

Oregon Paint Stewardship Program: Estimate of 2016 Paint Collection Volumes by Wasteshed

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Materials Management Program

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Executive Summary

In 2009, Oregon became the first state in the nation to enact a law requiring paint manufacturers to start a program to reduce waste, increase reuse and recycling, and safely dispose of architectural paint remaining after purchase and use. Oregon's 2013 Legislature made the paint stewardship program permanent. The resulting paint product stewardship program is paid for by Oregonians who buy paint. Industry manages the program and DEQ oversees it.

The 2013 legislation (House Bill 2048) establishes a specific requirement that DEQ annually estimate the quantities of paint, by watershed, collected under this program. This report is written to satisfy that requirement.

Based on information provided to DEQ by PaintCare, the stewardship organization managing the program, DEQ estimates that approximately 718,000 gallons of paint were collected under Oregon's architectural paint stewardship program in calendar year 2016. This is about a 7% decrease from the amount collected in 2015, slightly reversing a trend of annual increases in overall volumes collected. Approximately 57 percent of the paint was collected at retail locations and 41 percent was collected through the solid waste management infrastructure, including a resumption of DEQ-funded HHW events, halting the trend of increasing percentages of paint being returned to retail stores instead of through local solid waste infrastructure. Additional volumes were collected through special PaintCare-funded events and from large volume generators.

It is important to understand that these figures are based on data provided by PaintCare and represent just the paint that is collected and managed by them. Smaller, though not insignificant, volumes of paint are collected by local governments and the solid waste industry and managed outside of the stewardship program.

Background

In 2009, Oregon became the first state in the nation to enact a law requiring paint manufacturers to start a program to reduce waste, increase reuse and recycling, and safely dispose of architectural paint remaining after purchase and use. The program is paid for by Oregonians who buy paint, managed by industry, and overseen by DEQ. The resulting architectural paint product stewardship pilot program began collections in 2010. Oregon's 2013 Legislature made the paint stewardship program permanent. The 2013 law bolsters customer convenience, the stewardship organization's accountability for meeting program goals, and DEQ's ability to oversee program operations and compliance.

The 2013 legislation (codified as ORS 459A.820 - .855) established a specific requirement that DEQ periodically estimate the quantities of paint collected under this program. This report is written to satisfy the requirement of ORS 459A.845, specifically:

“No later than June 1 of each year, the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality shall publish an estimate of the total volume, in gallons, of post-consumer architectural paint collected in each wasteshed or metropolitan service district as part of an architectural paint stewardship program during the prior calendar year. For each wasteshed or metropolitan service district, the director shall also publish, stated as a percentage, the portion of the total volume in gallons of post-consumer architectural paint collected under the program at each of the following:

- (1) Permanent collection sites located at a retailer;
- (2) Permanent collection sites and collection events for the program located within the local solid waste collection infrastructure; and
- (3) Collection events promoted and paid for by a stewardship organization.”

Note that in this report:

“(2)” includes PaintCare partnerships with collection events funded by DEQ, which were reinstated in 2016; “(3)” includes a break-out of both public events as well as large volume user collections made from commercial/institutional painters.

It should be noted that the estimates contained in this report represent a large percentage— but not all—of the post-consumer architectural paints collected in Oregon in 2016. This report provides only estimates of the volume of program products collected as part of the state's architectural paint stewardship program. It does not include estimates of the quantities of paint processed or disposed in the management of the program. Some paints are collected by local governments or hazardous waste contractors but not managed under the paint stewardship program. This report does not include an estimate of such products collected outside of the architectural paint stewardship program.

Results

As described in the “Methodological Notes” section of this report, PaintCare provided DEQ an estimate of collection volumes provided by for calendar year 2016.

Table 1 provides DEQ’s estimate of total volume, in gallons, of post-consumer architectural paint collected in each wasteshed as part of Oregon’s paint stewardship program in 2016. Table 1 also shows, for each wasteshed, the percentage of paint collected under four separate modes of collection: (1) permanent collection sites located at a retailer, (2) permanent collection sites and collection events located within the solid waste collection infrastructure (including household hazardous waste collection events), (3) collection events promoted and paid for by PaintCare, and (4) the collection of paint under PaintCare’s large volume direct pickup services.

