

Materials Recovery Facility Survey with Community-Wide Education

Contamination reduction sample implementation plan 1



Materials Management

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maintaining and enhancing
the quality of Oregon's air,
land and water.*



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Contamination Reduction Education Plan

Each city over 4,000 residents and associated county or metro service district that is responsible for solid waste management must implement a range of program elements within the city and urban growth boundary or metro service district according to Oregon Administrative Rule [340-090-040](#). Cities and counties that choose to implement the expanded education and promotion program element (3)(c) are required to complete and submit a Contamination Reduction Education Plan for approval to regional DEQ staff.

This fill-in-the-blank form is provided as guidance for what is required for submitting a plan. Please use the extra space provided to share more details. Plans can be submitted in other formats as long as the format follows what is required under OAR 340-090-0041.

Complete this form to describe how local governments and stakeholder organizations will meet this requirement.

Local government(s):

Contact name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Stakeholder engagement

Local governments, garbage and recycling collection companies and material recovery facilities are encouraged to discuss a plan to assess and reduce contamination before submitting this plan to DEQ. This includes discussing problem contaminants, associated costs and impacts on the collection system and rate-payers. Check the boxes below and list stakeholders you have worked with to develop your plan.

Stakeholders engaged — please list:

Local governments:

Materials recovery facilities:

Garbage and recycling collection companies:

Other — please describe:

Contamination assessment

Assessment of contamination in a generator's recycling stream is recommended at the beginning of a program, whenever the acceptable recycling program materials or infrastructure changes, and every five years. Contaminants are items in a recycling stream that are not accepted program materials, such as plastic bags. Check all boxes that apply and provide additional descriptions as necessary. When there are multiple methods used by different local governments or collection companies, check all boxes that apply. Please describe which assessment methods are for which communities or collection companies' service areas.

Assessment method:

- Survey transfer stations or material recovery facility operators:
 - Survey questions attached to plan
 - Transfer stations or MRF operator names and locations:

- When assessment will be conducted:
- Communities or collection companies' service area to be assessed:

- Use results of a recent recycling composition study that applies to the type of program being compared to:
 - Recycling composition study used:
 - Recycling program studied was same as jurisdiction's program
 - When assessment was conducted:
 - Communities or collection companies' service area to be assessed:

- Spot materials using onboard recycling truck cameras:
 - Percentage of containers to inspect — minimum of 15 percent:
 - When assessment will be conducted:
 - Communities or collection companies' service area to be assessed:

- Survey the top of curbside recycling roll carts or recycling depot:
 - Percentage of containers to inspect — minimum of 15 percent:
 - When assessment will be conducted:
 - Communities or collection companies' service area to be assessed:

Other — please describe:

Communities or collection companies' service area to be assessed:

Contamination reduction education

Education to reduce contamination must be completed each year. Check all boxes that apply and provide additional description as necessary. When there are multiple methods used by different governments or collection companies, check all boxes that apply. Please describe which education methods will be applied to which communities or collection companies' service areas.

Draft educational materials or outlines attached to plan (required)

Focus contaminants:

Not known yet

List top contaminants (at least three):

Educational activities:

Contact collection customers with contaminated receptacles through a direct mailer or their invoice:

When education will be conducted:

Communities or collection companies' service area will be applied to:

Mark contaminated recycling receptacles with tags or hangers:

When education will be conducted:

Communities or collection companies' service area will be applied to:

Share community-wide messaging through multiple channels that reach most customers such as advertising, media articles, newsletters, post card mailers, social media or similar.

Channels to use (at least two):

When education will be conducted:

Communities or collection companies' service area education will be applied to:

Inform recycling depot customers about contamination and improve signage — please describe:

When education will be conducted:

Community or collection company customers' service area education will be applied to:

Other — please describe:

Communities or collection companies' service area education will be applied to:

Educational content:

Provide education on how to recycle or dispose of contaminants properly (required for each)

Description of remaining content:

Content formats:

Advertising

Billboard

Brochure or flier

Cart tag or hanger

Invoice or bill insert

Mailer — post card, letter or other

Media article

Newsletter

Recycling depot signage

Webpage

Social media post

Other — please describe:

City official signature:

Wasteshed:

County official signature:

Wasteshed:

Additional information:

City of Oregon
1234 Oregon Lane, 91234
Contamination Survey at Material Recovery Facility

Name of Transfer Station or Material Recovery Facility: ACME MRF

Location: 1234 Main Street, Portland OR

Date of Survey: 1-15-18

This survey will be used by local jurisdictions and TS/MRF's to identify and address possible contaminants or problematic materials in local recycling programs. When completed, the information in this survey will be used to create educational materials to inform residents of problematic contaminants currently in the local recycling program and how they can properly managed these materials.

What are the top 3 to 5 contaminants being brought into the MRF from curbside recycling programs? Please list them in priority order, starting with the worst first.
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Why are these contaminants problematic for your system?
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Which routes (if any) have more contamination than others?
1.
2.
3.

