



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

BCDRP

BEVERAGE CONTAINERS DEPOSIT RETURN POLICY
FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO 2024



Foreword



The ways in which we source, utilise and repurpose our resources are testament to our stewardship of the land on which we live. But more than that, they echo throughout generations, impacting futures that we, ourselves, will not be here to witness. It is critical therefore, that we manage these resources in sustainable ways that will not just benefit current generations, but that will set a foundation upon which those who come after can continue to build.

Indeed, it is the younger generation that must take ownership of the vision enshrined in this policy, and embrace it as they craft a new society. This, of course, does not absolve us, the older ones, of the responsibility of taking the necessary steps to secure a better future for us all.

This **Beverage Containers Deposit Return Policy**, which was drafted by the **Ministry of Public Utilities (MPU)**, in collaboration with the **Solid Waste Management Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SWMCOL)** is a major milestone along that journey.

Created to work in tandem with the **National Recycling Policy** and the **National Integrated Solid Waste/Resource Management Policy**, this policy aims to incentivize the return and recycling of beverage containers, thus reducing waste and promoting a circular economy.

Our approach, in creating it, drew from successful models around the world, but we were also careful to tailor it to Trinidad and Tobago's unique context, and to take into consideration the interests of the many stakeholders who will benefit from its implementation.

The Beverage Containers Deposit Return Policy, working in sync with the other two aforementioned policies, will positively transform the solid waste management sector into a more sustainable one that enables the reuse, recycling, and management of waste in ways that minimise harm to our environment and ourselves while fuelling economic activity and the development of new enterprises.

I urge fellow citizens from every sector to take ownership of the new direction laid out in these policies, as we work towards a more sustainable way of life for us all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marvin Gonzales". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Warm regards,
Honourable Marvin Gonzales
Minister of Public Utilities



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BCDRP 2024	Beverage Containers Deposit Return Policy for Trinidad and Tobago, 2024
BCDRS	Beverage Containers Deposit Return System
CCA	Central Collection Agent
GoRTT	Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
BIC	Beverage Industry Committee
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
NEP	National Environmental Policy 2018
NISWRMP	National Integrated Solid Waste /Resource Management Policy for Trinidad and Tobago 2024
NRP	National Recycling Policy for Trinidad and Tobago 2024
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SWMCOL	Trinidad and Tobago Solid Waste Management Company Limited
SWMCorp	Trinidad and Tobago Solid Waste Management Corporation
WMR	Waste Management Rules 2021

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

“Administrator” means the government entity with responsibility for the management of the Beverage Containers Deposit Return System (BCDRS) to support the objectives of the Beverage Containers Deposit Return Policy (BCDRP), 2024.

“beverage” means any liquid that is a ready-to-serve drink in frozen or liquid form and does not apply to:

- a. beverages sold or offered aboard aircraft or ships; or
- b. beverages purchased in the duty-free zone by passengers departing Trinidad and Tobago; or
- c. beverages sold by a beverage producer, wholesaler or retailer for the sole purpose of sale, resale and/or distribution outside of Trinidad and Tobago either directly or by a Third-Party Exporter.

“beverage container” means a single bottle, can, carton, stand-up pouch or a package made of metal, plastic, paper, glass or other material, or a combination of those materials, that contains or has contained a beverage; but does not apply to:

- a. a cup or other unsealed receptacle; or
- b. a refillable beverage container that is capable of being reused by a brand owner without being remanufactured.

“Brand Owner” means any person who:

- a. carries on the business of filling containers with a beverage for the purpose of sale in Trinidad and Tobago; and
- b. imports a beverage in a container into Trinidad and Tobago for the purpose of distribution or sale in Trinidad and Tobago.

“Central Collection Agent” means the entity with responsibility for maintaining a common collection system for the return and recycling of used non-refillable registered beverage containers from redemption depots.

“deposit” means a sum to be collected upon the sale of a beverage in a beverage container that is registered in the BCDRS.

“handling fee” means an amount paid by the brand owner directly or through the Central Collection Agent (CCA) to a redemption depot operator or registered wholesaler or retailer for every beverage container redeemed.

“Municipal Solid Waste” means waste comprising:

- a. Residential solid waste - wastes generated by the normal activities of households, including, but not limited to, food wastes, rubbish, ashes, and bulky wastes.

Where:

- i. Rubbish is a general term for solid waste (semi-solid, liquid and gaseous waste) taken from residences, commercial establishments, and institutions.
 - ii. Bulky waste means large items of solid waste such as household appliances, furniture, large auto parts, trees, branches, stumps, and other oversize wastes whose large size precludes or complicates their handling by normal solid wastes collection, processing, or disposal methods.
- b. Commercial solid waste - all types of solid wastes generated by stores, offices, restaurants, warehouses, and other non-manufacturing activities, subject to the Waste Management Rules 2021, Schedule 1, and Schedule 2; and

- c. Institutional solid waste - wastes generated by educational institutions, non-medical waste generated by health care providers, and non-manufacturing waste generated by correctional and government facilities, and other institutional facilities.

“processing” means the treatment, recovery, recycling or disposal of waste in accordance with the Waste Management Rules, (WMR) 2021.

“recovery” means an operation which extracts or diverts a material or energy from waste for reuse, recycling or other similar operations so that the waste ceases to be waste, in accordance with the WMR 2021.

“recycling” means an operation by which waste is reprocessed so as to obtain a product or material suitable for use whether for an original or other purpose in accordance with the WMR 2021.

“redeemed beverage container” means a used beverage container which has been returned by a redeemer and a refund has been paid.

“redeemer” means a person who requests a refund in exchange for a used beverage container.

