



BOTTLE BILL ADVISORY GROUP

August 21, 2026

Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance

TODAY'S AGENDA

- 1. Housekeeping and Logistics**
- 2. Latest Bottle Bill Redemption Stats / Mini Fee Payouts**
- 3. New Redemption Modality: Overview of Clynk's Bag Drop System**
- 4. Recycled Content Requirements for Plastic Beverage Containers**
- 5. 2026 Legislation & Related Updates**
- 6. DEEP Reporting Forms**
- 7. Other Potential Fraud Mitigation Measures**
- 8. Wrap-Up**

HOUSEKEEPING AND LOGISTICS

This meeting is being recorded.

Please remain muted unless you are speaking.

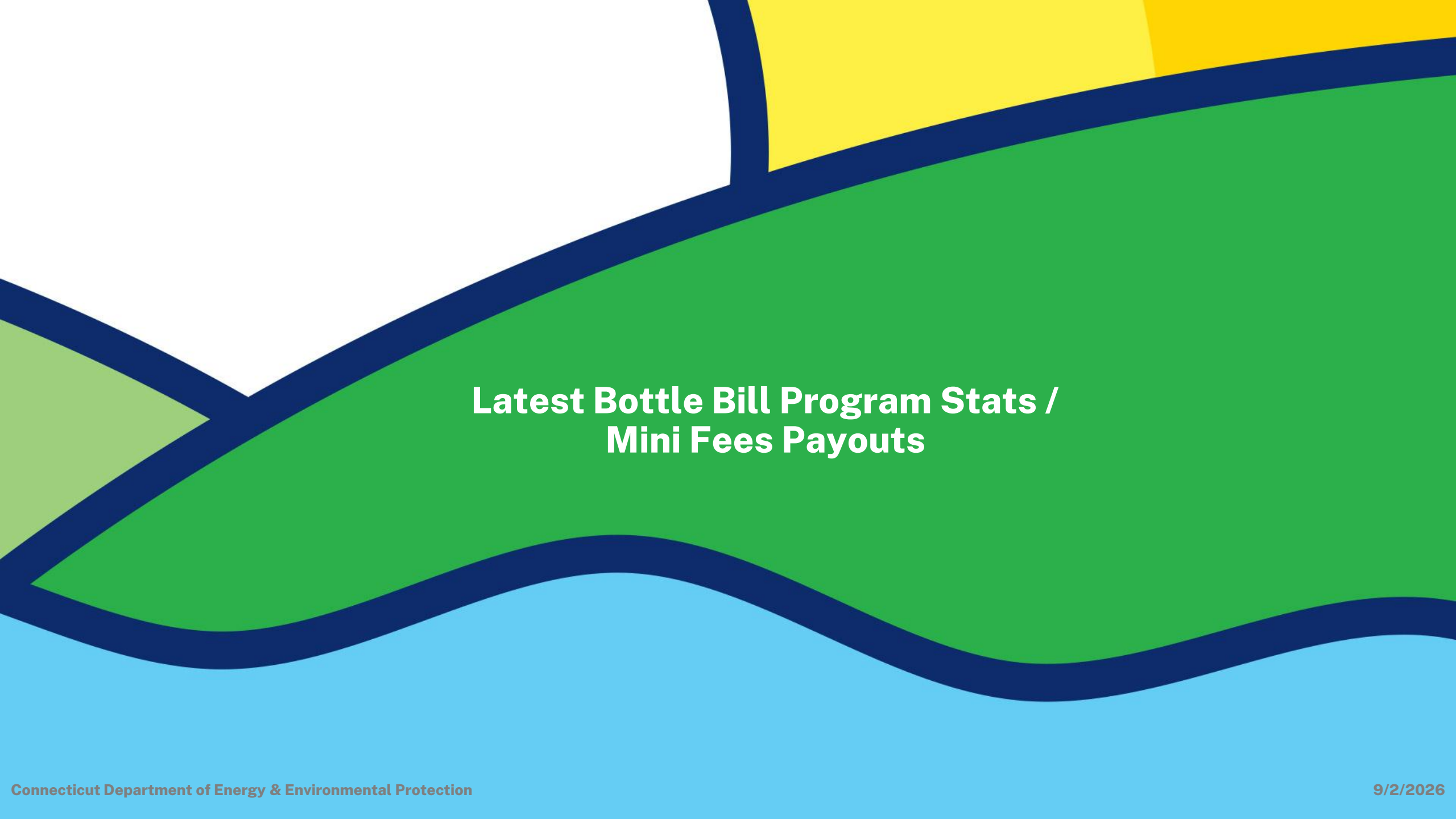
120 minutes are budgeted for today's meeting.