Significant Findings:

- 1) Overall estimated volume of post-consumer architectural paint products collected in the program decreased by 7.0 percent from last year, slightly reversing the trend of annual increases since the program’s inception.
- 2) The recent trend of increasing percentages of paint being collected at retail has also slightly dipped to 56.6 percent, down from 59.0 percent last year.
- 3) With a few exceptions, most wastesheds saw minor changes year-over-year, with the widest swings occurring in those with low populations and without regular or permanent paint collection infrastructure.

It is also important to understand that the estimates provided by DEQ in this report are just that – estimates. Any errors contained in information reported to DEQ by PaintCare are carried forward into DEQ’s estimates. Other adjustment methods (described in the “Methodological Notes” section below) may introduce additional sources of error.

Table 1.
Estimate of 2016 Paint Collection Volumes

Wasteshed ¹	Total (gallons)	% Retail	% Solid Waste Infrastructure	% Paint Care Collection Events	% Large Volume User/Pick-up
Baker	2,314	86.2%	0.0%	13.8%	0.0%
Benton	17,013	51.8%	48.1%	0.0%	0.1%
Clatsop	6,297	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Columbia	11,242	11.1%	88.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Coos	6,688	74.2	25.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Crook	3,283	16.3%	83.7%	0.0	0.0%
Curry	2,585	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Deschutes	59,480	56.4%	42.2%	0.0%	1.4%
Douglas	10,223	78.8%	21.2%	0.0	0.0%
Gilliam	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Grant	862	60.2%	39.8%	0.0	0.0%
Harney	399	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Hood River	4,462	33.4%	66.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Jackson	34,190	99.3%	0.0%	0.2%	0.5%
Jefferson	725	67.9%	32.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Josephine	8,878	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Klamath	6,836	96.4%	0.0%	0.0%	3.6%
Lake	1,287	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Lane	57,310	64.1%	35.8%	0.0%	0.1%
Lincoln	6,207	17.3%	82.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Linn	18,139	78.6%	15.3%	0.0%	6.1%
Malheur	2,176	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Marion	62,350	15.2%	83.2%	0.0%	1.6%
Metro	357,135	51.3%	46.6%	0.0%	2.1%
Milton-Freewater	692	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Morrow	437	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Polk	1,737	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Sherman	300	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Tillamook	4,070	13.1%	86.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Umatilla	6,711	42.8%	46.3%	10.9%	0.0%
Union	3,151	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Wallowa	753	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Wasco	4,346	41.7%	58.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Wheeler	44	0.0%	100.0	0.0%	0.0%
Yamhill	15,497	87.3%	12.4%	0.0%	0.3%
Total	717,898	56.4%	41.5%	0.4%	1.7%

¹ Wastesheds are defined in Oregon Administrative Rules 340-090-0050.

Methodological Notes

In developing this estimate, DEQ relied on data provided by PaintCare in the *Oregon Paint Stewardship Program 2016 Annual Report* (submitted April 1, 2017), as required under ORS 459A.842.

PaintCare presents a detailed accounting of collection quantities by retail drop-off site, HHW facility, transfer station, collection events and other activities for each wasteshed. Most paint is collected in standard size containers, and the number of these containers is reported to PaintCare by program transporters. The reported gallons are calculated using an industry standard conversion factor methodology outlined in the report:

Average gallons per container are derived by (a) adding up the gross weight of all collection containers, (b) subtracting the weight of the collection containers, (c) subtracting 16% of the remaining weight estimated for the paint cans, and (d) dividing by 10 to convert from pounds to gallons, and (e) dividing by the number of collection containers.

Volumes are approximate and subject to rounding errors in the process of establishing the average weights for containers and paint products and using this factor to convert the weight of the collection bins to volumes in gallons. (Note that the latex paint totals shown handled by the Metro wasteshed are derived using a different method than the reporting for all paint from non-Metro wastesheds).