



Local Government Interviews

Executive summary

In response to changes in Oregon’s recycling laws, the opportunity to recycle is being extended to all residential and commercial tenants of multi-tenant properties. The change will require cities and counties to ensure properties with tenants that share garbage collection service also receive recycling collection by July 2022. This requirement is for cities with 4,000 or more residents, cities within the Metro Service District and counties which manage programs within those cities’ urban growth boundaries. In order to support implementation of this statutory change, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality staff interviewed cities and counties in Oregon and examined supporting codes, ordinances and franchises to understand how local governments support the opportunity to recycle for tenants of multi-tenant properties.

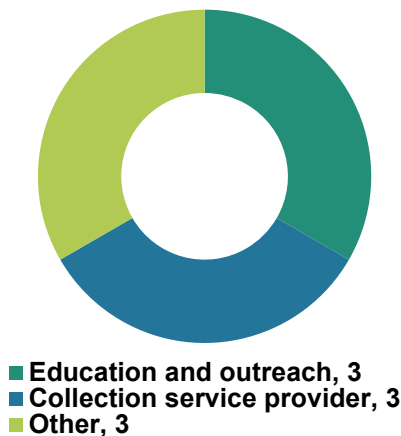
There are 88 cities in Oregon that are currently over 4,000 or within the Metro Service District. Forty-nine percent of cities have DEQ-approved multifamily programs and 87 percent have DEQ-approved commercial recycling programs.

DEQ interviewed 10 city and county staff who are responsible for garbage and recycling collection programs. Six of 11 were county programs including Deschutes, Lane, Marion, Tillamook and Yamhill counties. Cities included Albany, Corvallis, Eugene and Springfield. All cities and counties interviewed were aware of upcoming requirements. DEQ also reviewed annual reports submitted to DEQ by these jurisdictions plus the cities of Bend, Keizer, Lebanon, Medford, Pendleton, Redmond, Salem, Sheridan, Tillamook and Woodburn and Umatilla County.

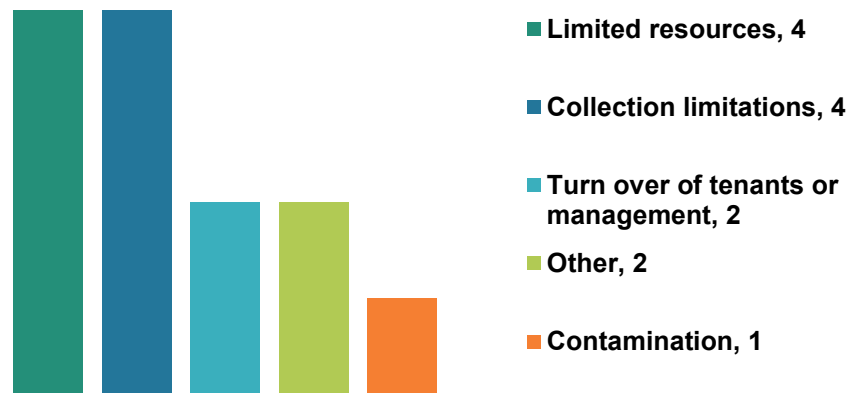
Strengths and weakness of programs

Eight cities and counties identified education and outreach, collection service providers and other strengths equally. Half of those interviewed said limited resources were a program weakness. Half indicated there were limitations with their collection system. Other weaknesses included turnover of tenants or management and contamination of recycling.

Program strengths



Program weaknesses



Counties and cities do not have staff dedicated to multifamily or commercial programs. The average full-time equivalent staffing level for multifamily was 0.07 or 12 hours a month and a median of zero. Commercial recycling program staff were less at an average FTE of 0.05 or eight hours a month and a median of zero.

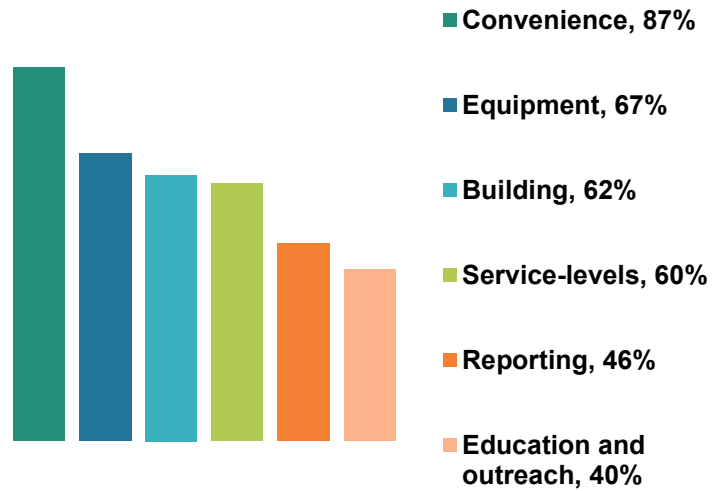
Managing programs

Six of eight local governments contacted use franchises to set standards and manage collection. One uses a license system. One county does not have either. In most cases, planning and implementation responsibility was passed on to the service providers.