As time permits, we will have an open discussion after the presentation(s).

Comments regarding CT's Bottle Bill Program can be submitted via email to DEEP.MMCAPlanning@ct.gov.

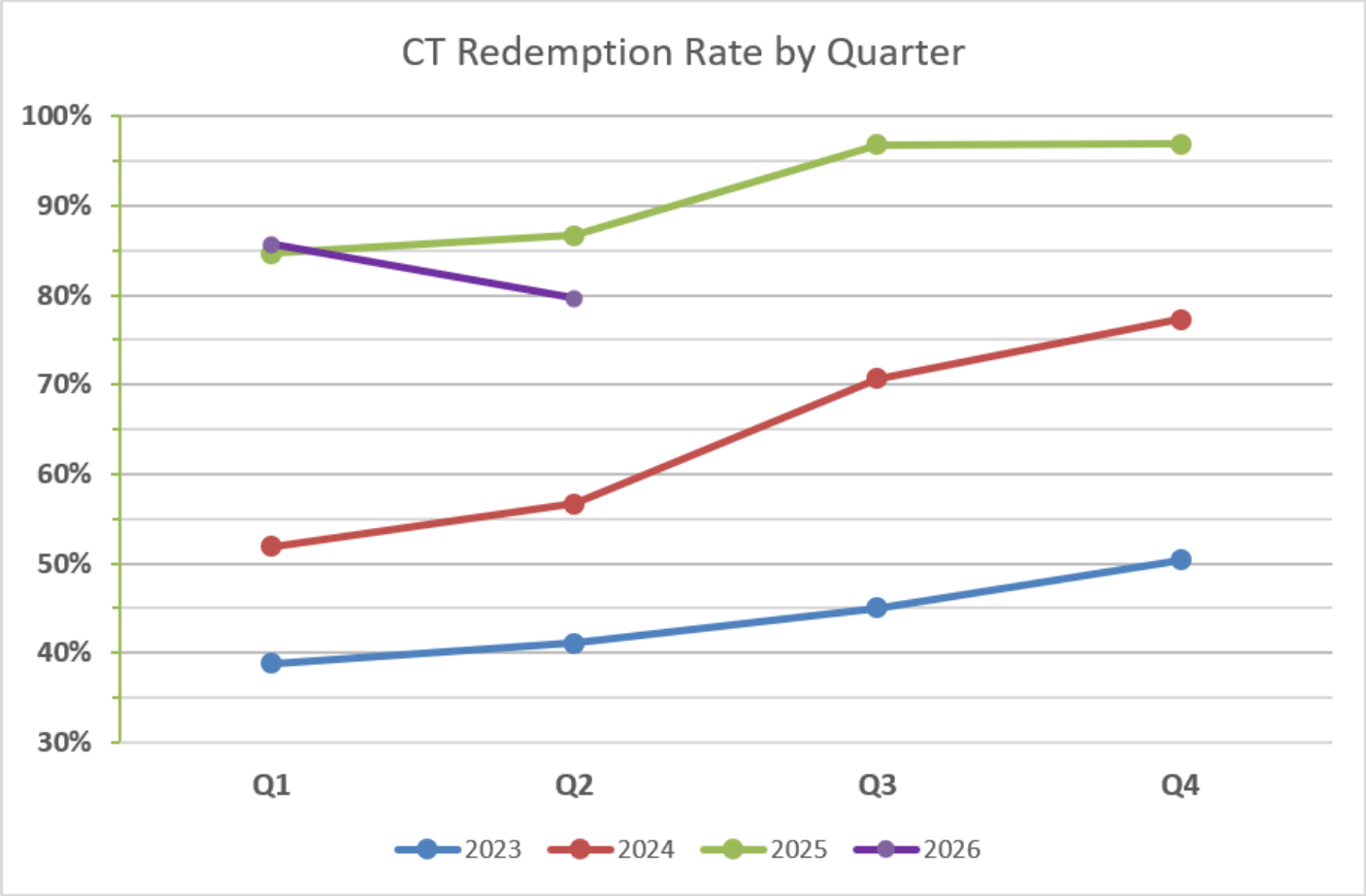
PURPOSE OF ADVISORY GROUP

- DEEP has received a significant number of questions about Bottle Bill changes and has seen substantial interest from consumers, retailers, distributors and legislators
- DEEP is committed to transparency, predictability, and efficiency in agency processes and has determined that continued stakeholder engagement is warranted and will provide for effective implementation of the Bottle Bill