“Registered redemption depot” means any premises registered in the BCDRS where a person, firm or entity carries on the business of accepting, collecting and sorting used beverage containers and remitting refunds on deposits.

“Registered redemption depot operator” means any person, firm or entity registered in the BCDRS to operate a redemption depot.

“refund” means a sum required to be paid to a redeemer in exchange for a used beverage container which is registered in the BCDRS.

“retailer” means a person who sells or offers for sale by retail a beverage in beverage containers to consumers.

“reuse” means the using again of a product, material or substance which is not waste for the same purpose for which it was conceived in accordance with the WMR 2021.

“sorting” means arranging beverage containers by size, material and brand owner and in accordance with guidelines stipulated by the Administrator.

“Third-Party Exporter” means any person, firm or entity that purchases beverages in Trinidad and Tobago for the purpose of international export.

“treatment” means a process designed to change the physical, chemical or biological character or composition of waste in order to reduce the impact of the waste on human health and the environment prior to its storage, recovery or disposal in accordance with the WMR 2021.

“Trustee” means the person appointed to manage and oversee the administration of the Resource Recovery Fund.

“wholesaler” means any person other than a brand owner who sells or offers for sale beverages to a retailer.

BEVERAGE CONTAINERS DEPOSIT RETURN POLICY FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Beverage Containers Deposit Return Policy for Trinidad and Tobago (BCDRP) 2024, addresses the management of single-use beverage containers that have a high likelihood of being disposed of indiscriminately. In this regard, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GoRTT) has worked with various stakeholders from the public and private sectors, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations to develop a feasible Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Recycling System for recyclable materials. These materials include tyres, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), used lubricating oil, organic wastes, paper, glass, metals, plastics and beverage containers. The GoRTT recognizes that the MSW Recycling System is one contributing factor to achieving the national agenda of increased circularity in the management of the country's resources. The introduction of a deposit return system for beverage containers is therefore, a critical first step as a key mechanism for returning valuable resources to the supply chain.

At its core, the BCDRP 2024 sets the framework for GoRTT, through the Trinidad and Tobago Solid Waste Management Corporation (SWMCorp), to develop and administer a Beverage Containers Deposit Return System (BCDRS) for the management of sealed, non-refillable, single-use beverage containers that are constructed of metal, glass, plastic, paper or other material or any combination of those materials.



Figure 1: Five desired outcomes of the BCDRS

The successful establishment of the BCDRS is grounded in effective leadership, collaboration and the required cultural shift to achieve the desired outcomes of environmental protection; fiscal stewardship; governance excellence; customer excellence; and system efficiency and effectiveness, as depicted in **Figure 1**.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Over the last decade, the approach to waste management has been evolving into a circular economy approach, where there is a global movement to shift away from landfilling as the primary practice of waste management to the most preferred practices of waste prevention, reduction and diversion through energy recovery and recycling practices, in accordance with the waste management hierarchy depicted in Figure 2.

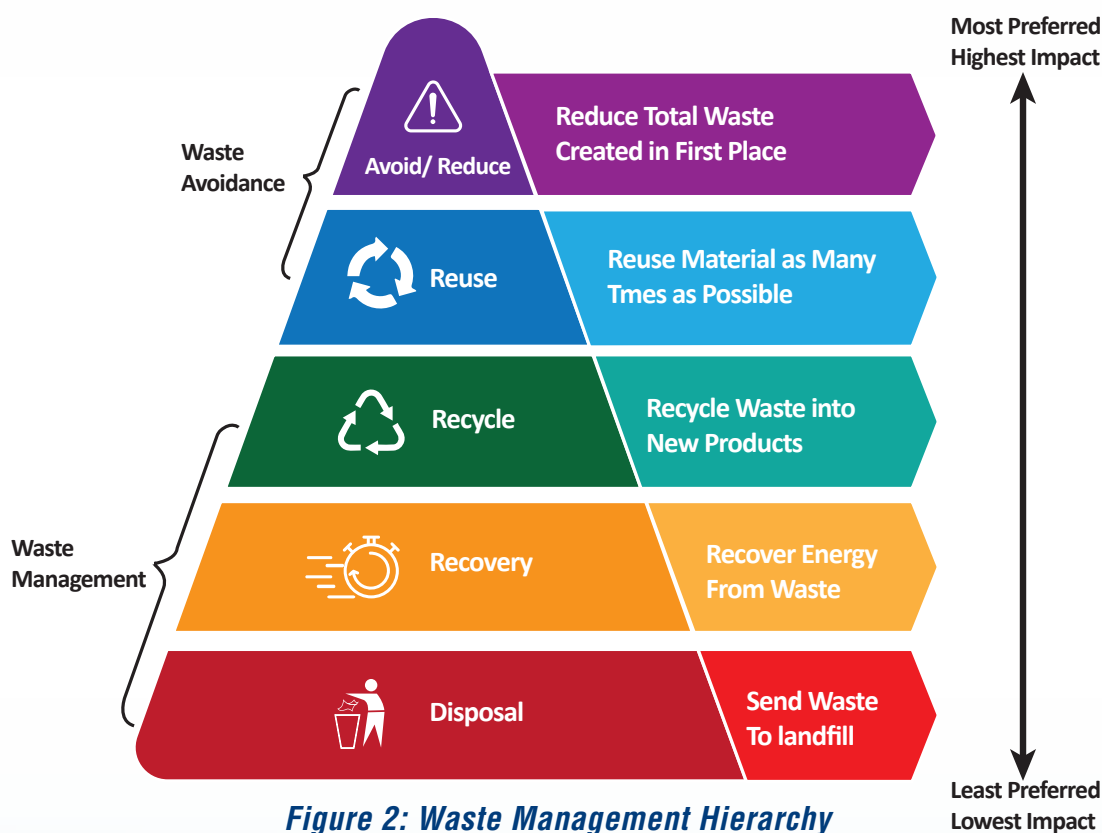


Figure 2: Waste Management Hierarchy

Characterization studies conducted in 2023 for Trinidad, and 2010 for Tobago, estimated that 77% and 88% of the waste disposed at landfills respectively, were recyclable materials. In this regard, waste managers have advocated for the introduction of strategies to divert these materials from the landfills, and to capture their economic value as secondary resources in the manufacturing sector.