Program codes and ordinances

Nine of 13 have some sort of administrative codes or ordinances that mention multifamily recycling — seven mention commercial recycling. Eight address building standards for multifamily collection areas. Convenience was a factor in codes for 13 of 15 programs. Ten of 15 had some sort of requirements for providing equipment. Codes and ordinances also addressed service-level, education and outreach, reporting and compliance standards in some cases.

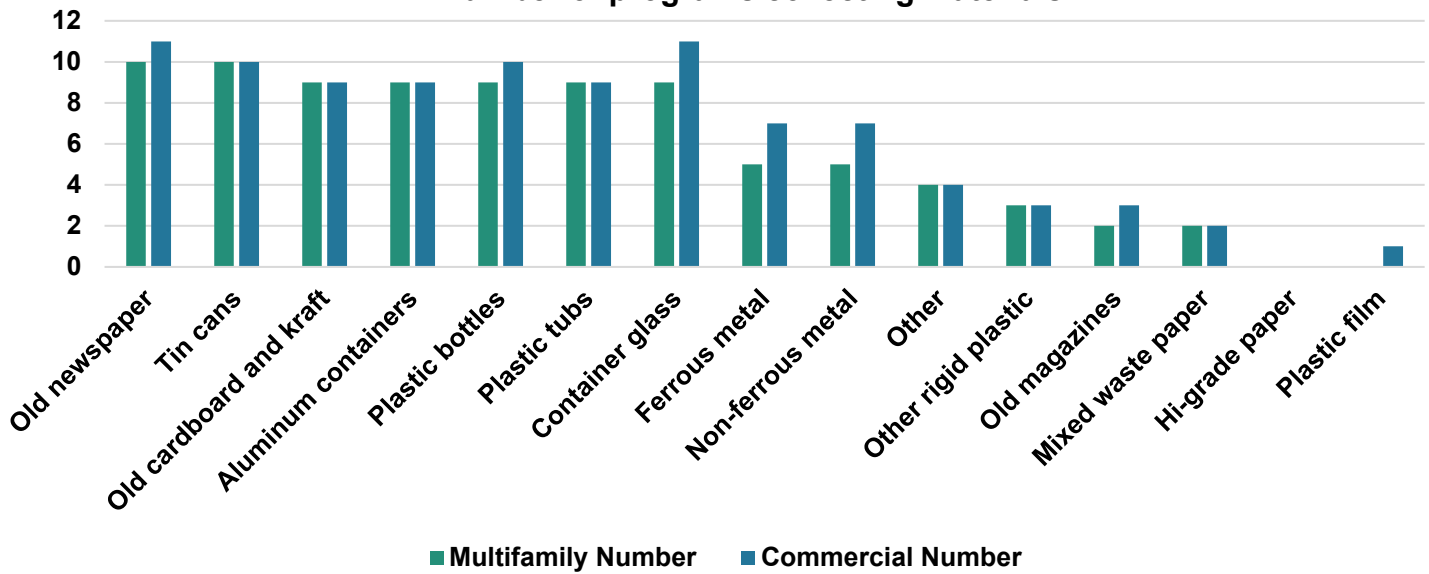
Percent of programs with standards addressed in code



Collection programs

Materials collected varied by among the 11 programs, based on review of their Opportunity to Recycle reports. In most cases, multifamily and commercial materials were similar.

Number of programs collecting materials



Opportunities

There was little consensus on which improvements were need for multi-tenant recycling programs other than a majority of interviewees felt the education and outreach could be improved. Some local governments wanted to review the relationship they have with their collection service provider such as reviewing the franchise or license requirements. Other responses included looking at waste food collection and working more closely with third parties who do similar work.

Limitations

The study did not include programs in the Metro area. Samples sizes from some of the data points were as small as seven and as large as 15. This study is informative about some of the conditions present with some local jurisdictions around Oregon, but they don't likely represent the state as a whole.