- DEEP hosted a series of meetings to engage all stakeholders and legislators in a Bottle Bill Advisory Group to solicit input on the areas of interest and question regarding various components of Bottle Bill implementation
- Meetings are held virtually, noticed in advance and include 1) presentations by DEEP staff and others on relevant issues requiring stakeholder education, engagement or feedback and 2) an opportunity for input from meeting participants



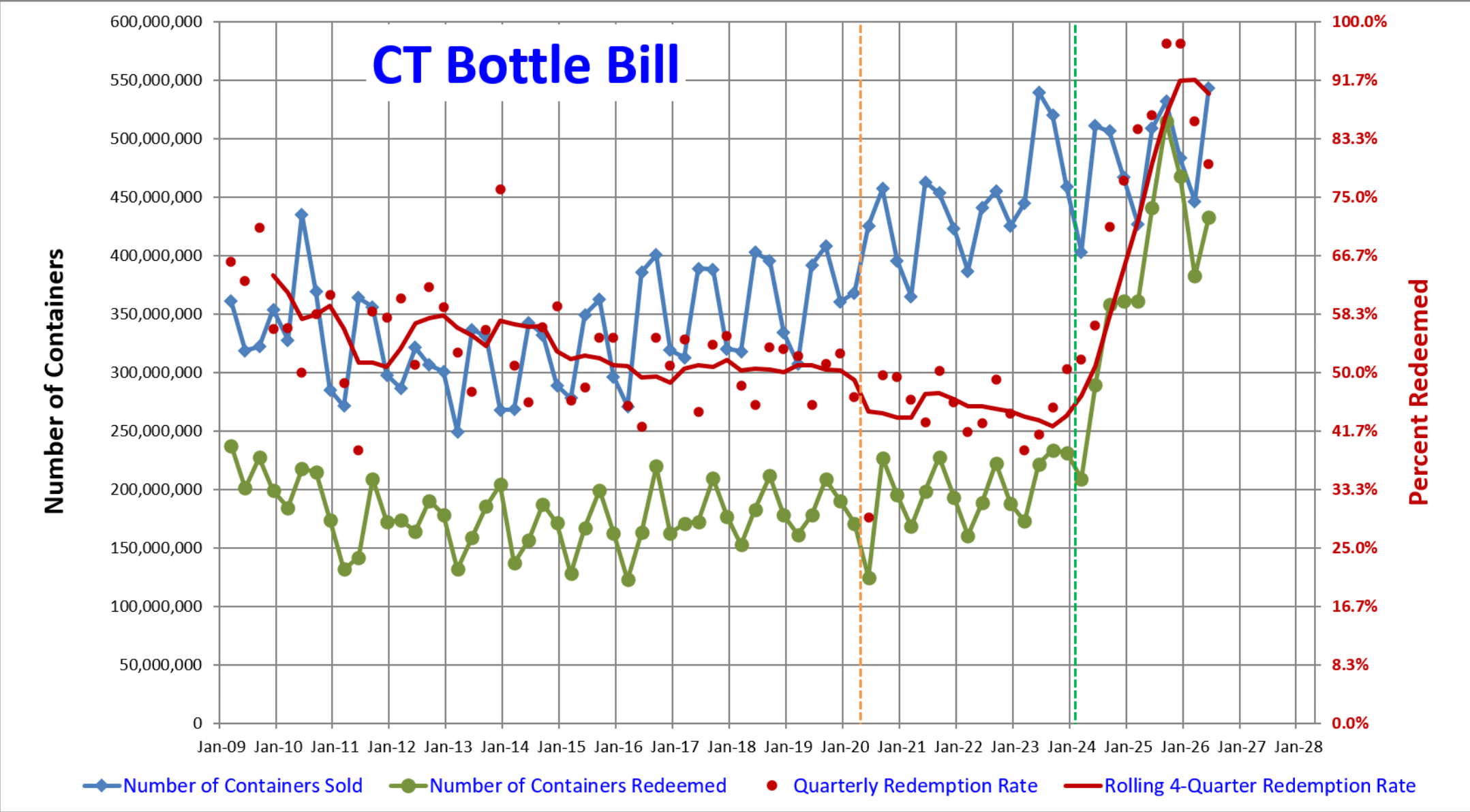
Latest Bottle Bill Program Stats / Mini Fees Payouts

