

## GFWC/CFWC Environment Program – Patsy Wilson, Chairman

The **ENVIRONMENT** is nature's gift that helps in nourishing life on earth. Don't put it at risk. Take part in the following:

### **Waste Disposal Sites/Recycling**

There are 1,263 recycling centers statewide that buy back empty California Refund Value (CRV) beverage containers. When someone in California purchases a regular-sized soda, a 5-cent charge is applied that can be recouped if the container is brought back for recycling; 10-cent for other containers. Unfortunately, recycle refund sites have closed for various reasons and are now hard to find. Clubs may coordinate a project to identify the recycle refund center closest to their community; publish these locations in their club newsletter, website and other social media.

To identify a California Refund Value (CRV) recycle location, the club will go to website <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/BevContainer/RecyclingCenters>. The information is returned based on a zip code search.

By law you can bring up to 50 aluminum, 50 glass, and 50 bi-metal California Redemption Value (CRV) containers and request to be paid by count. You will be paid the full CRV redemption of 5 cents or 10 cents on each container. Inform the site attendant of your load content and how you would like to receive payment before you hand over your load. Any consumer who has been denied this right by a recycling center can file a complaint via email or by calling 1-800-recycle. If recycling more than 50 containers of any one material type, the decision to pay by count or weight is determined by the recycling center operator.

Repeated attempts to improve the state's recycling system have struggled in the Legislature, even as California tries to boost its recycling rates, minimize food waste, and work toward a circular-use economy. We can help.

### **A short term project - would be to start a: “Recycle For Fun Project”**

- Check the CA CRV Website
- Identify the recycling center addresses in your community
- Publish the local recycle center addresses in your newsletters
- Encourage club members to recycle their bottles and cans
- Members may keep their refunds or
- Clubs can accumulate the refunds for charitable donations or to host a fun party
- Penny Pines donations and coffee mornings are good ways to benefit from your refunds

## **A more long term project would be to: “Start a Recycling Program”**

According to the CA CRV Website, Any earth-minded person can complain that their office, school, or gym doesn't have a recycling program. But the true innovators are those who stand up and do something about it. In California, we recognize the strong linkage between recycling and the benefits of resource conservation, job creation, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions to cut pollution and combat climate change. That's why the law requires businesses and other public entities to recycle as much of the waste they generate as possible.

Many are complying with the law by subscribing to a recycling service as part of their routine garbage collection. Still others are making even more of a difference by changing how they handle their discards within their office, school or other locale.

Recycling beverage containers is easy and free to do. You can redeem eligible beverage containers at a local recycling center for a CRV redemption fee or by dropping containers in your curbside recycling bin. California Refund Value (CRV) is the amount paid by consumers at the checkout stand and paid back to consumers when they recycle eligible aluminum, plastic, glass and bi-metal beverage containers at certified recycling centers. The minimum refund value established for each type of eligible beverage container is 5 cents for each container under 24 ounces and 10 cents for each container 24 ounces or greater.

Start by going to [www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/](http://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/) downloading the appropriate “easy steps” flyer. It's got all the information you'll need to get started. Then fill out the Recycling Starter Kit order form and your program is off and running.

Every recycling program needs a hero. California thinks it ought to be you! And, if your club generates four cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste per week or is a multifamily residential dwelling of five units or more, your club is required by law to arrange for recycling services.

Visit the Beverage Container Recycling Program's [Official Notices](#) page for communications related to:

- [Certified Recycling Centers](#)
- [Commingled Rates](#)
- [Convenience Zones](#)
- [Handling Fees](#)
- [Payment by Count](#)