



Media release

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It Pays to Recycle – Cash For Containers Scheme announced in NSW

From July 2017, to the delight of many NSW residents, there will be money to be made from reducing litter.

This week the NSW Government committed to implementing a 10-cent container deposit scheme, covering most drink containers between 150ml and 3L that display a NSW CDS label.

Eligible containers, like plastic bottles, aluminium cans and single-serve flavoured milk can be taken to a collection depot or placed in a reverse vending machine to reclaim the 10 cents.

An estimated 160 million drink containers end up as litter in NSW streets and waterways every year, accounting for 44% of the total litter by volume in NSW, so the scheme will play an important role in helping the NSW government meet its 2020 target of reducing litter by 40%.

The cost of the scheme will be covered by a refundable 10-cent deposit paid on each container, with the beverage industry also contributing an administration and handling fee.

Councils will receive the refund for eligible drink containers that end up in kerbside recycling bins, which will go to reduce the cost of waste collections.

As the primary aim of the program is to reduce litter, drinks that are usually consumed at home, like wine bottles and milk, soy and juice cartons, aren't covered, although they can be recycled in kerbside systems as usual.

"Now that there's a financial incentive to reduce litter, we're looking forward to NSW's beaches, waterways, parks and streets being cleaner," said Brad Gray, Head of Campaigns at Planet Ark. "The exclusion of un-flavoured milk shows that these schemes balance a range of competing demands including nutrition. Milk is considered an important staple food so sits outside the scheme to ensure access to it isn't affected."

This announcement brings NSW in line with SA, which has had a scheme since 1977, and NT, which launched its in 2011. The Queensland and ACT governments are expected to soon follow.

The South Australian scheme has resulted in an 80% return rate of containers and saw charities and community groups raise \$60 million last year through clean-up projects.

Planet Ark's website <http://www.recyclingnearyou.com.au/containerdeposit> has further information on the details of the scheme, in addition to its comprehensive household recycling directory by council area. It is supported by the Recycling Hotline on 1300 733 712.

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Planet Ark Environmental Foundation is an Australian not-for-profit organisation established to help people, governments and businesses reduce their impact on the environment.

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