QUARTERLY REDEMPTION RATES



	2023	2024	2025	2026
Q1	38.8%	51.9%	84.7%	85.7%
Q2	41.1%	56.6%	86.6%	79.6%
Q3	45.0%	70.7%	96.8%	
Q4	50.4%	77.3%	96.9%	

QUARTERLY REDEMPTION RATES



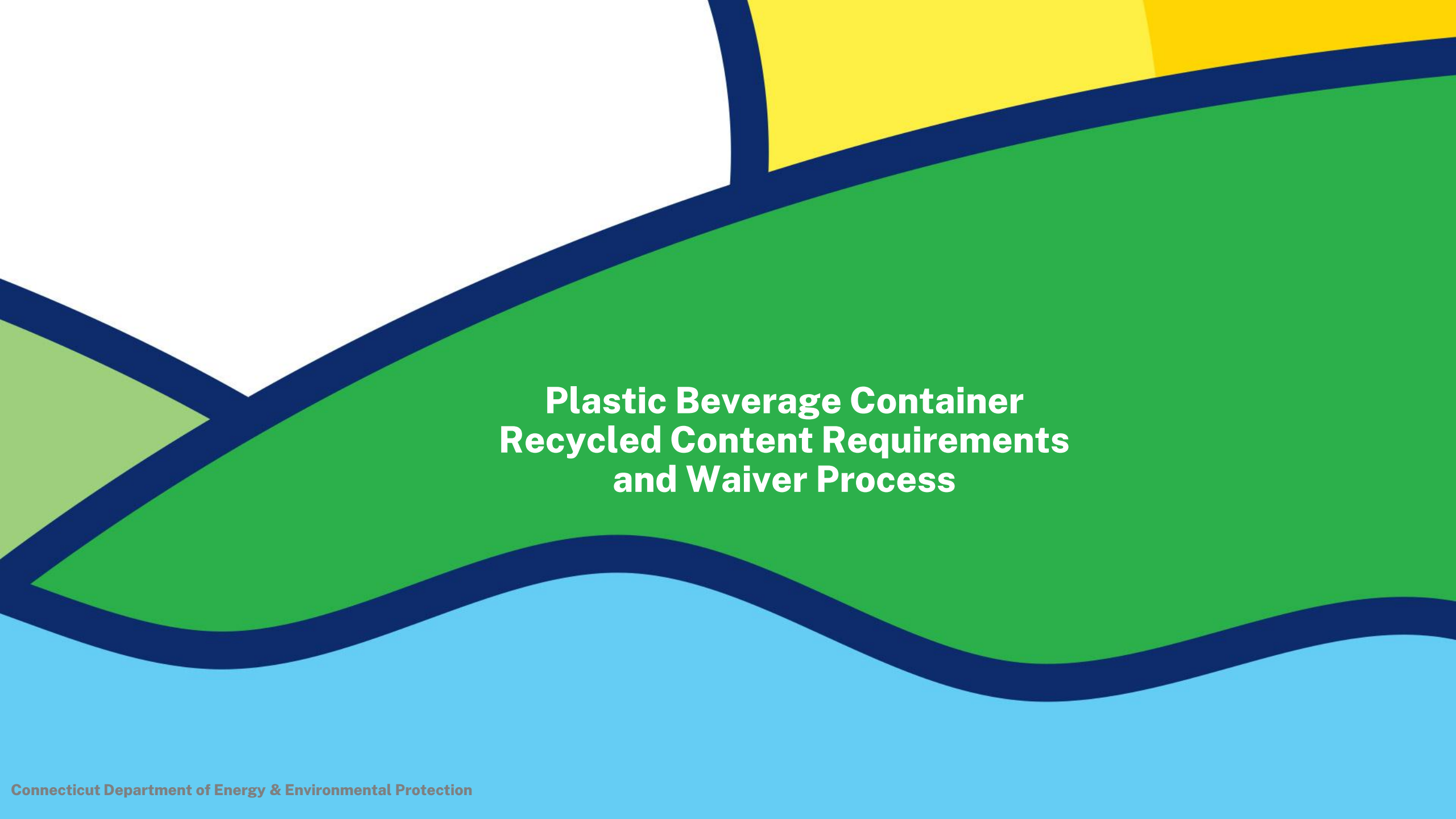
QUARTERLY REDEMPTION RATES

Quarte ending	Total Deposits this quarter (line 2)	Number of Containers Sold	Total Refund Withdrawals (line 5)	Number of Containers Redeemed	Quarterly Redemption Rate	Rolling 4-Quarter Redemption Rate	Fiscal Year / Calendar Year
31-Mar-2023	\$22,223,056	444,461,127	\$8,631,152	172,623,049	38.8%	43.7%	
30-Jun-2023	\$26,966,438	539,328,752	\$11,080,052	221,601,030	41.1%	43.2%	FY 2023
30-Sep-2023	\$25,977,741	519,554,818	\$11,683,453	233,669,062	45.0%	42.3%	
31-Dec-2023	\$22,926,269	458,525,388	\$11,554,085	231,081,709	50.4%	43.8%	CY 2023
31-Mar-2024	\$40,282,254	402,822,542	\$20,895,076	208,950,758	51.9%	46.6%	
30-Jun-2024	\$51,049,558	510,495,580	\$28,911,762	289,117,620	56.6%	50.9%	FY 2024
30-Sep-2024	\$50,622,479	506,224,790	\$35,775,082	357,750,820	70.7%	57.9%	
31-Dec-2024	\$46,707,531	467,075,310	\$36,115,217	361,152,170	77.3%	64.5%	CY 2024
31-Mar-2025	\$42,632,366	426,323,660	\$36,093,716	360,937,160	84.7%	71.7%	
30-Jun-2025	\$50,845,195	508,451,950	\$44,056,467	440,564,670	86.6%	79.7%	FY 2025
30-Sep-2025	\$53,158,633	531,586,330	\$51,463,174	514,631,740	96.8%	86.8%	
31-Dec-2025	\$48,301,307	483,013,070	\$46,789,727	467,897,270	96.9%	91.5%	CY 2025
31-Mar-2026	\$44,614,115	446,141,150	\$38,236,935	382,369,350	85.7%	91.7%	
30-Jun-2026	\$54,322,112	543,221,120	\$43,255,777	432,557,770	79.6%	89.7%	FY 2026

MINI FEES PAID TO MUNICIPALITIES



New Redemption Modality: Overview of Clynk's Bag Drop System



Plastic Beverage Container Recycled Content Requirements and Waiver Process

