

## IOWA'S BOTTLE BILL

### ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF EXISTING RECYCLING POLICY

Iowa's bottle deposit law, popularly known as the "Bottle Bill," passed in 1978 and includes all carbonated and alcoholic beverage containers. Its impact is both environmental and economic. Here are some facts about the economic impacts of the law through litter reduction and recycling:

#### HAS THE BOTTLE BILL CREATED JOBS?

The economic activity created by the Bottle Bill supports jobs involved with the collection, handling and processing of beverage containers:

- Number of jobs ..... **1,200<sup>a</sup>**
- Average annual pay (1985 dollars)..... **\$17,000 to \$21,000<sup>a</sup>**

#### SPINOFFS OF ALUMINUM RECYCLING IN IOWA

- Income in supported economic activity for each \$1 from aluminum recycling ..... **\$1.08<sup>b</sup>**
- Additional jobs in supported economic activity for every 100 created ..... **62<sup>b</sup>**

#### BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION CENTERS

- Number of independent, locally owned centers created to meet recycling demand ..... **160<sup>c</sup>**
- Estimated number of centers that are sheltered workshops for disabled Iowans ..... **20-25<sup>d</sup>**
- Estimated number of Iowans who depend on income from those workshops ..... **300-400<sup>d</sup>**

#### OTHER BENEFICIARIES OF INCOME FROM CONTAINER RECYCLING

- Collecting cans and bottles raises money for countless schools, churches and communities.
- Many homeless and low-income people rely on redeeming beverage containers for income.

#### ENERGY SAVINGS FROM CONTAINER RECYCLING

- Energy savings of creating a new aluminum can from recycled aluminum compared with creating a new aluminum can from the original bauxite ore .... **95%<sup>e</sup>**

- Number of times aluminum container can be recycled ..... **Infinite<sup>e</sup>**

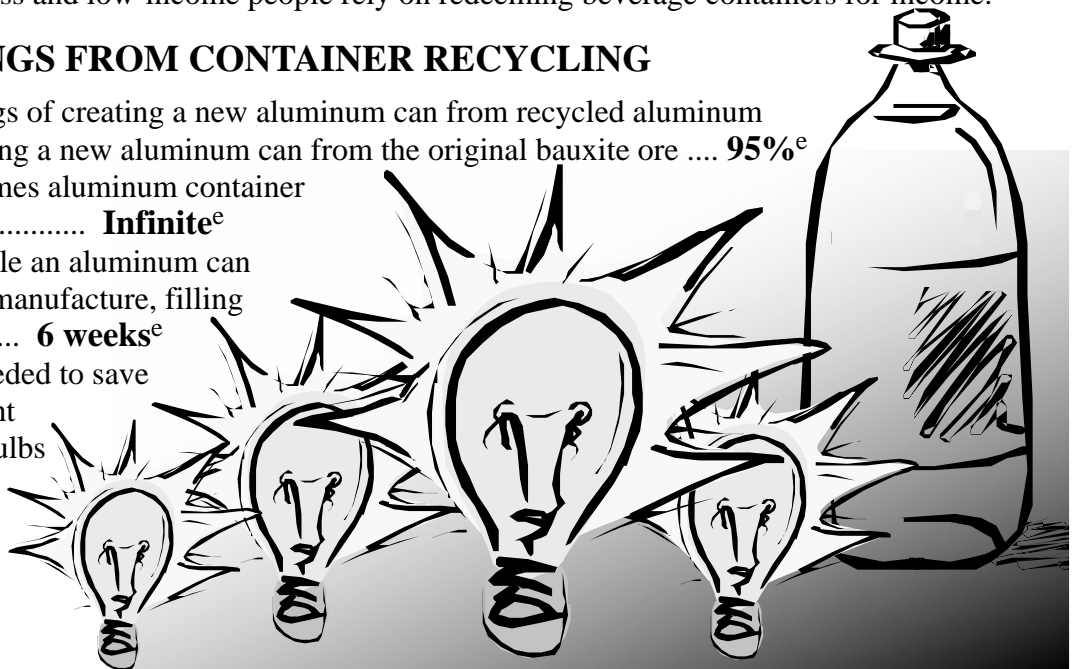
- Time to recycle an aluminum can from collection to remanufacture, filling and new sale ..... **6 weeks<sup>e</sup>**

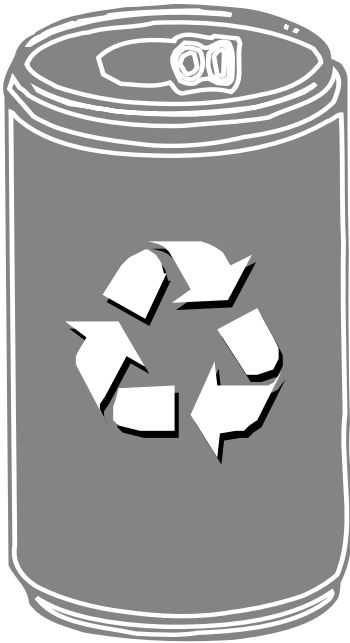
- Recycling needed to save enough energy to light four 100-watt light bulbs for one hour .....

**One 2-liter plastic bottle ...**

**OR ...**

**One glass bottle<sup>f</sup>**





#### Notes and Sources:

- a. Container Recycling Institute. n.d. "Bottle Bill Toolkit". Document available online at [http://www.toolkit.container-recycling.org/assets/pdf/toolkit/Get\\_the\\_facts/GetFacts\\_Other\\_Full.pdf](http://www.toolkit.container-recycling.org/assets/pdf/toolkit/Get_the_facts/GetFacts_Other_Full.pdf)
- b. Recycle Iowa. August 2001. "Economic Impacts of Recycling in Iowa". The document is available online at <http://www.recycleiowa.org/impact/pdf/study2001.pdf>
- c. Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The list of redemption centers is available online at <http://www.iowadnr.com/waste/recycling/files/county.pdf>
- d. Dewayne Johnson, executive director, Iowa Recycling Association.
- e. United States Environmental Protection Agency. n.d. "Aluminum Facts". Available online at <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/seahome/housewaste/src/alum.htm>
- f. University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy and Environmental Education. n.d. "Value Added : Energy and Environmental Savings from Recycling".

## The Iowa Policy Project

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