



MEMORANDUM

FROM: Diana McKenney, Project Manager *DM*

TO: Interested Parties

DATE: February 27, 2026

SUBJECT: ADDENDUM #1 FOR THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FOR REVERSE VENDING MACHINE PROGRAMS FOR BALTIMORE CITY

The Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority (the “Authority”), a multi-jurisdictional agency, is requesting information from businesses and/or other entities that may be interested in partnering with the City of Baltimore (“City”) to implement reverse vending machines (RVMs) for commonly used beverage containers.

Please send all project related communications to [procurement@nmwda.org](mailto:procurement@nmwda.org).

The following questions have been submitted to the Authority:

1. *If Maryland passes bottle bill legislation, what is the City's vision for Baltimore's program: maintain it as a complementary local system, transition it to integrate with state infrastructure, or phase it out as state DRS takes over? Understanding your long-term commitment will help us determine appropriate infrastructure investment and partnership development.*

**Answer:** At this stage, the Authority and the City are conducting market research through this RFI to better understand available technologies, partnership models, operational considerations, and funding structures for RVM programs. The City has not yet made determinations regarding how a potential local program would interact with possible future bottle bill legislation.

2. *What is the timeframe the City intends to operate the program?*

410.333.2730 / [authority@nmwda.org](mailto:authority@nmwda.org)  
[nmwda.org/Business-to-Business Recycling](http://nmwda.org/Business-to-Business-Recycling): [mdrecycles.org](http://mdrecycles.org)  
Tower II – Suite 402, 100 S. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201-2705

**Comprehensive Waste Management Through Recycling, Reuse, Resource Recovery and Landfill**

MEMBERS:

Karen Henry, Anne Arundel County / Vacant, Baltimore City / Anthony Russell, Jr., Baltimore County / Bryan Bokey, Carroll County  
Maria Monteiro-E-Pereira, Frederick County / Joseph J. Siemek, Harford County / Mark A. DeLuca, Howard County / Guillermo Wainer, Montgomery County / Charles Glass, Maryland Environmental Service / Andrew Kays, Executive Director

**Answer:** The City has not yet made determinations regarding a timeframe for operating an RVM program. One of the primary purposes of this RFI is to gather industry input to help inform this decision and other operational considerations.

- 3. Has the City quantified the cost of managing the ~4.0 billion non-recycled beverage containers annually (collection, disposal, litter cleanup, etc.)? If so, can you share these estimates and how they were calculated so we can demonstrate cost savings in terms relevant to your budget process?*

**Answer:** The City has not quantified the cost of managing 4 billion non-recycled beverage containers annually for purposes of this RFI. The “4 billion” figure referenced in the RFI relates to the number of containers per year that are incinerated, landfilled, or littered in the natural environment for the entire State of Maryland.

- 4. We have learned from other partners that single-feed RVMs create bottlenecks; wait times can discourage participation and limit throughput. Recycletek's bulk processing technology handles up to 1,000 units per minute, dramatically reducing user time commitment and increasing system capacity. Is the City interested in bulk RVM and/or bag drop models (stationary or mobile) to maximize efficiency and user convenience, or does single-feed technology better align with your program goals?*

**Answer:** The City welcomes information on bulk RVM and/or bag drop models as well as single-feed technology.

- 5. State DRS programs are subject to and governed by state regulations. Does the City of Baltimore intend to set redemption standards and/or regulations for this program, or adopt regulations and standards in the pending bottle bill legislation?*

**Answer:** The City has not yet made determinations regarding redemption standards or regulations related to a potential RVM program.

- 6. Is the City open to integrating mobile and bag drop redemption with RVM machines in a cohesive ecosystem, as has been implemented in other DRS programs?*

**Answer:** The City welcomes information on integrating mobile and bag drop redemption with RVM machines.

7. *To ensure long-term program viability, we want to align our model with the City's funding and budget framework. Is the City willing to consider paying the program operator a per-container rate, or weight-based rate, with verification controls, to fund the program within the City's procurement and budgeting processes? Does the City have alternative funding models for the program?*

**Answer:** The City has not yet made determinations regarding long-term program structure or viability, funding modes, or budget processes. The City welcomes information on per-container and/or weight-based rates.

8. *Maryland's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation requires producers to fund recycling programs. How does the City envision an RVM program interacting with EPR requirements? Could producer responsibility fees help fund RVM operations, or would these be parallel systems? In other jurisdictions, we've deployed co-located sites that collect both deposit containers and EPR-covered materials. Would the City be interested in dual-purpose collection sites that serve both programs?*

**Answer:** The City has not yet made determinations regarding how a potential local program would interact with possible future EPR legislation. The City welcomes information on dual-purpose collection sites.

9. *Is the City interested in expanding additional drop-off sites to include RVM or bag drop options?*

**Answer:** The City is in the information gathering stage regarding an RVM program, drop-off sites, etc. Please see the Response to Question 6 above.

10. *The Less Waste Better Baltimore plan identifies public-private partnerships and grant funding as preferred delivery mechanisms that ease the City's financial burden for new waste reduction programs. In other deployments, we've successfully structured RVM programs through partnerships with foundations, corporate sponsors, and community organizations interested in waste reduction and environmental justice. Does the City have existing relationships with entities that might be interested in supporting RVM implementation, or would you prefer we include partnership development and grant research as part of our proposed approach?*

**Answer:** The City welcomes information on partnership development and grant research as they pertain to RVMs, especially past experience with these approaches.

*11. Will the City consider RVMs that identify and redeem single-use beverage containers using AI vision recognition?*

**Answer:** The City would consider RVMs that identify and redeem single-use beverage containers using AI vision recognition technology and welcomes information on this technology in responses.

*12. The LWBB plan identifies 'creating green jobs' as a guiding principle. Would the City support staffed DRS collection points (RVM, bag drop, mobile RVM, mobile bag drop) to assist end-users with sign-up and redemption activities, creating local employment opportunities, and expand public education around city RVM initiatives?*

**Answer:** The City welcomes information on the operational and general cost differential involved in staffed collection points.

*13. Can you clarify what 'limited operating support' means in practice? For example, would the City provide personnel, communications/outreach capacity, maintenance support, or is support primarily through site access and business connections?*

**Answer:** “Limited operating support” may include contract and project management, in addition to providing land and/or city-owned buildings on/within which to site RVMs, city and building connections with local businesses like grocery stores, and public hubs, such as libraries, to establish a network of potential vending machine locations. It may also include communications/outreach capacity.

*14. Is the City planning to base redemption incentives on the current redemption rate outlined in pending legislation in the General Assembly of (\$0.10/containers ≤ 24 fluid oz, and \$0.15/container for 24 oz – 3 liters)?*

**Answer:** The City has not yet made determinations regarding redemption incentives.

*15. The RFI mentions potential incentive types including transit vouchers and parking credits. For vendors to offer automated incentive distribution (e.g., credits directly*

*to users' transit cards or parking accounts), we would need API access or integration partnerships with MTA and parking system operators. Can the City provide or coordinate these technical integrations?*

**Answer:** The following sentence is deleted from the RFI, Section B. Background: “In exchange for dropping off beverage containers, the City envisions the reverse vending machine issuing some type of incentive, such as money, tokens, credit for parking meters, or vouchers for public transportation.”