BACKGROUND

1. [Section 22a-246d](#) of the Connecticut General Statutes established post-consumer recycled content requirements for plastic **bottle bill** beverage containers sold, offered for sale or distributed in Connecticut.
 1. On and after January 1, 2027, plastic beverage containers sold, offered for sale or distributed in this state by each producer shall contain, on average and in the aggregate, **not less than twenty-five per cent post-consumer recycled content**.
 2. On and after January 1, 2032, plastic beverage containers sold, offered for sale or distributed in this state by each producer shall contain, on average and in the aggregate, **not less than thirty per cent post-consumer recycled content**.
2. **The law requires producers to register and report to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for the first time by April 1, 2026.**

REGISTRATION - APRIL 1, 2026, AND EVERY FIVE YEARS

1. **On or before April 1, 2026**, each producer that offered for sale, sold, or distributed plastic beverage containers in or into the state in the previous calendar year must register with the commissioner individually, or through a third-party representative that registers with the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection on behalf of a group of producers, in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner.
2. Link to **REGISTRATION FORM**

Note: in 2026, each producer must pay a \$500 fee, unless the producer sold, offered for sale or distributed less than ten thousand plastic beverage containers or, in the aggregate, less than two hundred pounds of plastic that is not post-consumer recycled plastic.

- Beginning in 2031, the fee will be scaled to reflect producer market share.

