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OBRC expands COVID-19 response with Oregon Food Bank donations, new return site

The co-op is matching customer donations to the food bank up to \$25,000

Portland — Looking to help Oregon residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative (OBRC) is making it easier than ever to donate to the Oregon Food Bank — and to redeem beverage containers safely.

To help raise funds for the Oregon Food Bank, OBRC customers can drop their untagged Green Bags at any BottleDrop Redemption Center and have the proceeds donated to the food bank. Customers don't have to wait in line and can simply drop their bags in the drop doors at any BottleDrop Redemption Center. OBRC will match those donations up to \$25,000.

"These are trying times for people in Oregon — and everywhere," said Jules Bailey, chief stewardship officer and director of external relations for OBRC. "If we can help make it even just a little easier for people to support the Oregon Food Bank and help others in their community, we're going to do it."

In addition to the food bank donation option, OBRC has also opened an Emergency Bulk Return Site at its headquarters in Northwest Portland to expand access to safe beverage container refunds. The site, which opened Monday, April 6, is located at 3900 NW Yeon Ave. It is open from 9am to 5pm every day.

Measures to ensure safe social distancing and sanitation have been in place since the center opened. Those include hand sanitizer, signage and staff to help people safely navigate the site while maintaining appropriate distance, and personal protective equipment for employees.

Customers may bring large bags of mixed beverage containers to the site, where new technology and equipment allow for quick and accurate counting. Customers are then issued a voucher, which they can take to an automatic pay station on site and receive payment immediately.

There is a limit of 350 containers per customer at a time. If there are other customers waiting, customers will be limited to 350 containers but may return to the line. The location is accessible on Trimet's number 16 bus line.

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“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. “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 Redemption Centers across the state remain open. OBRC plans to keep the emergency site up and running until the state eases the stay-at-home order and grocers resume accepting beverage containers..”

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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