CRV redemption center in Ben Lomond Transfer Station closing?**

- The State CRV program is changing to require beverage retailers to pay the costs of beverage containers recycling, which allows the County to stop spending local funds on this statewide program.
- Statewide changes to the CRV program should give consumers more opportunities to recycle beverage containers and redeem CRV deposits locally.
- Rising business costs of running a CRV redemption center.
- More beverages are sold in plastic containers with little scrap value, instead of more profitable aluminum.

### **How do I find a CRV beverage container redemption location?**

Visit the CalRecycle website at **calrecycle.ca.gov** and search for:

- In-Store CRV Redemption  
<https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/BevContainer/InStoreRedemption/>
- Beverage Container Recycling Centers  
<https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/BevContainer/RecyclingCenters/>

### **Will the Ben Lomond Transfer Station still accept CRV Beverage containers for recycling?**

The Ben Lomond Transfer Station will still be accepting all CRV beverage containers for recycling but will not be paying out CRV fees (5 cents for containers less than 24 oz; 10 cents for containers more than 24 oz; 25 cents for adult beverage boxes, bladders and pouches.) in exchange for the CRV beverage containers starting July 1, 2025.

### **Where are CRV recycling centers located in Santa Cruz County?**

- Ben Lomond Transfer Station, 9835 Newell Creek Rd.
  - **Starting July 1, 2025, Ben Lomond Transfer Station will no longer provide reimbursement in exchange for CRV containers. Ben Lomond Transfer Station will still recycle beverage containers. Beverage retailers will manage CRV acceptance and reimbursements.**
- A & S Metals- 1080 W. Beach St. Watsonville

- Ada's Recycling-1426 Freedom Blvd. Watsonville
- Watsonville Metal Company Incorporated-213 Dias Ln. Watsonville
- Cuevas Recycling-1200 Main St. Watsonville

**How do I complain about a business that is obligated to redeem beverage containers?**

- Email complaints directly to CalRecycle at: [Complaints@calrecycle.ca.gov](mailto:Complaints@calrecycle.ca.gov)

**Where can I find more information or assistance regarding the CRV Program changes?**

- Additional information and assistance can be found on the CalRecycle website at: <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/bevcontainer/wine-spirits/>