

Raising funds for your school with RETURN and EARN



Return and Earn is a great way for students and the community to get involved with recycling, help to reduce litter, and raise money for their school community.

What is Return and Earn?

Return and Earn, the NSW container deposit scheme, is the state's largest litter reduction initiative which aims to help reduce litter volume in NSW by 40 per cent by 2020. Anyone who returns an eligible drink container to an approved return point will receive a 10 cent refund.

How can my school raise funds with Return and Earn?

Donate refunds to your school – Encourage your school community to collect eligible drink containers at home and take them to an approved return point for a refund. The refund can then be donated to your school.

Become a donation partner – Register your school to be listed as a donation partner on your local Reverse Vending Machine (RVM). People returning their eligible drink containers to the RVM can choose to donate their refund to your school.

Donation point on school grounds – Fundraise by collecting donated eligible drink containers at school, from your school community, that you can then redeem at an approved return point for refund. Schools may also consider fundraising opportunities in partnership with their local approved return point.

What are approved return points?

There are three types of approved return points where eligible containers can be returned for a refund.

Over-The-Counter – Include existing shopfronts such as charities, convenience stores, newsagencies and other local retailers. These usually accept between 50 and 100 containers.

Reverse Vending Machines – Self-serve automated machines. There is no container limit, and these are ideal for up to 500 containers.

Automated Depots – Staffed processing facilities which automatically check and count container returns. Automated depots have no container limit and are ideal for large quantities (e.g. over 500 containers).

To find your nearest return point visit returnandearn.org.au

What is an eligible drink container?

Schools can collect most 150ml to three litre drink containers, which will be eligible for a 10 cent refund at an approved return point. Container materials that may be eligible for a refund include:

- Plastic
- Aluminium
- Steel
- Liquid paperboard (cartons)
- Glass (not recommend for collection on school grounds)

Please note: NSW Department of Education advises that glass or plastic containers used for milk products or alcohol should not be accepted on school grounds.

Containers need to be empty, uncrushed, unbroken and have the original label attached.

Contact us

To find out more on how schools are already participating in Return and Earn or how your school can get involved register online at returnandearn.org.au/schools.