

THE REWARDS OF RECYCLING



Kumon Associates in the Detroit Branch office are enthusiastic supporters of Michigan's strict recycling laws. The state of Michigan requires that glass, plastic and aluminum containers be redeemed by bottlers and distributors for 10 cents per container. Michigan's deposit rate is the highest in the country— and so is its recycling rate. Over 90 percent of cans and bottles are recycled.

"All of us are obligated to recycle at home," said Branch Manager Ryan Gleason. "It's even more important to recycle at work. We need to set an example for Instructors, students, and KNA." Ryan explained that the branch accumulates a lot of containers by hosting training sessions, Instructor meetings and frequent visitors.

The recycling law requires a machine-readable, state-specific mark to be placed on all metal, glass and plastic containers. To motivate consumers to collect and return cans and bottles for recycling, they receive 10 cents for each container. States with "bottle bills" like Michigan's that require a deposit have the highest recycling rates. Only ten US states have container recycling laws.

Recycling has been simplified with the use of reverse vending machines (RVM) that collect empty beverage containers like bottles and cans for recycling. The RVM reads barcodes and security marks, and can accept container types that other recycling technologies can't.

Transporting the containers from the branch to recycling locations is a bit of extra work. "We don't mind," Ryan said. "It's for a good cause. The future belongs to all of us."

