



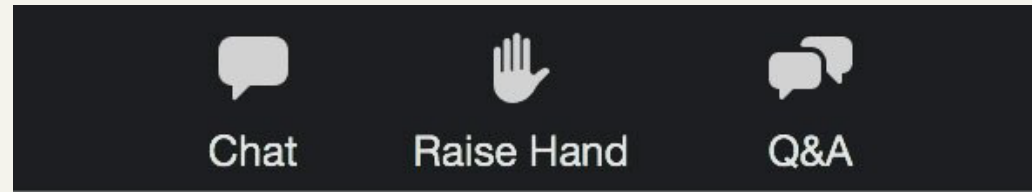
Oregon Hazardous Waste Program: Potential Fee Increase

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Land Quality Division

October 2026

Using Zoom Webinar

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 - Questions will be addressed at the end of the presentation.
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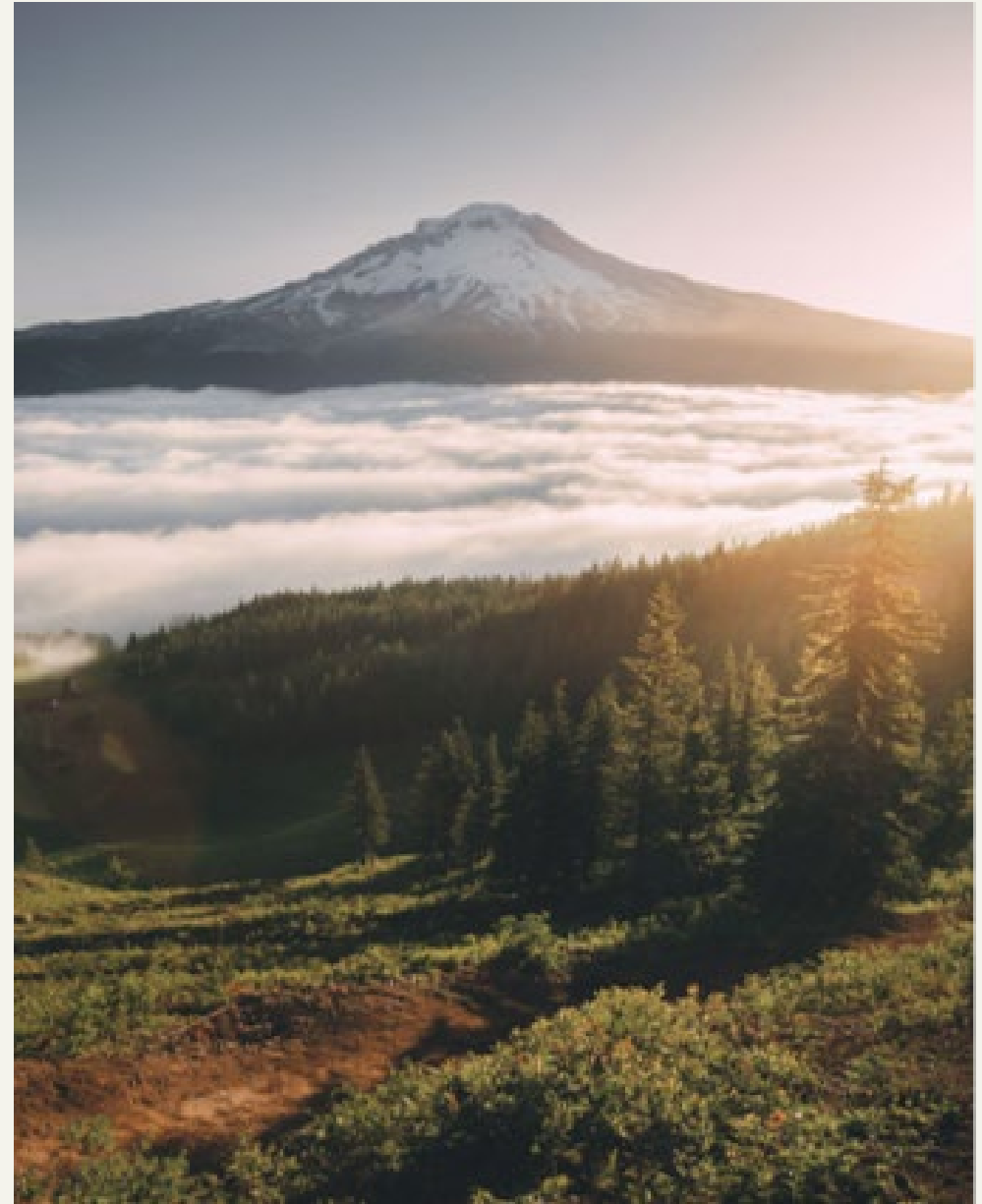