In this regard, the GoRTT is taking deliberate steps to introduce feasible models for instituting a Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Recycling Management Programme which includes the establishment of deposit return systems and stewardship programmes for recyclable materials, with beverage containers being the first waste stream to be addressed.

2.0 POLICY SCOPE

The BCDRP 2024 applies to beverage containers 5 litres and less, that are a single bottle, can, carton, stand-up pouch or a package made of metal, plastic, paper, glass or other material, or a combination of those materials, that contains or has contained a beverage; but does not apply to:

- a. a cup or other unsealed receptacle



- b. a refillable beverage container that is capable of being reused by a brand owner without being remanufactured.



3.0 POLICY CONTEXT

The BCDRP 2024 was developed in the context of the overarching sector policies for the management of MSW and the protection of the environment. Additionally, consideration was given to the international agreements and conventions to which GoRTT is a signatory.

The BCDRP 2024 aligns to the following environmental and MSW policies:

- ▶ The National Environmental Policy (NEP) 2018 articulates the priorities deemed critical to achieving environmental sustainability and ultimately sustainable development.
- ▶ The National Integrated Solid Waste/Resource Management Policy (NISWRMP) 2024 is the overarching MSW sector policy and sets a clear direction for sustainably integrating the management of MSW in a manner that promotes human well-being, community awareness and involvement and the preservation of the environment.
- ▶ The National Recycling Policy for Trinidad and Tobago (NRP) 2024 provides a framework to establish a MSW Recycling System that supports the development of a circular economy and drives the incremental reduction of recyclable materials disposed of via landfilling by 50% over ten (10) years.

4.0 GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The BCDRP 2024 is guided by the following principles:

- **Solid Waste Management Hierarchy:** The waste hierarchy is the framework for action. It stresses the need to manage waste in an integrated system, in accordance with the preferred waste management practice. These practices place an emphasis on avoiding and reusing waste as the preferred practices prior to recycling, energy recovery and disposal by landfilling. (**Figure 2**)
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** This policy framework advocates that brand owners play a role in the treatment and disposal of products at its end-of-life.
- **Circular Economy:** Policy strategies that promote an economic system aimed at minimizing the use of natural resources and eliminating waste, toxic materials and pollutants over the life cycle of a service or product in a manner that does not compromise the needs of future generations.
- **Evidence-Based Management:** Policy formulation and implementation will be based, to the maximum extent possible, on tangible evidence, data and information as the basis of decision-making.
- **Regulatory Tools:** Regulatory tools will be applied where necessary to influence a direct response to particularly wasteful practices. These tools will also ensure that waste generation is minimized in ways that are broadly fair and equitable across society. The GoRTT will take all necessary measures to ensure that this Policy and its enabling legislation are adequately enforced and include the provision of adequate personnel and resources.
- **Policy Integration:** Waste prevention strategies, such as reduction, reuse and recycling, are critical components of a wider integrated solid waste management system and would therefore be linked to, and harmonised as far as possible, with other relevant policy areas and instruments.
- **Accountability:** There will be fairness, transparency and accountability in the formulation, adoption and implementation of policy instruments and measures.
- **Empowerment, Collaboration and Participation:** The costs, benefits and responsibility for waste prevention will be shared among all stakeholders, who must be provided with the right to actively participate in the management and decision-making processes.
- **Viewing Waste as a Resource:** The policy framework advocates a transition to a new way of thinking about waste, based on principles of sustainability and resource conservation.
- **Private Sector Initiative:** The policy framework calls for the private sector to play a greater role in addressing the waste management dilemma consistent with the national vision. It advocates greater private sector involvement in MSW management.



5.0 POLICY OUTCOMES

The BCDRP 2024 is a revision of the Beverage Containers Deposit Refund Policy for Trinidad and Tobago 2019 and is consistent with the National Recycling Policy for Trinidad and Tobago 2024 and the overarching sector policy, the National Integrated Solid Waste/Resource Management Policy for Trinidad and Tobago 2024. Collectively, these policies provide a governance and policy framework that seeks to instill a culture of shared responsibility for the management of MSW.

The BCDRP 2024 outlines a roadmap for the GoRTT to develop and administer, through SWMCorp, a BCDRS for the management of sealed, non-refillable, single-use beverage containers that are constructed of metal, glass, plastic, paper or other material or any combination of those materials.

