



Help Close the Loop for Plastic Beverage Containers

Support: LD 102

An Act To Promote a Circular Economy through Increased Postconsumer Recycled Plastic Content in Plastic Beverage Containers

Sponsored by:

Rep. Vicki Doudera of Camden

Co-sponsored by:

Sen. Miramant of Knox, Rep. Beebe-Center of Rockland, Rep. Pierce of Falmouth, Rep. Rykerson of Kittery, and Rep. Stover of Boothbay

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LD 102 creates a minimum post-consumer recycled (PCR) content requirement for all plastic beverage containers sold in Maine beginning with 25% PCR by 2025 and increasing to 30% by 2030.

This bill would benefit our environment, municipalities, waste haulers, sorting facilities, recycling processors, and beverage manufacturers because it would:

- Help achieve a more circular economy by creating a demand for recycled plastic. Without legislation there is not enough of an incentive for producers to use recycled content, which keeps our resources in the economy and boosts investments in American-made infrastructure.
- Support long-term sustainability of Maine's municipal recycling programs and beverage container redemption program. Creating demand for recycled plastic will encourage our recycling and redemption programs to continue collecting and sending a steady flow of recyclable plastic commodities into the economy.
- Ensure beverage companies act responsibly and meet their recycled content goals. Many large beverage companies, including Nestle, Coca-Cola, and Pepsico, have made public their goals to increase the use of recycled content in their beverage containers that are more ambitious than what is required by LD 102.

Most plastic beverage containers are made of Polyethylene terephthalate (PET), also known as #1 plastic; when PET is recycled (rPET) it is primarily used as "fiber" for textiles or turned into new packaging and beverage containers.

- According to the Container Recycling Institute (CRI), the average amount of recycled plastic in beverage containers sold in the U.S. is only 7.5%, and Americans waste more than two times the amount of plastic bottles that we recycle.
- According to the Association of Plastics Recyclers, using recycled PET plastic to make new containers instead of new virgin PET plastic cuts carbon pollution by 67%.
- In 2017, the estimated average cost to produce virgin PET plastic was \$0.52-0.56 per pound, while the cost to process and produce recycled PET plastic was estimated at \$0.60-0.65 per pound.
- About half of the 24 rPET processing facilities in North America are currently capable of producing food-grade post-consumer recycled plastic. The facilities closest to Maine are located in Albany, New York; Joliette, Quebec; and Berks County, Pennsylvania.

Requiring recycled content in beverage containers will reduce pollution, protect our local recycling programs, and encourage a robust recycling economy here in Maine and America.

The Sponsor's Amendment to LD 102 is supported by:



the Healthy Hydration Company™



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