DEQ Staff Present Today

- Jen Parrott, Land Quality Administrator
- Svetlana Lazarev, Hazardous Waste Manager
- Ellie Brown, Hazardous Waste Senior Policy Analyst
- Audrey O'Brien, Northwest Region Hazardous Waste Manager
- Ron Doughten, Eastern Region Hazardous Waste Manager
- Susan Mills, Public Affairs Specialist

Overview

- Oregon's Hazardous Waste Program
- Program Funding and Challenges
- What Reduced Funding Would Mean
- Potential Fee Increase
- Discussion, Feedback and Questions





Potential Fee Increase at a Glance

Approximately \$1.5 million shortfall

2027–2029 two-year budget period

Base generator fee

\$130 → \$190

per metric ton

Annual generator cap

\$32,500 → \$53,500

maximum annual
generator fees

Future stability

Up to 3% per year

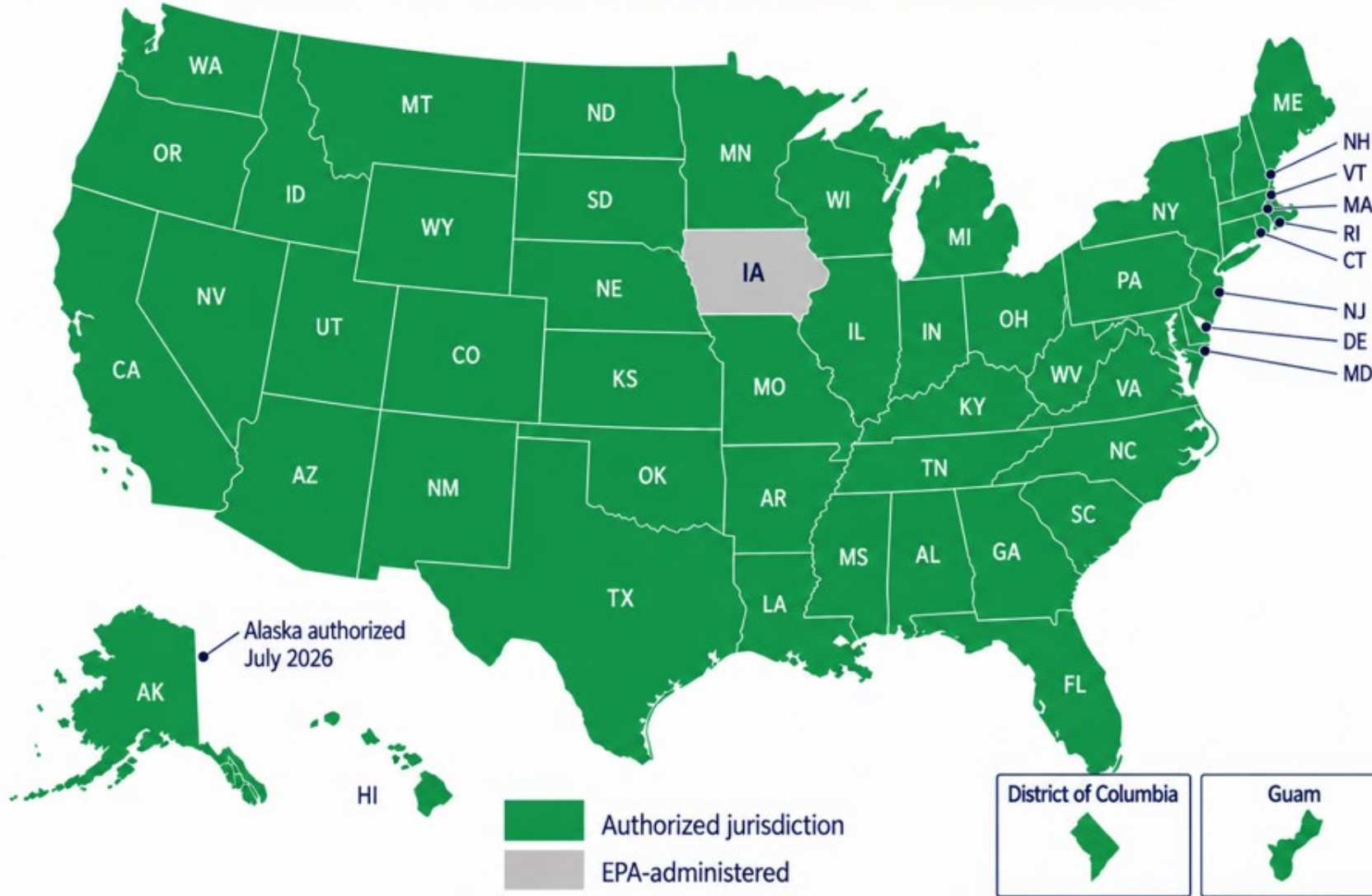
by rule, based on need
beginning Jan. 1, 2028

Potential changes for discussion; implementation depends on final legislation.