The vision of the BCDRS is anchored to its underpinning principles, which are aligned to the National Development Strategy 2016-2030, Theme V – Placing the Environment at the Centre of Social and Economic Development and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Placing the Environment at the Centre of Social and Economic Development

THEME V

LONG-TERM GOALS

1-15 Years; 2016-2030

1 A healthier environment

2 Improved energy efficiency

3 Improved climate resilience

4 Wastes will be reduced

5 Improve the quality of ecosystems and sustainable use of natural assets

6 Citizens are more environmentally aware

MEDIUM-TERM GOALS

1-10 years; 2016-2025

1 Renewable energy will be incorporated into the energy supply

2 Institutional arrangements for effective environmental management will be improved

3 Meet all international environmental obligations

4 Improved waste management and recycling capabilities

5 Biodiversity and ecosystem services are incorporated into all areas of national development

SHORT-TERM GOALS

1-5 Years; 2016-2020

1 Environmental governance and managements systems will be strengthened

2 Carbon footprint will be reduced

3 Climate vulnerability will be assessed

4 Comprehensive waste and pollution management systems will be created

5 Natural resource management will be improved

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

2015-2030



There are five (5) interconnected and desired outcomes that the successful implementation of the BCDRP 2024 would achieve:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Reduce Impact



Outcome 1 – Environmental Protection

An intended outcome of the BCDRP 2024 is greater environmental protection through a reduction in the litter disamenity and the impact of used beverage containers on the environment. The BCDRS will provide an effective and efficient collection and recycling system to prevent indiscriminate dumping of used beverage containers in the environment and prohibit these containers from entering the nation’s landfills. It is intended that these containers will be diverted to value-added uses.

FISCAL STEWARDSHIP
Risk Management



Outcome 2 – Fiscal Stewardship

Fiscal stewardship will be achieved through sound risk management, clear reporting and full transparency regarding operations, finances, and accountability by setting meaningful and measurable targets. The BCDRP 2024 seeks to minimize the risks and costs of the BCDRS through deliberate and continuous collaboration and communication with industry partners.

GOVERNANCE EXCELLENCE
Management Systems



Outcome 3 – Governance Excellence

The proposed institutional framework seeks to build stakeholder trust through the integrity of the BCDRS. It will enable the regulatory oversight required to achieve a high degree of compliance with operating and reporting requirements along all aspects of the life cycle of beverage containers in Trinidad and Tobago, from registration to collection and recycling.

**CUSTOMER
EXCELLENCE**

Continuous
Improvement



Outcome 4 – Customer Excellence

The BCDRS aims to deliver a management system for used beverage containers that is conveniently accessible and has widespread awareness among the citizenry. Increased focus will be placed on continuous improvement, relative to customer satisfaction and the achievement of the goals of the BCDRP 2024.

**SYSTEM EFFICIENCY
AND EFFECTIVENESS**

Innovation and
Adaptation



Outcome 5: System Efficiency & Effectiveness

The BCDRP 2024 is intended to foster dedication in finding ways to increase system efficiency and effectiveness and reduce costs through technological innovation, continuous improvement and investment in recycling infrastructure and local downstream industries.





6.0 BEVERAGE CONTAINERS DEPOSIT RETURN SYSTEM

The Beverage Containers Deposit Return System (BCDRS) incentivises consumers to return used beverage containers by applying a refundable deposit to beverage sales. Additionally, it incentivizes redemption depot operators to take back used beverage containers from consumers for a handling fee.

The BCDRS is depicted in **Figure 3** and commences with **(1) brand owners**, who are persons that carry on the business of filling containers with a beverage and/ or import a beverage in a container into Trinidad and Tobago for the purpose of distribution or sale in Trinidad and Tobago. Brand owners initiate the movement of the deposits and handling fees by remitting those funds into the Resource Recovery Fund (RRF). The RRF is a special Trust Fund created by legislation for the purposes of deposit return systems and recycling activities which will be managed by the Administrator, SWMCorp.

The life cycle of the deposit broadly follows the life cycle of the beverage container as **(2) wholesalers/retailers** pay the deposit to the brand owners upon purchase of a beverage; **(3) consumers** pay the wholesaler/retailer upon purchase of a beverage; **(4) redemption depot operators** then pay the consumer the refund upon return of the used beverage container; and **(5) SWMCorp**, as the BCDRS Administrator, refunds redemption depot operators and remits the handling fee for each returned beverage container. As the BCDRS Administrator, SWMCorp will be responsible for maintaining a **(6) common collection system** for the return and recycling of used, non-refillable, registered beverage containers from redemption depots, and for establishing the associated logistical arrangements for the recycling of redeemed beverage containers. **(7) The redeemed beverage containers** provide a high-quality recyclable material, which can then be reintroduced into domestic manufacturing processes as a raw material or recycled into a new product.

