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Oregonians raise \$100,000 for the Oregon Food Bank through BottleDrop returns

BottleDrop customers donated \$75,000 in container deposits and OBRC matched \$25,000

Portland – Looking to help Oregon residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative (OBRC) set out at the beginning of April to motivate customers to donate can and bottle deposits to Oregon Food Bank. Customers were encouraged to donate deposit containers at any BottleDrop location across the state between April 1 and April 30 and OBRC would match donations up to \$25,000.

The community delivered. OBRC is excited to announce that \$100,000 has been sent to Oregon Food Bank, which is serving as a lifeline to so many struggling during this time.

“Our customers have been asking for a way to help, and we wanted to help them do it,” said Jules Bailey, chief stewardship officer and director of external relations for OBRC. “BottleDrop is part of communities across the state, and we’re so glad we could help them show up for each other in such an extraordinary way.”

OBRC will continue accepting untagged Green Bags or loose containers at BottleDrop Redemption Centers from customers who wish to donate to the Oregon Food Bank through the end of May.

Susannah Morgan, Oregon Food Bank CEO, shared the significance of joint efforts like these. “This is an amazing example of the community coming together — individuals and business partners — to make a difference in the lives of our friends and neighbors. Though we may be apart physically, things like this bring people together in new ways to help us all emerge stronger from this crisis.”

In addition to the food bank donation, OBRC is supporting everyone who relies on bottle deposits as a source of income in Portland by running an Emergency Bulk Return Site at its headquarters in Northwest Portland. The site is located at 3900 N.W. Yeon Ave. It is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day. TriMet has created bus line 297 to take people from the Rose Quarter, through Old Town, to the emergency location. Rides on that line are currently free.

“We know that this has been a hard time for folks who regularly use our BottleDrop redemption centers, especially since many grocers have temporarily stopped accepting returns,” Bailey said.

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“This Emergency Bulk Return Site is not only helping to relieve some of the pressure on BottleDrop locations, but it’s also ensuring that people have another safe, clean option for redeeming containers and getting their refunds right away.”

All BottleDrop locations across the state remain open. Measures to ensure safe social distancing and sanitation remain in place at all Redemption Centers. Those include hand sanitizer, signage and staff to help people safely navigate the site while maintaining appropriate distance, and personal protective equipment for employees.

For more information: Visit bottledropcenters.com

About OBRC: *OBRC is the private, not-for-profit cooperative that runs Oregon’s nationally recognized beverage container deposit program. Through our BottleDrop Redemption Centers and container pickup service for more than 2,500 retail partners, we recycle more than 1.8 billion beverage containers, protecting the Oregon we love, supporting the causes we cherish and inspiring innovation beyond our borders – all without a single penny of state funding.*

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