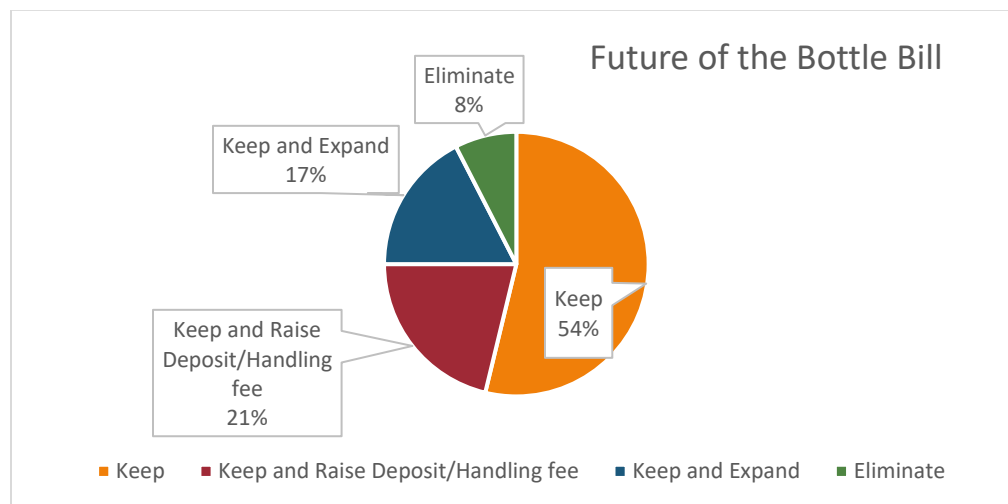


Iowans say “Keep the Bottle Bill”.

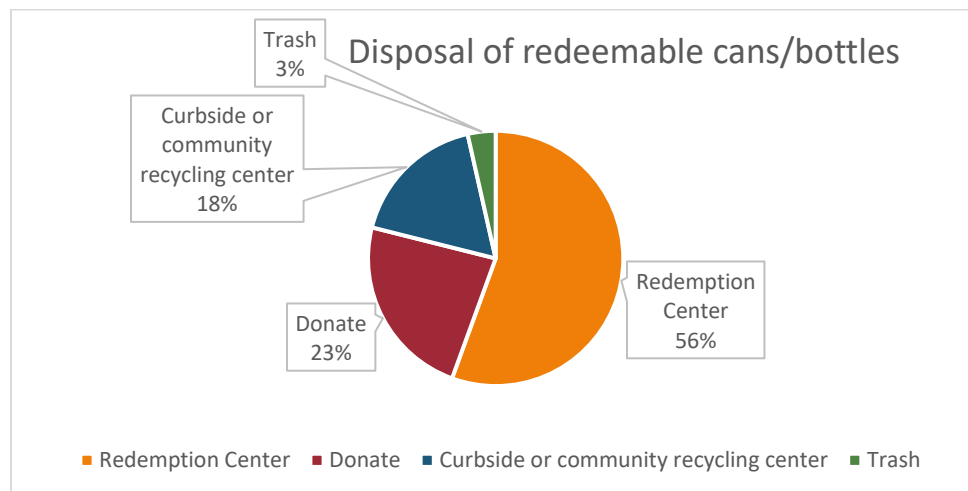
Overwhelmingly, Iowans say to keep the Bottle bill and increase deposit/handling fees. The 40+-year-old law cleaned up Iowa ditches and now provides jobs, supports community needs and supplies quality recyclable material for manufacturers. Iowans want these benefits to continue according to an independent survey of nearly 600 Iowans in January 2021.



An independent survey of 588 Iowans conducted January 15-22, 2021 revealed data about their disposal practices and opinions about the policy instituted in 1979 under the leadership of Governor Robert Ray.

It Still Works

Currently, most Iowans (79%) redeem the 5-cent deposit for themselves or donate to community fundraising efforts like local fire departments and youth programs. Nearly 20% of their redeemable containers are now going into curbside and community recycling where available, and 3% goes in the Trash/Landfill.