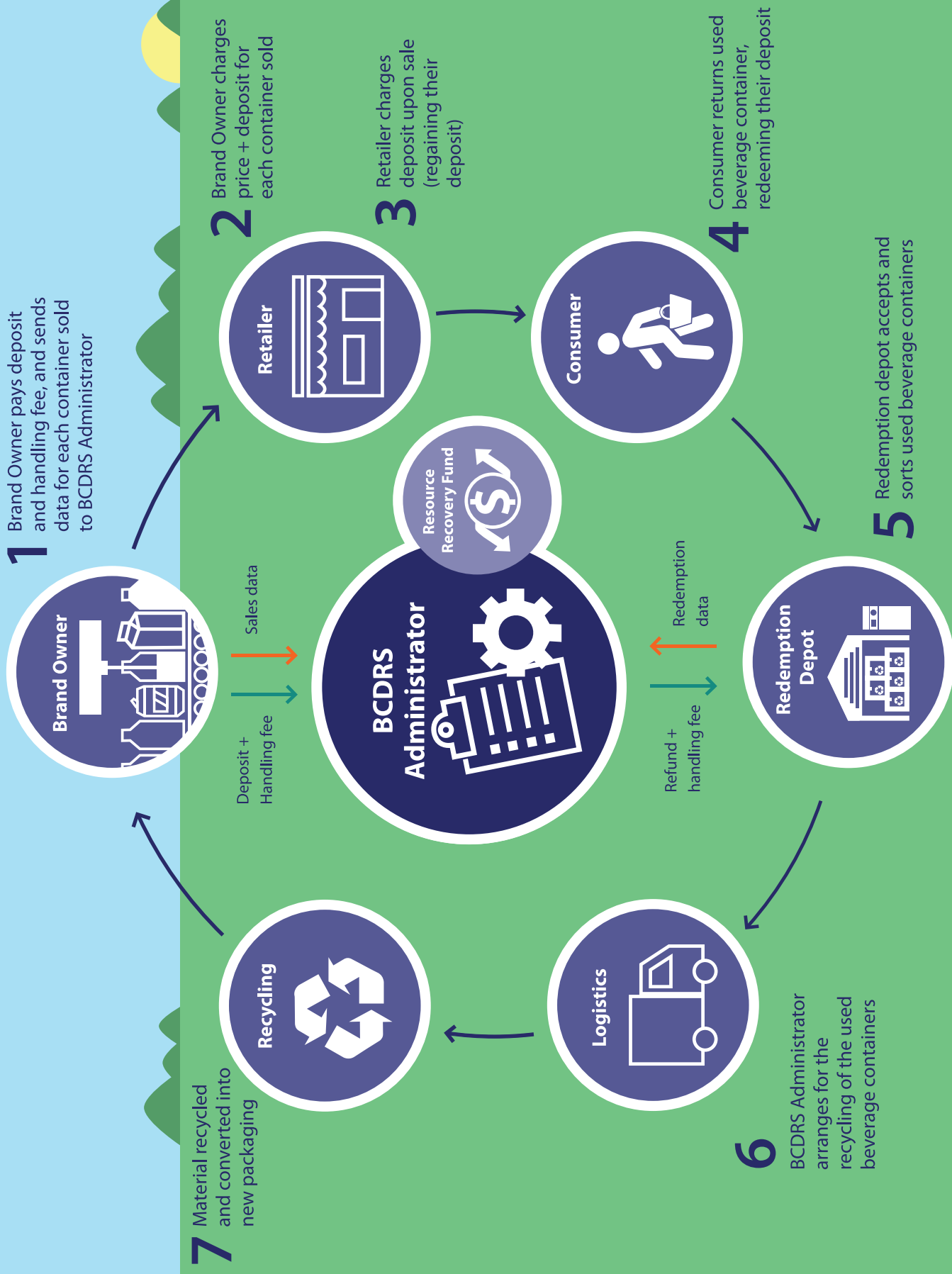


Figure 3: Flow of beverage containers, deposits, and handling fees in Beverage Containers Deposit Return System

7.0 KEY ELEMENTS OF THE BCDRS

7.1 Administration

A legislative framework will be developed to set out the governance structure for MSW, including the administration of the BCDRS. The framework will comprise the Solid Waste Management Corporation Act, which will primarily reconfigure the Trinidad and Tobago Solid Waste Management Company Limited (SWMCOL) to a statutory corporation, the Trinidad and Tobago Solid Waste Management Corporation (SWMCorp), which will be the national institution responsible for the management of MSW in Trinidad and Tobago. The institutional framework for the BCDRS is depicted in **Figure 4**.



Figure 4: Institutional Framework of the BCDRS

Additionally, SWMCorp will be responsible for developing and implementing the National Recycling Programme and creating a recycling industry in Trinidad and Tobago. In this regard, SWMCorp will be appointed as Administrator of the BCDRS within its governing legislation, in accordance with the Beverage Containers Deposit Return System Regulations.

As Administrator of the BCDRS, SWMCorp will support the objectives of the BCDRP 2024 to strengthen the circularity of the management of used beverage containers. The Administrator will determine:

- The product and container types to be included in the BCDRS;
- The framework for the relationship among stakeholders;
- The financial management and cash movements; and
- The performance requirements, monitoring and reporting arrangements.

Accordingly, SWMCorp as Administrator will be responsible for:

- Establishing a registration system for brand owners and the beverages which they manufacture and/or import for sale or distribution in Trinidad and Tobago, and redemption depot operators.
- Establishing, updating and publishing a list of brand owners and associated brands of beverages, flavours, type and size of containers.
- Establishing, updating and publishing a list of registered redemption depots, including voluntarily registered wholesalers and retailers.
- Determining the values of the deposit, handling fee and any other fees and associated criteria and procedures for revising these fees, in collaboration with the Beverage Industry Committee (BIC). Recognizing the importance of stakeholder input, a BIC will be constituted of representatives of the beverage and recycling industries with a view to providing advice and recommendations to SWMCorp on the operations of the BCDRS.
- Managing the flow of receipt and reimbursement of deposits, handling fees and unredeemed funds.
- Reporting on the performance of the BCDRS in relation to national targets, including waste diversion and recycling targets.
- Acting as the CCA, establishing standards and guidelines for the operations of redemption depots.
- Creating an enabling environment that supports recycling facilities and end markets for used beverage containers.
- Promoting public education and awareness.
- Co-ordinating clean-up campaigns.



7.2 Resource Recovery Fund (RRF)

Under the Solid Waste Management Corporation Act, a special Trust Fund will be established as the financial mechanism to support the BCDRS. The finances of the RRF will be ringfenced to avoid comingling with the funds of SWMCorp, as it is not intended for the RRF to finance the operations of SWMCorp.