REPORTING - ANNUAL

On April 1, 2026, **and annually thereafter**, each producer must submit a reporting form, including the following information:

- the brand names of the plastic beverage containers represented in the report;
- the weight, in pounds, of post-consumer recycled plastic,
- the weight, in pounds, of plastic that is not post-consumer recycled plastic; and
- the percentage of post-consumer recycled plastic in the total weight of all plastic beverage containers the producer sold
- Each report must be certified and signed by an authorized official of the producer.
- Link to **REPORTING FORM**

WAIVER - NEW

Any producer that cannot meet the 25% post-consumer recycled content requirement for January 1, 2027 must submit a waiver to DEEP between September 1 and October 1, 2026.

[LINK TO WAIVER APPLICATION FORM]

The waiver application form will require:

- Identification of all brands and products that the waiver is requested to cover.
- Basis for the waiver application and any description or documentation necessary to support the waiver request.
- Timeframe for the request.
- Statement of proposed actions to help the producer achieve future compliance.

These items can be submitted as attachments in the form of word documents, excel spreadsheets, or any other method that clearly provides all the requested documentation.

WAIVER – FIRST YEAR

To receive a waiver:

- Producers must be in compliance with registration and reporting requirements.
 - If any producer has not completed registration and reporting, they still can.
 - More information on this webpage: [Plastic Beverage Container Recycled Content Law](#)
- DEEP is looking for a good faith effort to fill out the waiver application form.
 - Provide substantive information about why producers cannot meet recycled content standard requirements; and
 - Provide a thoughtful response about what would help producers meet those requirements.
- DEEP plans to respond to all waiver requests by December 1, 2026.

WEBSITE

1. Plastic Beverage Container Recycled Content Law

- Currently hosts the registration and reporting form.
- Will host the waiver application form.

QUESTIONS

Can be submitted to me or Chris Nelson:

Elly Moore | Elizabeth.Moore@ct.gov | 860.424.3567

Chris Nelson | Chris.Nelson@ct.gov | 860.424.3454



2026 Legislative Session

LEGISLATION PASSED IN 2026

- **S.B. 299 / P.A. 26-2**: AN ACT CONCERNING REDEMPTION OF OUT-OF-STATE BEVERAGE CONTAINERS
- **S.B. 457 / P.A. 26-148**: AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE'S BOTTLE BILL
- **S.B 1 / P.A. 26-68**: Budget Bill
 - Established funding for two new bottle bill-related positions at DEEP

PUBLIC ACT 26-2

- **Created new licensing requirement (rather than registration)**
 - \$2,500 application fee
 - Applies on/after July 1, 2026
 - Annual
- **Establishes revised redemption limits:**
 - Recordkeeping for any individual who redeems more than **1,000 containers per day** (previously 2,500)
 - **Redemption cap of 4,000/day** for any individual **unless nonprofit organization or verified fundraising activity** (previously 5,000)
 - All beverage containers transported in a single vehicle shall be treated as being attributable to one individual (new)
 - Records for redemptions of more than 1000 beverage containers from any one individual in one day shall be transmitted by such redemption center to DEEP each calendar quarter

PUBLIC ACT 26-2 (CONTINUED)

- **Handling fee adjustment for certain redemption centers**
 - **For the period commencing April 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, the handling fee paid by a distributor for any beverage container described in subdivision (1) of this subsection to any redemption center that, on average, annually processes fifty million or more beverage containers, as confirmed by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in consultation with the Department of Revenue Services, and that does not utilize automated barcode or universal product code scanning for the redemption of all such beverage containers shall be reduced by not more than one cent. On and after July 1, 2027, any such reduction in the handling fee shall discontinue, provided such redemption center utilizes automated barcode or universal product code scanning for the redemption of all such beverage containers.**
- **Given a lack of data for DEEP to make a determination in accordance with this new statutory section, DEEP sent out Handling Fee Guidance on 03/31/26 and requested sworn affidavits (with information) from each redemption center**
 - **Implementation of reduced handling fee temporarily delayed by DEEP after consultation with legislators**

HANDLING FEE UPDATE

- **Based on review of information returned in sworn affidavits from redemption centers and information gathered from DEEP field visits, it appears that two redemption centers will be subject to this reduced handling fee:**
 - Soda Stop Plus Thrift, LLC (Bridgeport)
 - Central Connecticut Redemption Center (New Britain)
- **Reduced handling fee of 1 cent per container will go into effect as of Friday, May 1, 2026**
- **Application of reduced handling fee to be reevaluated if/when such redemption centers install and “utilize automated barcode or universal product code scanning for the redemption of all such beverage containers”**