Please list the materials that are acceptable in your curbside recycling program



Customer Convenience & Safety Drive Coffin Butte Public Area Upgrades

The Public Area at Coffin Butte Landfill has undergone some changes recently, transforming the space into a one-stop drop-off site for green waste, recycling, and trash. Commingled recycling, glass, e-waste, yard debris, wood waste, tires, metal, Freon™ containing appliances, and household trash are accepted and may be placed in specified containers. Finished compost may also be purchased in bulk at the Public Area.

Pacific Region Compost, the former drop-off site for yard debris and wood waste, is now closed to the public. In order to provide a safe location to dispose of organic material and purchase finished compost, during the ongoing construction projects that will improve the facility, the drop off and pickup area was moved to Coffin Butte Landfill.



Above: Customers unload yard debris in Public Area.

Coffin Butte Landfill, located at 28971 Coffin Butte Road, is open Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Contamination in Recycling...What's The Big Deal?

Contamination in recycling is a big problem. It reduces the efficiency of recycling and wastes otherwise usable materials. Below is a list of contamination commonly observed in the Albany-Lebanon area and alternatives for reuse or disposal. View a detailed recycling guide at: <http://tinyurl.com/detailedrecyclingguideA>

Problem	Reason	Solution
Food residue	Food residue can contaminate other materials inside the commingle cart (ex. liquid spilling onto paper).	Always rinse or wipe out residue before recycling.
Plastic bags	Plastic bags mixed with other recyclables can jam the sorting equipment at the sorting facility, where commingled recycling is sorted into usable materials, and should be collected separately.	Bring plastic bags to the Republic Services Recycle Depot at 1439 Industrial Way. Many local grocery stores have collection bins for plastic bags too.
Pet food bags	Lined with plastic.	Place in trash cart.
Napkins & paper towels	Paper fibers become shorter each time they are recycled. By the time it becomes napkins or paper towels the fibers are very short, making this the end of life phase for the material.	Place in trash. Napkins and paper towels can also act as a good source of carbon for backyard compost piles.
Styrofoam	Breaks into tiny pieces when compacted in the recycle truck, no local recycling facility, uneconomical to transport.	Place in trash. Block Styrofoam may be recycled for a small fee at St. Vincent's, 2220 Pacific Blvd SE, Albany
Plastic clamshells (ex. to-go container)	No market currently exists for this low-grade plastic. End of life phase.	Place in trash cart. Avoid purchasing when possible.

Common Contamination at the Curb:

It can't go in the cart, so where should it go?

Provided by your Recycling Block Captain, Spring/Summer 2014

Contamination at the curb? What's the big deal? **Recycling works best when done properly.** Let's all do our part to keep the recycle stream free of contamination to ensure an efficient recycling system. Check out the list of common contaminants below and how to dispose of them appropriately.

Contaminant	Why not at the curb?	Where should it go?
 Napkins & paper towels	Paper can be recycled only so many times. Paper fiber gets shorter each time it's recycled; by the time it becomes towel or tissue, the fiber is short, making this the end of life phase in the recycling process.	Put in your home compost system or mixed organics (a.k.a. yard debris) cart (exception: please no bathroom paper towels in your cart). Obtain a cart or backyard bin from Republic Services at no additional charge.
 Pet food bags	Lined with plastic. Nearly impossible to separate the plastic from paper fiber for recycling.	Place in your trash cart.
 Plastic bags	Clog machinery at sorting facility. Therefore it needs to be collected separately.	The following stores have bins for recycling plastic bags: Fred Meyer on NW Kings, Grocery Outlet on NW 9th, Market of Choice on NW Circle, Safeway stores on NE Circle, SW 3rd & SW Philomath Blvd., WinCo on NW Kings.
 Plastic clamshells	No market for this low grade plastic (all clamshells regardless of # on bottom). End of life phase.	Place in your trash cart.
 Styrofoam	Breaks into tiny pieces when compacted in recycle truck. No local recycling facility; uneconomical to transport.	Styrofoam that has touched food (cups, plates, egg cartons, etc.) must go in trash. Packaging Styrofoam can be recycled for a small fee at First Alternative Co-op's Community Recycling Center (1007 SE 3rd St.; 541-753-3115).
 Prescription bottles	No markets currently exist for amber-colored plastic.	Either place in your trash cart or ask your pharmacy if they refill bottles.
 Clothing	Clothing and fabric are not part of the curbside recycling program.	The Corvallis-Area ReUse Directory (http://tiny.cc/reusedirectory) lists clothing donation sites. Clothing only suitable for rags (if clean) can be given to Goodwill or in labeled Gaia Movement green collection boxes around town (e.g. Clayton's Auto Repair, Auto Tech, Self Service Laundry, Corvallis Battery, etc.).
 Food residue	Food residue inside containers contaminates commingled recycling (e.g. yogurt spilling onto paper) and leads to mold and germs. Always rinse or wipe out containers so no food will spill onto other recyclable materials in the cart.	Rinse and recycle to remove food residue. If rinsing is not possible, hold onto the container until it can be rinsed and then recycle.