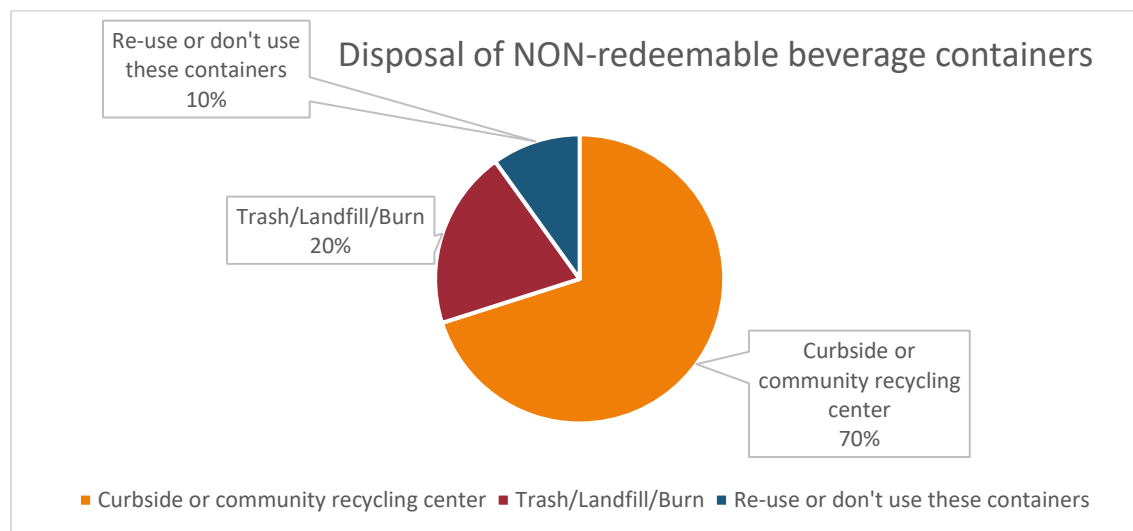
Raise the Deposit/Handling Fee

Nearly one third of lowans surveyed said 5-cents was not enough of an incentive to redeem the containers and indicated that legislators should raise the deposit and handling fees to keep redemption centers viable. Most stated that it was becoming increasingly difficult to find clean, convenient locations to redeem those cans/bottles. Many want the law to be enforced for retailers that sell the products but do not take the redeemable containers. Rural consumers said they travel 25 – 60 miles to the nearest redemption center and have no recycling services in their county.

Expand to include other single use beverage containers.

Respondents want legislators to expand the bill to include all single use beverage containers to keep the landscape clean, and plastic out of landfills. Many also said that disposal of glass containers was an issue in most areas of the state.

When asked where they dispose of non-redeemable single use beverage containers, lowans said 70% go to curbside or community recycling programs where available, 20% goes to trash or landfill. Ten percent say they reuse the containers, use them minimally or not at all.

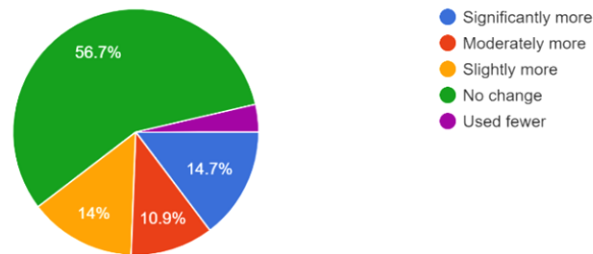


Derecho and Pandemic Affect Use and Disposal

The use of single use beverage containers increased during the August 2020 Derecho recovery. Consumer waste adds strain on communities overwhelmed with massive clean-up efforts and disrupted waste management systems. Respondents indicated that when redemption centers were closed temporarily due to the pandemic and derecho that they saved the containers to redeem later or donated them to community fundraisers and individuals who collected them.

During the derecho recovery period how many single use beverage containers did your household use?

578 responses



About:

The 7-question survey was answered by 588 Facebook users January 15 – 22, 2021. The survey was shared 40 times reaching Iowa citizens in NW, SW, Central, and Eastern Iowa. Responses were anonymous. The survey was conducted by Kristi Cooper, an independent consultant, living in eastern Iowa. For more information contact Cooper at kristicooperconsulting@gmail.com.