

Improving Access to Recycling Services for Tenants in Oregon

The Multitenant Recycling Opportunity Project is an ongoing, collaborative process led by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

About this project

Oregon's strong recycling tradition was built on the idea that everyone should have the opportunity to recycle. However, many people who live in multifamily communities have inconsistent, inadequate access to convenient recycling collection services.

DEQ has been leading an ongoing, collaborative effort with involvement from many stakeholders, including local governments, recycling collection companies, tenants, and others. This work will help communities implement the expanded Opportunity to Recycle Act that will explicitly include tenants. The new legislation goes into effect July 1, 2022 and applies to cities with over 4,000 people, cities in the Metro Service District and associated urban growth boundaries.



Image courtesy City of Portland

Progress to date

- **2015:** DEQ updated Oregon law to expand recycling collection services to tenants. These changes go into effect in July 2022.
- **2017:** DEQ conducted extensive research on the condition of multitenant recycling in Oregon.
- **2018:** DEQ and its partners:
 - Developed a draft work plan for how to support recycling and reduce contamination at multitenant properties.
 - Collected feedback from stakeholders on the draft plan, through online comments and four public meetings across the state.
 - Analyzed the cost of implementing a range of actions from the draft plan.



Next steps

The stakeholder involvement and public outreach across the state significantly shifted DEQ's approach to this project. We learned a great deal about the practical implications of the draft plan, and as a result, will be revising it to create a simplified, more cost effective path forward. DEQ is now working on the revision and will circulate it with stakeholders before proceeding with implementation.

Following an update of the draft work plan, DEQ plans to complete the following activities before July 2022:

- Consider developing potential baseline rules to support successful, cost effective implementation of state statute.
- Create a toolkit of templates, best practices, model language and other resources for communities to support their multitenant recycling programs.
- Explore other technical assistance and funding resources for local communities.
- Conduct outreach and education to communities around the state about: how to reduce contamination, supporting tools that are available from DEQ, and any new applicable requirements.

Sign up for email notifications and learn more by visiting the project webpage: [Oregon.gov/deq/recycling/pages/recycling-for-tenants.aspx](https://oregon.gov/deq/recycling/pages/recycling-for-tenants.aspx).

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Alternative formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.



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