



Marcie Gallagher
Environmental Advocate, VPIRG

mgallagher@vpirg.org



Bottle Bill

It's our most popular environmental law, but we are falling behind.

Modernizing the Bottle Bill benefits Vermonters, small businesses, and the environment.





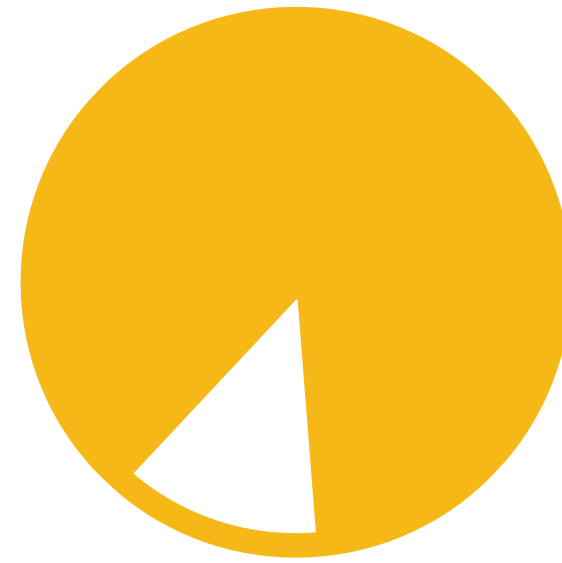
Bottle Bill materials are:



clean, high quality and more likely to be turned into new bottles



higher value than materials collected from single stream, curbside recycling



The majority of Bottle Bill materials are turned in to new bottles

Expanding the Bottle Bill means more containers being used and remade in to new containers.



This is the "Circular Economy"





Plastic

- Plastic PET bottles are part of a closed-loop recycling system
- When recycled through single-stream, it is impossible to turn bottles into new bottles.
- Instead, that plastic is turned into products that can never be recycled again, and may turn into "fast fashion" garments that threaten environmental justice communities





Glass

- Half of Vermont's single-stream glass was **improperly and secretly dumped for five years** due to lack of market.
- Broken glass contaminates other recyclables in the single-stream system and causes wear-and-tear on processing equipment.
- Including wine bottles in an expanded Bottle Bill is beneficial for solid waste districts.





Refillables

- **Container deposit laws establish the infrastructure and culture to establish a refill system**
- **Oregon's Bottle Bill infrastructure supports a refillable bottle system with 2 million bottles in circulation and over 100 different beverages available.**
- **Vermont's booming craft beer and cider industry makes it an ideal location to pilot a refill program.**





Redemption Centers



There is a ceiling to what I can pay my workers...The only way we can make more money in redemption is to increase our volume (of containers)... Most people love redemption, but it's becoming more and more inconvenient.

Jacob Trombley
Owner of 5 Vermont Redemption Centers



Consumer convenience

The PRO should be required to ensure at least:

- **Three points of redemption per county**
- **One point of redemption per municipality with a population of 7,000 or more**
- **One point of redemption per designated downtown district**

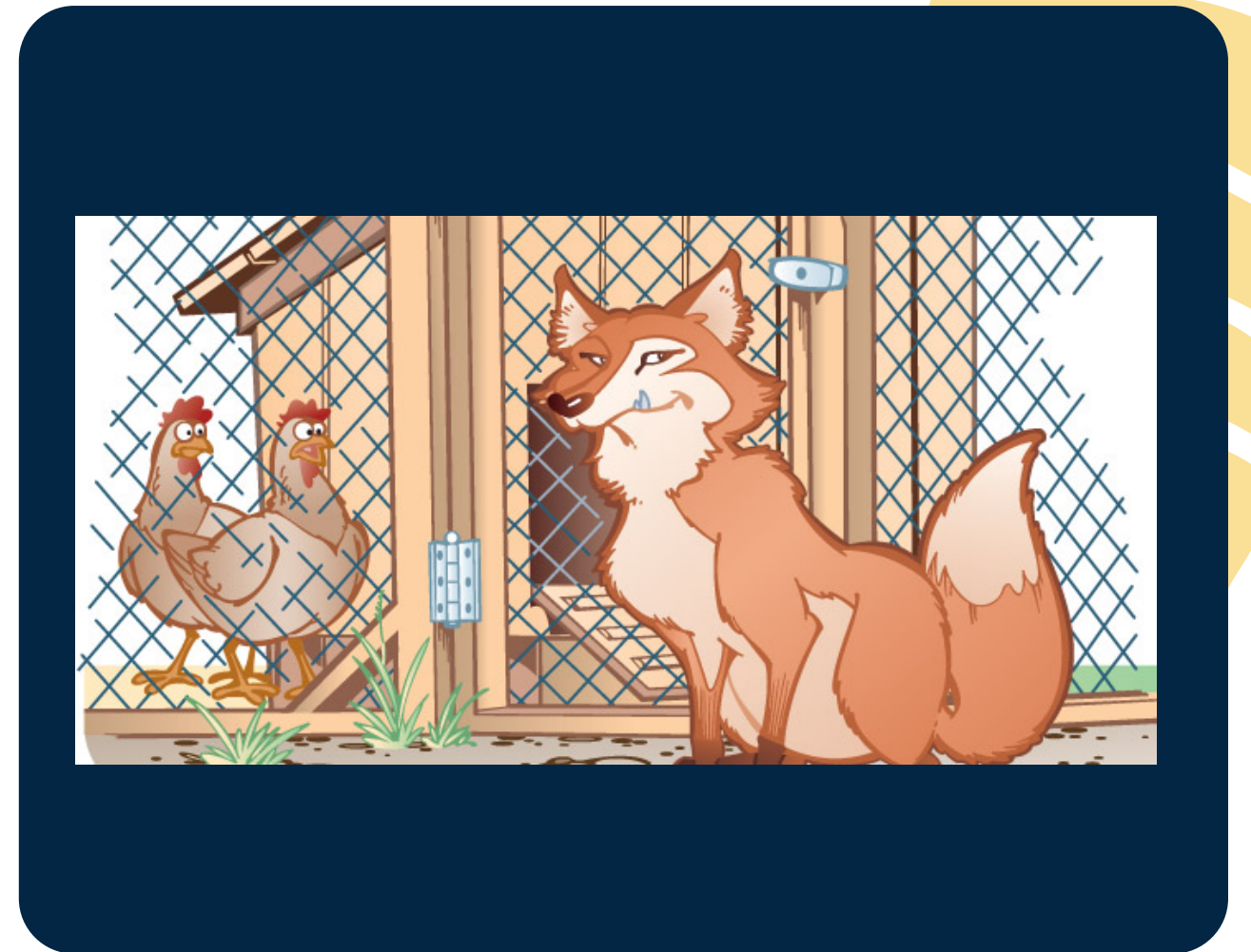




Uniquely tailored to Vermont

The version of this bill that we are recommending is thoughtfully borrowing the best elements from Bottle Bills across the country and world.

The status quo is no longer an option.





In closing

Thank you.

Marcie Gallagher
Environmental Advocate, VPIRG

Paul Burns
Executive Director, VPIRG

marcie@vpirg.org
paul@vpirg.org