The finances of the RRF will comprise:

- Amounts appropriated by Parliament for the operation of the Fund;
- Sums of money collected as deposits and handling fees under the BCDRS or in relation to other systems to encourage recycling;
- Unredeemed deposits and handling fees;
- Other fiscal measures established in relation to the implementation of the BCDRP 2024; and
- Sums of money provided by foreign states, international organizations, multi-lateral or bi-lateral lending agencies or other entities.

Five (5) members of the Board of SWMCorp will be designated by the President to act as Trustees for the RRF and will be responsible for its administration consistent, with their terms of reference and the legal framework. The appointment of the Trustees will ensure transparency, accountability, and prudent financial management of the Fund.

The Funds in the RRF will be used to:

- Reimburse refunds and pay handling fees;
- Provide grants for the development of innovations for re-use and recycling, stimulate the demand for recycled materials in domestic manufacturing processes;
- Support research and development of new technology to promote sustainability in the design of new product packaging;
- Sponsor projects and build new partnerships with academia, industry and other stakeholders to expand markets for materials and products;
- Support education and awareness programmes geared towards reuse and recycling; and
- Support clean-up campaigns.

7.3 Registration

The implementation of a registration system allows for a clear indication of the beverages that fall within the scope of the BCDRS and provides the basis for measuring the performance of the BCDRS.

Registration will be completed with the issuance by the Administrator of a Registration Certificate, with a validity period of three (3) years. Brand owners and redemption depots operators will be required to publicly display the Registration Certificate at their principal place of business and copies of same at their branches. This will allow consumers to easily identify the participants of the BCDRS.

The registration requirements will be as follows:

i. Brand owners

Brand owners will be mandatorily required to register with the Administrator to sell or distribute beverages in beverage containers that fall under the remit of the BCDRS. The registration process will require brand owners to register:

- a. as a brand owner of a beverage; and
- b. each beverage container filled or imported with a beverage for the purpose of distribution or sale in Trinidad and Tobago;

To register, brand owners will be required to provide information on the brand, flavour and Universal Product Code (UPC) of their beverages, along with the material type, size and image of its beverage containers.

ii. Redemption Depot Operators

Redemption Depot Operators will be mandatorily required to register with the Administrator as designated collection points to accept used beverage containers. Only registered redemption depot operators will be authorized to refund deposits on behalf of the Administrator.

To register, a redemption depot operator will be required to provide information on each facility, as follows:

- location;
- size;
- layout;
- applicable statutory approvals;
- environment, health and safety plan;
- operating hours;
- method of collection;
- method of remittance of refunds.

iii. Wholesalers and Retailers

Wholesalers and retailers are not required to register in the BCDRS. However, a wholesaler or retailer may voluntarily choose to operate as a redemption depot and in this instance, will be required to register as a redemption depot operator.

7.4 Deposit

The deposit is a fee that is charged at the point of purchase on each beverage that is registered in the BCDRS. The brand owner is the initiator of the deposit, which is then charged throughout the sale of the beverage. The deposit acts as an incentive for consumers to redeem beverage containers to a registered redemption depot and must be set at a meaningful level to encourage consumers to alter their practice of discarding used beverage containers, and instead, to return these containers to a redemption depot.

Based on a review of deposit systems in other countries, deposit values may vary according to the size and material type of beverage containers such as metal, glass, aluminium, polyethylene terephthalate (PET), etc. To reduce consumer uncertainty and promote higher return rates, two (2) deposit levels will be determined based on the following sizes of beverage containers:



Beverage containers designed to hold less than 0.7 Litres



Beverage containers designed to hold more than 0.7 Litres and not more than 5 Litres

The deposit values will be established and reviewed annually by SWMCorp in collaboration with the BIC. SWMCorp will be responsible for clearly identifying the process and criteria for revising the deposit values and communicating any proposed changes.



7.5 Handling Fee

Brand owners through SWMCorp will be required to pay redemption depot operators the stipulated handling fee as compensation for receiving and refunding deposits, as well as sorting and storing redeemed beverage containers. This handling fee, which is payable on each beverage container redeemed, is expected to cover the handling costs of the redemption dept, including utility costs, space requirements, and labour costs.

Similar to the deposit value, handling fees will also be based on the size of beverage containers, as follows:



Beverage containers designed to hold less than 0.7 Litres



Beverage containers designed to hold more than 0.7 Litres and not more than 5 Litres

Handling fees will also be established and reviewed annually by SWMCorp in collaboration with the BIC. Additionally, SWMCorp will be responsible for clearly identifying the process and criteria for revising handling fees and communicating any proposed changes.



7.6 Unredeemed Deposits and Handling Fees

Deposits and handling fees which have not been refunded or remitted respectively, will be considered as unredeemed deposits and handling fees. Unredeemed deposits and handling fees will be managed through the RRF and utilized in accordance with the stipulated uses of the RRF in Section 7.2.

7.7 Redemption Depots

A key factor to the success of the BCDRS is the ease and convenience with which consumers can recoup their deposit money. However, this will require the setting up of conveniently located redemption depots throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

Consistent with the NRP 2024, the private sector, social enterprises, community based organizations and not-for-profit organizations will be encouraged to establish redemption depots as a business venture.

Redemption depot operators will be required to accept all used beverage containers registered in the BCDRS except for any broken bottle, corroded or dismembered can, or any beverage container that contains a significant amount of foreign material.

The BCDRS does not require wholesalers and retailers to act as redemption depots given the spatial constraints they may face and public health and safety concerns. However, there may be wholesalers and retailers that do not face these challenges and wish to act as redemption depots. These wholesalers and retailers will have to comply with the registration requirement for redemption depots. In this case, registered wholesalers and retailers at their discretion, may accept more than twenty-four (24) beverage containers per person per day. However, they will only be required to accept used containers for beverages of the same brand, type and size that they sell.

