



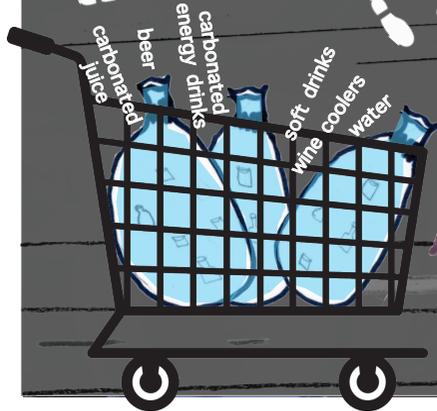
BOTTLED UP

People all over New York City are pushing shopping carts full of bottles, but why? Where are they going with those cans?

In the fall of 2015, Sean Haberman's Global History class worked with Teaching Artist Leon Anthony James at the Academy of Urban Planning in Bushwick to find out more about the New York State Returnable Container Act, a.k.a. the Bottle Bill. This law was created to reduce litter and to encourage recycling, but how does it impact our communities? Some think it's helpful while others find the bill to be a burden. Students created this postcard to share what they learned about the life of a bottle and the players in this debate.

THE BOTTLE BILL STEPS

BUY: Purchase a drink and a 5¢ deposit can be added to the price of the bottle. Throwing a bottle away is like throwing away a nickel.



REDEEM: Return the bottle to where it was bought and get the 5¢ deposit back. Places called Redemption Centers will also pay, sort, and store the redeemed empty bottles.

CHECK: Look on any bottle under 1 gallon for a label to see if it can be returned for 5¢.



RECYCLE: Manufacturers pay back the 5¢ plus 3.5¢ per bottle as a handling fee. All the empty bottles are taken to be recycled.

SORT: Redemption Centers group the bottles by their manufacturer. Each manufacturer is responsible for picking up their own bottles and paying back the retailer or Redemption Center.





Canners: People who collect and redeem the 5¢ deposits are called canners. Canners can earn anywhere from less than \$1 to over \$100 per day of tax-free income. This can be a hobby or a full time job.

Legislators: New York is 1 of 10 states that have the Bottle Bill. State Senator Liz Krueger wants to increase the value from 5¢ to 10¢.

Consumers: It can be inconvenient to save and return a bottle for the 5¢ deposit, but recycling bins are easier, back bottle deposits.

Community Members: Canners can clean up a neighborhood or add more noise while searching for bottles. Find a community board to share your opinion at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/cau/html/cb/cb.shtml>

Redemption Centers: 60% of recyclable bottles and cans are collected by curbside recycling. "We not only help create honest, hardworking jobs but also a community center for empowerment." Ana Martinez de Luco, Sure We Can. Learn more at surewecan.org

Manufacturers: If a bottle is not collected by a canner, 80% of the unredeemed bottle money goes to the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance and 20% to the manufacturer.

Recycling Centers: Since the Bottle Bill was created in 1983, 90 billion bottles and cans have been recycled at no cost to the government.

Retailers: It takes a lot of space to store the empty bottles sold plus time to count and pay back deposits.

WHAT'S AT STAKE IN THE BOTTLE BILL DEBATE?

To find out more visit dec.ny.gov



The Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP) is a nonprofit organization that uses the power of design and art to increase meaningful civic engagement, particularly among historically underrepresented communities. To learn more about CUP, visit welcometoCUP.org.

City Studies are CUP's project-based in-class and afterschool programs that use design and art as tools to research the city.

The Academy of Urban Planning (AUP) is a public school in Bushwick with an urban planning theme-based curriculum. To learn more, visit aupnyc.org

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CUP
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AUP
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