

# Local Government Landfill Cleanup Funds



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

## Background

DEQ's Solid Waste Orphan Account (SWOA) program provides low-interest loans for investigation and cleanup of a release of hazardous substances, for example methane, at solid waste disposal sites that are owned or operated by a local government.

## Funding

The SWOA is funded by a \$0.13 per-ton fee on domestic solid waste that is disposed or destroyed in state and solid waste that is transported out of state for disposal.

Additionally, funds that are paid back by local governments using the loan program are placed into the fund for future use.

## Eligibility

A local government may be eligible to use funds from the SWOA if the landfill is owned or operated by the local government and the landfill has a known or suspected cleanup need.

## Loan Terms

In most cases, local governments are not required to repay the first \$100,000 loan from the account (essentially a grant). Amounts in excess of \$100,000 can be made available on a loan basis subject to a population based formula.

The SWOA can provide loans with flexible repayment terms and low interest rates similar to those provided in DEQ's Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

## Contracting for Investigation and Cleanup

In most cases, local governments will perform contracting for the investigations and cleanups. However, certain governments may not have the resources to contract for investigations and cleanup of landfills. DEQ may be able to provide contracting assistance.

Payment dispersals can vary based on the project. Some projects will require lump sum dispersal. Other projects may warrant semiannual or annual dispersals. Other projects may be reimbursed on actual justified costs.

## Interested?

To begin the process, please contact your regional DEQ SWOA contact to discuss the nature of the landfill and its eligibility. DEQ accepts new applications year-round and makes funding decisions on an annual basis.

DEQ reviews and evaluates projects based on the following criteria: the site's risk to public health and the environment, the need for removal or remedial action relative to other sites, the extent to which other obligations or sources of funding exist, and the nature of the proposed investigation or cleanup activities.

The nature of the anticipated costs are also evaluated with preference given in the following order: direct costs for cleanup, direct cost of technical investigation and remedy evaluation, indirect costs, legal costs.

## Orphan Sites not Owned or Operated by a Local Government

Funds may also be available to cover costs associated with landfills not owned or operated by a local government, for which there is no responsible party to undertake investigation or cleanup actions (orphan landfills). In this scenario, the landfill has to have also received domestic solid waste. If you would like more information on using SWOA funds for an orphan landfill, please contact your regional DEQ SWOA contact.

## More Information

For more information please visit the DEQ [Solid Waste Orphan Account](#) website, and contact your Solid Waste Orphan Account Contact.

## Solid waste orphan account contacts

### [Heather Kuoppamaki](#),

Northwest Region, Portland, 503-229-5125

[kuoppamaki.heather@deq.state.or.us](mailto:kuoppamaki.heather@deq.state.or.us)

### [Northwest and Eastern Regions](#)

(Baker, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Multnomah, Sherman, Tillamook, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, Washington, and Wheeler Counties)

## Materials Management Program

700 NE Multnomah Street  
Suite 600

Portland, OR 97232

Phone: 503-229-5263

Fax: 503-229-6945

Contact:

[Heather Kuoppamaki](mailto:Heather.Kuoppamaki@deq.state.or.us)

[www.oregon.gov/DEQ](http://www.oregon.gov/DEQ)

**Mary Camarata,**

Western Region, Eugene, 541-687-7435

[Camarata.mary@deq.state.or.us](mailto:Camarata.mary@deq.state.or.us),

**Western Region**

(Benton, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson,  
Josephine, Lane, Linn, Lincoln, Marion, Polk,  
Yamhill Counties)

**Statutes and Regulations**

Oregon Revised Statutes

- [ORS 465.260](#) (Removal or remedial action [surcharge]):
- [ORS 459.311](#) (Charge for remedial action or removal):

Oregon Administrative Rules

- [OAR 340-093-0030\(39\)](#) (Definition of domestic solid waste):
- [OAR 340-097-0120\(8\)\(a\)\(B\)](#) (Permit/Registration Categories and Fee Schedule):
- [OAR 340-122-0510 through 0590](#) (Solid Waste Orphan Site Account):

**Alternative formats**

Alternative formats (Braille, large type) of this document can be made available, Contact DEQ's Office of Communications and Outreach, Portland, at 503-229-5696, or call toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696.