The BCDRP 2024 recognizes that to foster the development of a high performing BCDRS, technology must be incorporated into the system to allow for increased automation. It is expected that increased automation will result in improved system integrity, accountability, convenience, cost efficiency and data collection. Accordingly, the BCDRP 2024 encourages the use of automated redemption technology such as Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs) which have the ability to confirm, identify, compact and sort eligible used beverage containers and offer paper-based or digital refunds.

7.8 Common Collection System

SWMC Corp, as Administrator of the BCDRS, will act as the CCA with the responsibility of maintaining a common collection system for the return and recycling of used, non-refillable, registered beverage containers from redemption depots. The CCA will provide a platform for brand owners to centralize common collection responsibilities and facilitate cross-industry problem solving and realization of cost efficiencies.

It is anticipated that the introduction of the BCDRS will result in the retrieval of a stock of high-quality recyclable materials. The common collection system provides a platform to reintroduce these materials into local manufacturing processes as post-consumer recycled content. This will close the sustainability loop by preventing the materials from being disposed as waste at landfills, reduce the use of virgin materials and the carbon footprint across the life cycle of manufacturing processes.

- National waste diversion & recycling targets
- Sustainable recycling industry
- Compliance to post-consumer recycled content (PRC)
- Monitoring & reporting system (cradle-to-grave approach)

7.9 Exemptions from the Common Collection System

Brand owners can request an exemption from utilising the common collection system (CCS). SWMC Corp may grant an exemption to a brand owner, where the approval conditions are met. These conditions include the provision of an implementation plan for the collection and recycling of the containers the brand owner placed on the market. Brand owners may enter proxy arrangements to request exemptions from the CCS.

SUMMARY OF ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE BCDRS

<p style="text-align: center;">Administrator</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Brand owners</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer & regulate BCDRS. • Register brand owners, beverages & redemption depots. • Maintain & publish Register. • Verify & publish industry performance. • Manage RRF. • Promote value-added manufacturing & recycling. • Monitor compliance. • Conduct enforcement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register to sell & distribute beverages under the BCDRS. • Display Registration Certificate at place of business. • Maintain & report quarterly on deposits, payment and redemption rates. • Remit deposits & handling fees to the RRF.
<p style="text-align: center;">Wholesalers/ Retailers</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Consumers</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register voluntarily as redemption depots. • Charge purchase price plus the deposit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay purchase price plus the deposit. • Return empty beverage containers to depots for a refund on deposit paid.
<p style="text-align: center;">Redemption Depots</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Beverage Industry Committee</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register to operate. • Accept all designated containers. • Refund deposits to consumers. • Sort & return containers to Administrator. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with Administrator to set conditions for exemption from CCS and deposit and handling fees. • Receive from the Administrator, information, and data on the performance of the BCDRS. • Provide advice on the administration and effectiveness of the BCDRS.

Table 1: Summary of the Roles of Participants of the BCDRS



8.0 BENEFITS TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE BCDRS

The successful implementation of the BCDRS will redound to the benefit of Trinidad and Tobago and all its citizenry. In that regard, the benefits of the successful implementation of the BCDRS to the various participants are as follows:

► Brand owners:

- i. The implementation of the BCDRS will allow brand owners to take responsibility for the materials which they place on the market.
- ii. The appointment of a Central Collection Agent with responsibility for receiving sorted, non-refillable containers from redemption depot operators (and retailers where applicable), and processing and recycling or putting in place arrangements for the recycling of all redeemed beverage containers, both imported and locally-manufactured, will allow brand owners to focus on their core business, which is the importation and/or manufacture of beverages and not the collecting, processing and recycling of used beverage containers.
- iii. Brand owners that may have the ability to develop an appropriate system to recover and recycle used containers for the beverage brands they supply to the market, may apply to the Administrator for an exemption from the common collection system upon the satisfaction of stipulated conditionalities.
- iv. The introduction of an exemption for brand owners from the common collection system is an opportunity for the private sector to develop the local recycling industry by establishing recycling facilities. Further, the private sector would be incentivized to develop innovative technologies to improve the efficiency in processes and operations that replace virgin raw material with recyclable material, thereby, allowing brand owners to meet international and regional Post-Consumer Recycled Content (PCR) goals.

► Wholesalers and Retailers

- i. Recognizing the spatial and health concerns, wholesalers and retailers will not be mandated to accept used beverage containers. However, wholesalers and retailers that are desirous of acting as redemption depots, are not required to accept more than twenty-four (24) used beverage containers per person per day, and acceptance will be limited to only the brands, size and material types that they sell.



► Redemption Depot Operators

- i. The creation of redemption depots will:
 - stimulate entrepreneurial activities;
 - facilitate job creation and lead to income generation; and
 - create opportunities to integrate the informal sector into formal recycling activities.

► Administrator (SWMCorp)

- i. As Administrator, SWMCorp will be able to fulfill its mandate to implement a National Recycling Programme.
- ii. As Common Collection Agent for both imported and locally-manufactured beverage containers, SWMCorp will be positioned to offer greater volumes of material to the market and fetch higher prices, bearing in mind that the ability to fetch higher market prices on the recyclables market is directly dependent on the quality and volume of material offered.
- iii. The receipt of quarterly data from brand owners and redemption depot operators would allow SWMCorp to gather data and report to the citizenry on the effectiveness of the BCDRS.
- iv. The retention of the unredeemed deposits and handling fees by SWMCorp would ensure that SWMCorp has funds available to finance activities related to the BCDRS and to promote further innovations in recycling and the development of downstream industries.

