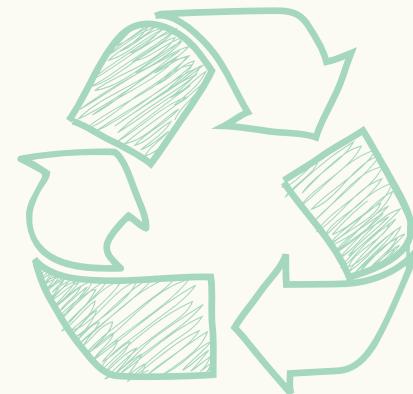


Canners are...

People who **collect**, **sort**, and **redeem** beverage containers (like cans and bottles!) under states' beverage container recycling programs. They tend to have lower income and be older, people of color, and immigrants.

They collect around **500 bottles and cans** a day, usually by walking, to earn about **\$5 an hour** (minimum wage in California is \$16 an hour)



Canning is...

A low-barrier way of earning incomes with immediate cash payouts for people that have a hard time making money from other works.

We all benefit from canners' services because they:



Clean streets, parks, and public spaces



Save money for cities' sanitation departments



Prevent recyclables from entering landfills



Increase products made with recycled material

Thank you

Learn more at



www.inclusiveaction.org

Informal Recyclers

“Canners”

Who they are
what they do and
challenges they
face.

**In 2023
50,000 canners
in LA County**

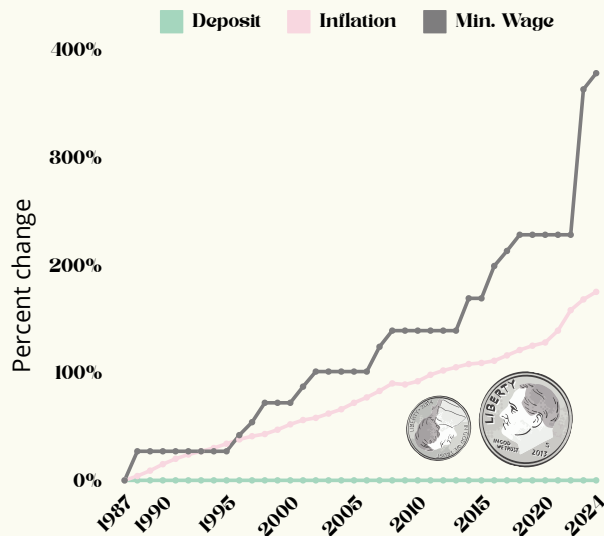
Bottle Bills

are the laws that established beverage container recycling programs. Ten US States (including California) current have it. In these states, consumers pay a deposit when buying a drink and the deposit can be redeemed later at recycling centers.

In California, the deposits are:

- 5¢ for containers less than 24 ounces
- 10¢ for containers 24 ounces or large
- 25¢ for boxes and pouches containing alcohol

The **deposit fees haven't changed** since it was introduced almost four decades ago. Since then, the **costs of living** have increased by nearly **200%** and **minimum wage** by almost **400%**.



Challenges for Canners

Competition

Canning is territorial and competition is high because cans and bottles in public spaces and streets are up for grab by anyone. Many canners rely on personal relationships to reserve recyclables, but conflicts can happen still and sometimes even resulted in physical altercations.

**recycled
5.7 billion
containers**

Social Stigma

General public often holds a negative view towards canners and cities criminalize canning because they see canning as stealing from public revenue. Cities often encourage residents to report “scavengers” or canners to authorities.

Hazards

Canning by foot in the streets exposes canners to many hazards such as vehicle accidents and harsh weather conditions. Injuries caused by cuts and animal bites can also happen when canners are searching through trash and recycling cans.

Recycling Center Access

The most “costly” challenge for canners. Recycling centers are where they redeem the bottles and cans for refunds (their income!). But in recent years, recycling centers have been closing. **LA County lost 30% of the centers** (and the state lost almost half) compared to ten years ago. Losing access to a recycling center within walking distance can be the same as losing their jobs.

Not only are there less of them, many centers are also **shortening their operating hours** because it's harder to make profits with lower market prices caused by lower demand.

In LA County, recycling centers are more likely to be found in neighborhoods with lower income. They are most concentrated in San Fernando Valley, South Los Angeles, and Southeast Los Angeles County.

**across 400
recycling
centers**

Three Improvements

To immediately improve the economic conditions of the canners:

- ① More access to recycling centers
- ② Higher deposit/refund fee
- ③ Expand eligible materials for recycling program