

Modernizing Oregon's Recycling Legislative Concept

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WASHINGTON COUNTY
OREGON

Department of Health and Human Services

The need for a modern recycling system

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- ❑ Oregon's system evolved to rely upon global recycling markets dominated by China which recently stopped taking material
- ❑ Less paper and more plastics in mixed recycling
- ❑ Domestic markets and mills have closed
- ❑ Higher collection rates and processing fees passed on to community members
- ❑ Consumer confusion about recyclability of packaging



Recycling Steering Committee

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- **Seeking consensus on a proposal:**

- Department of Environmental Quality
- Association of Oregon Recyclers
- The Recycling Partnership
- Norpac Paper
- Denton Plastics
- League of Oregon Cities
- Association of Oregon Counties
- City of Portland
- Metro
- Lane County
- Oregon Refuse & Recycling Association
- EFI Recycling
- Far West Recycling
- Waste Management
- Republic Services
- Rogue Disposal

Consensus reached at September 18, 2020 meeting of Recycling Steering Committee

Proposal [slide 1 of 3]

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1. Truth-in-Labeling

Reduce public confusion by regulating labels for products sold into Oregon – chasing arrows, recycling symbols and resin numbers.

2. Statewide Collection List

Recycling lists are consistent across the state with a clear process to add or remove materials and considers the environmental benefits and life cycle impacts.

3. Reduced contamination

Statewide contamination reduction goals are set; include feedback to recyclers in all sectors including single-family, multifamily and commercial customers.

4. Transparency & Accountability

Establish transparency and accountability requirements to **demonstrate materials are recycled responsibly** without negative impacts to humans or the environment.

5. Processing & Marketing Standards

Ensure materials are **sorted appropriately and handled responsibly** to meet expectations of the community.

Proposal [slide 2 of 3]

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6. Equity Standards

- Support and **expanded access to recycling collection** for multifamily and rural communities.
- Safe, **living wage jobs**, and opportunities for worker advancement.
- **Advance economic opportunity** for Oregon businesses owned by women and people of color.
- Ensure **end market communities are not burdened** with land/air/water pollution.

7. Expanded Bottle Bill

Include wine and spirits in Bottle Bill – removing more glass (a frequent contaminant) from standard route collection.

8. Statewide Education

Local governments retain responsibility for local education, with templates and educational resources associated with statewide recycling list.

9. Recycled Content Requirements

Minimum standards for percentage of recycled plastic or paper for certain products and packaging.

Proposal [slide 3 of 3]

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10. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Producer responsibility for printed papers and packaging

Producers are required to be part of a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) – which would collect Eco-modulated fees for materials sold into Oregon to incentivize environmentally responsible packaging.

Key features would include:

Funding:

PRO would pay for improvements – including transportation to processors, processing equipment, contamination reduction, and equitable access

Stewardship Plans:

PRO submits annual Stewardship Plan for review and approval by DEQ

Local Collection:

Local regulatory system with current recycling collector/hauler remains unchanged

Statewide List:

Standard list of what is recyclable across the state to minimize public confusion and improve accountability for how materials are managed after collection

Consumer Impact:

Consumer cost increases are minimal – the base is broad and inclusive and cost per item is small

Depots and Litter:

System would potentially enable funding for depots for collect hard-to-recycle items (e.g. Styrofoam, thermoform plastics) and for litter reduction

How does proposal align with our interests?

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- Ensure materials collected for recycling are recycled.
- Improve equity outcomes throughout system.
- Minimize financial burden placed on rate payers.
- Reduce public confusion about recycling.
- Stabilize and enhance recycling programs.
- Maintain local control over local collection system.
- Minimize impacts on franchise fees paid to County.

Where does it go from here?

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- Legislative priority for Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- DEQ team is using proposal to begin drafting bill for 2021 session, anticipated to be available in November 2020
 - DEQ will continue to work with stakeholders as bill gets drafted
- Support in Salem from stakeholders (like Washington County) is being sought