► Consumers

- i. Consumers will receive a full refund of the deposit paid at the point of purchase.
- ii. The deposit value system is simple for consumers to understand.
- iii. Consumers would be able to conveniently return used beverage containers to redemption depots that are required to accept all beverage containers.
- iv. The registration of all beverage containers facilitates the creation of a database and allows SWMCorp to publish this information on beverages, including, but not limited to, brand, size and material type of the beverage containers which fall within the BCDRS. In this way, consumers and all participants would have full knowledge of the applicable beverage containers in the BCDRS.



9.0 CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

A country-wide clean-up campaign will be undertaken to remove indiscriminately discarded containers from the environment six (6) months prior to the commencement of the BCDRS.

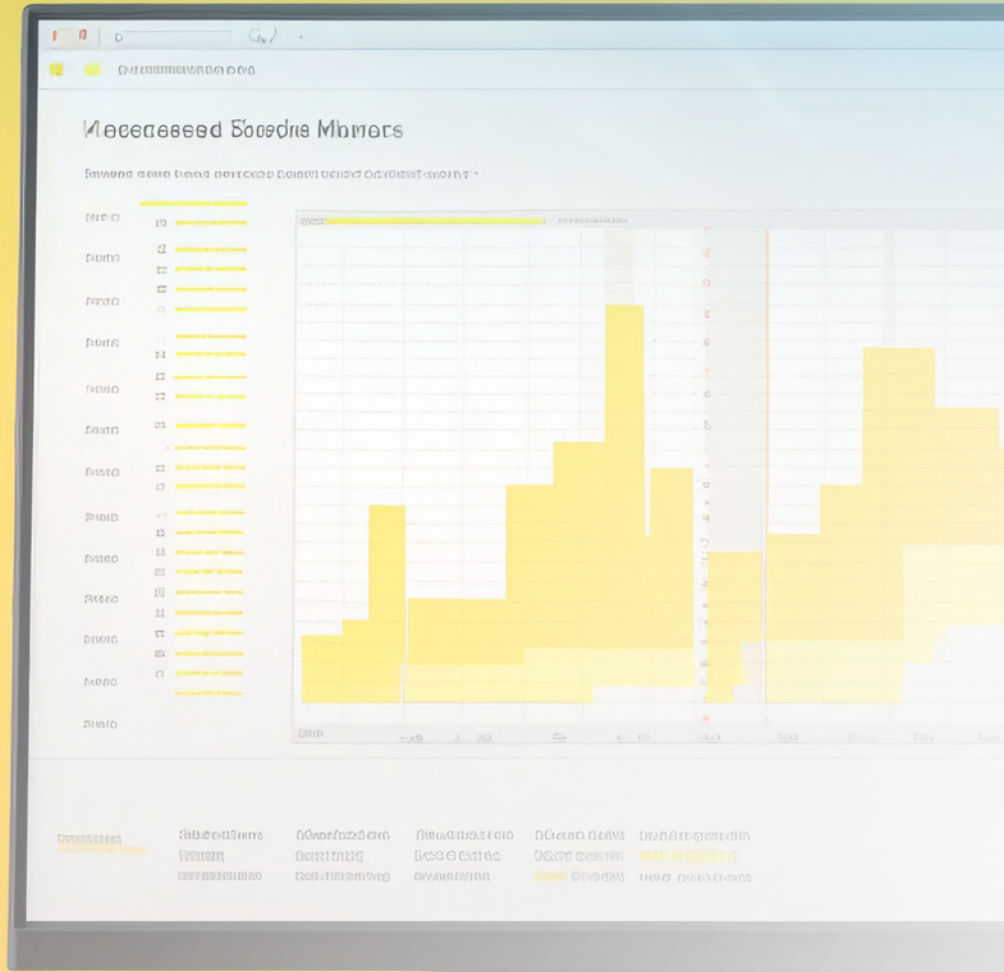
Financing would be sourced from the Green Fund to implement both the clean-up campaign and a dry run of the BCDRS to avoid brand owners from having to remit refunds for containers on which deposits were not paid.



10.0 EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

Education and awareness of national efforts for waste recycling are critical to the successful implementation of the BCDRS. Accordingly, SWMCorp will:

- Develop and implement, within six (6) months of the adoption of this policy, a communication strategy to ensure public buy-in of the waste recycling programme and active participation from all segments of society;
- Partner with academia to enhance programmes on waste recycling;
- Conduct continuous public awareness programmes and initiatives, targeting key audiences, utilising, a variety of methods and media;
- Ensure that national and local stakeholders have equitable access to information and knowledge on the recycling of beverage containers;
- Utilize, wherever possible, financial resources from the RRF to support education and awareness programmes geared toward the recycling of beverage containers.





11.0 MONITORING & REPORTING

Monitoring and reporting on the intended outcomes will be integral components of the policy implementation and management process. Consistent monitoring and reporting will ensure that the provisions of the BCDRP 2024 remain relevant to current and emerging needs and maintain transparency and accountability in the system. In this regard:

- Implementation of the BCDRP 2024 will be monitored and evaluated every two (2) years and a comprehensive report submitted to the Minister with responsibility for recycling;
- Performance targets for implementation of the BCDRP 2024 will be established within six (6) months of its adoption and thereafter, annual audits performance reports will be prepared and published.
- A national repository system will be established to classify, collect, evaluate and publish data and information on sources, composition, quantities and methods with respect to collected and recycled materials;
- A national register of brand owners, beverage containers and redemption operators will be developed, maintained and published; and
- Geographical information system (GIS) data on the network of redemption depots will be maintained.

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