OTHER ELEMENTS IN P.A. 26-2

- **Civil penalties for violating bottle bill law increased**
 - 1st offense - \$500-\$750 (previously \$50-\$100)
 - 2nd offense - \$750-\$1,000 (previously \$100-\$200)
 - 3rd and subsequent offenses – not less than \$2000 (previously \$250-\$500) and shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor
- **Funds previously awarded to CT State Police for enforcement assistance supposed to be transferred to DEEP**
- **Conditions/process for distributors to request a rebate if over-redeemed updated**

OTHER ELEMENTS IN P.A. 26-2 (CONTINUED)

- **Conditions under which a dealer can refuse to accept empty containers from a customer expanded to include:**
 - (5) such dealer knows or has reason to know that a beverage container was not originally sold in this state as a filled beverage container; (6) such beverage container was previously redeemed; (7) such beverage container is damaged in any manner that prevents the reading or scanning of such container's barcode; or (8) such beverage container is on a list of beverage containers provided by a deposit initiator to such dealer as not being available for sale in this state
- **Conditions under which a distributor can refuse to accept empty containers from a dealer or redemption center expanded to include:**
 - (3) such beverage container was previously redeemed, (4) such beverage container is damaged in any manner that prevents the reading or scanning of such container's barcode, or (5) such beverage container is on a list of beverage containers that such distributor previously provided to redemption centers and dealers as not being available for sale in this state

PUBLIC ACT 26-148

- **Established penalties for trans-shipment (selling of covered beverage containers in CT without initiating a deposit):**
 - ≥ 5000 & $< 19,999$ containers/year: class B misdemeanor
 - $\geq 20,000$ & $< 39,999$ containers/year: class A misdemeanor
 - $\geq 40,000$ containers/year: class D felony
 - Effective October 1, 2026
- **Revises reduced handling fee provisions adopted in PA 26-2:**
 - On and after July 1, 2027, or at such time that a redemption center subject to such reduction utilizes automated barcode or universal product code scanning for the redemption of all such beverage containers, whichever is earlier, any such reduction in the handling fee shall discontinue.

**License Application Process for
Redemption Centers
and Other Reporting Forms**

DEEP ONLINE REPORTING FORMS

- **NEW:** Link to [Redemption Center License Application Form](#)
- **NEW:** Link to [Redemption Center License Application Form Instructions](#)
- More information on this licensing process available on this webpage: [Connecticut Bottle Bill](#)
- Link to DEEP online transaction form: [Redemption Center Over 1,000 Limit Form](#)
 - Redemption centers also have a responsibility to submit quarterly reports to DEEP, with reports for Q3 and Q4 2025 due immediately (if not already submitted).
- Link to DEEP online quarterly report form: [Redemption Center Quarterly Report Form](#)
- If you have any questions regarding these forms and/or requirements, please contact laura.pointek@ct.gov

**Other Potential
Fraud Mitigation Measures**

TYPES OF BOTTLE BILL FRAUD

- **Front-end: Trans-shipment**
- **Back-end: cross-border redemption of containers not sold in CT**
- **Much of the legislation passed in recent years was focused on reducing back-end fraudulent redemption at redemption centers by imposing new requirements for redemption centers:**
 - **Licensing**
 - **Daily redemption caps**
 - **Recordkeeping and reporting requirements**
- **Cap also established for redemption at retailers (240 containers/day), but this can be challenging for retailers to enforce. And nothing in place to prevent one person from going to two or more retailers on the same day.**

LABELING

- Labeling to differentiate deposit containers from non-deposit containers is an effective but underutilized tool (e.g., different markings & different UPC #)
- Label differentiation currently only being used by a few water brand labels
- **Should CT consider new labeling requirements** to help differentiate containers in 10¢ deposit states, 5¢ deposit states and non-deposit states?
 - If YES, is there a sales volume threshold in CT that should be considered for such different labels?



LABELING (CONT.)

Kirkland

Red Band around the label/ Different UPC #



Redemption Marking



Next Steps

NEXT STEPS

- Next meeting: TBD
- Sign up for the Bottle Bill Advisory Group (BBAG) email list at:
<https://confirmsubscription.com/h/j/C996AD9922C81621>
- Questions and/or feedback can be submitted via email to
DEEP.MMCAPlanning@ct.gov