RRNY July 2025: Glass Recycling & The Bottle Bill

Post 1: Bottle Bill (Carousel)

Glass is a highly recyclable material, but when it comes to glass recycling in NYS, there is room to improve. Here's a look at what is currently accepted and excluded through the NYS Bottle Bill. When in doubt, look for "NY 5¢" on the label. #KnowBeforeYouThrow

Post 2: What happens to the glass you put in the recycling bin?

Recycling glass isn't as crystal clear as it seems. It's heavy, breaks easily, and often gets contaminated in the bin, making it hard to turn into new bottles. In New York, most glass that is placed in the recycling bin is:

- beneficially reused at landfills in road construction and as cover for the day's trash deposits (also called Alternate Daily Cover)
- mixed into asphalt or construction fill
- at a small minority of recycling facilities, contaminated glass is disposed of in the landfill

While some of these outcomes don't lead to glass-to-glass circularity, they do allow for reuse of the material and reduce extraction of new resources. The most effective way to recycle glass into new bottles is by returning it through a Bottle Bill redemption center or reverse vending machine, where it stays clean, separated, and actually gets recycled.

#KnowBeforeYouThrow #PainInTheGlass

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Post 3: “Dear fellow jar hoarders…”

Dear fellow jar hoarders,

We see you!

P.S. If you run out of reuse ideas, just know that glass jars can go in the recycling bin. It may not become another glass jar, but it still has value.

Post 4 & Social Media Story:

Even though glass bottles can be recycled into new glass over and over most glass in NYS, simply isn’t. A portion of glass bottles recycled through the Bottle Bill do become new glass bottles while some is made into fiberglass. Glass that you toss in the recycling bin? More likely headed to the road as asphalt aggregate or to the landfill as Alternative Daily Cover (ADC).

Rethink the recycling bin for this material and redeem your glass deposit bottles instead to be sure they are recycled to their highest use.

#KnowBeforeYouThrow #PainInTheGlass

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Post 5: Glass Recycling Reimagined in NYS

Did you know your recycled glass might help light up roads and protect our coasts?

At Alfred University, researchers are turning waste glass into glow-in-the-dark microbeads for roadways and trails. These beads charge up by day and shine bright at night, creating safer streets, reducing energy use, and creating beautiful bike paths.

Meanwhile, the Blue Barrier project is blending recycled glass into self-healing concrete sea walls. Inspired by ancient Roman technology, these eco-friendly barriers could help defend New York's coastlines from rising seas.

#GlassRecycling #CircularEconomy #NYSInnovation #SustainableInfrastructure #GlowInTheDark #KNowBeforeYouThrow