Oregon's Hazardous Waste Program

RCRA Program Authorization (2026)

49 states, D.C., and Guam are authorized; Iowa is EPA-administered.



Source: U.S. EPA state authorization status, updated Aug. 6, 2026; map outlines adapted from U.S. Census Bureau.

Oregon has been authorized since 1986.



How Oregon's Hazardous Waste Program Authority Works





Defining the Basics

Hazardous Waste

- Danger to people, animals, or environment
- Toxic, corrosive, ignitable, reactive, or listed

Hazardous Waste Generator

- Entity that produces hazardous waste
- Does not include households

Large Quantity Generators

- 1,000 kg/month or more (2,200 lb. or more)
- Approximately 160 generators

Small Quantity Generators

- More than 100 kg/month and less than 1,000 kg/month (220 lb. to less than 2,200 lb.)
- Approximately 320 generators

Approximately 500 fee-paying hazardous waste generators in Oregon



Very Small Quantity Generators

VSQG

- 100 kg/month or less (220 lb. or less)
- Approximately 4,000 known generators

Unique Requirements

- Regulated differently than SQGs and LQGs
- Primarily regulated under Solid Waste Program

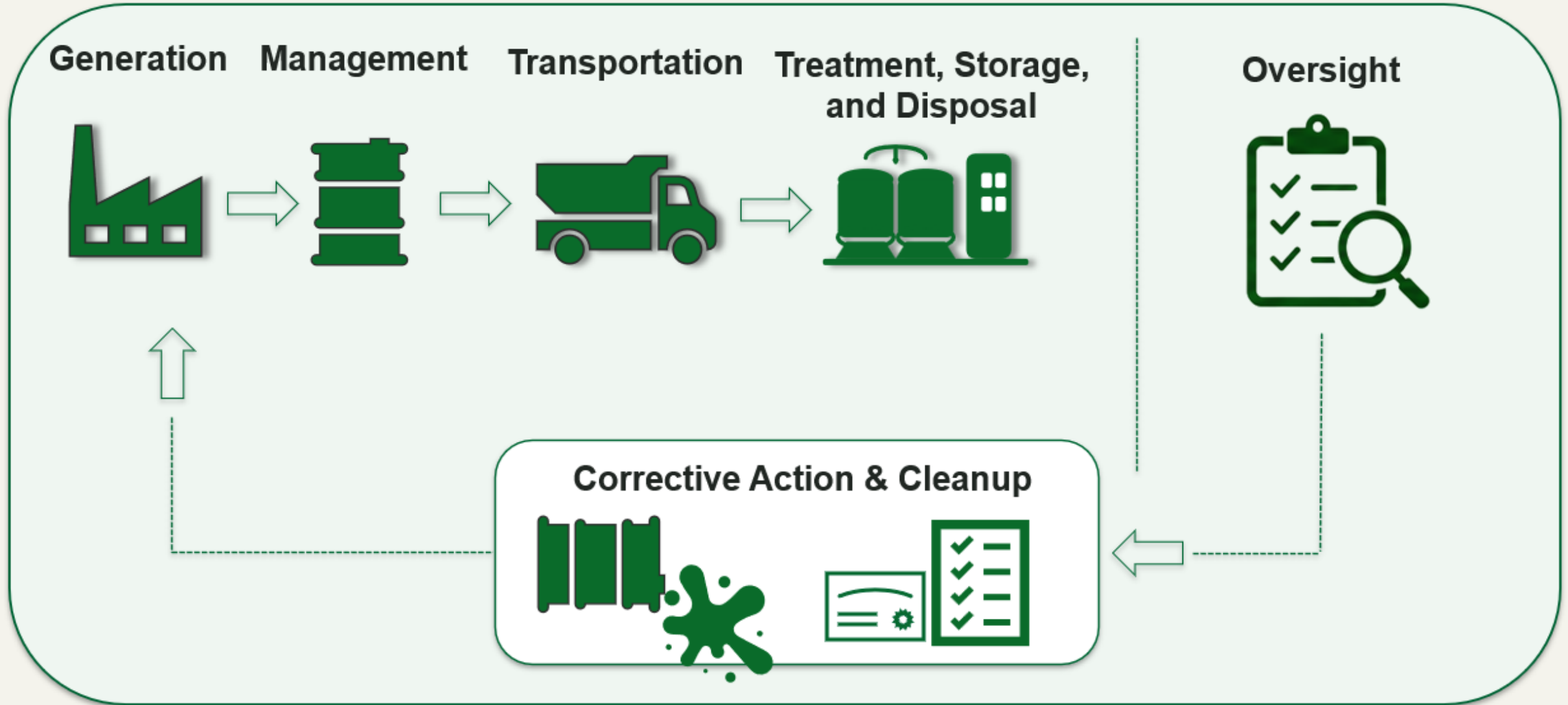
Limited Fee Applicability

- Do not typically pay fees
- No other fee categories apply

Hazardous Waste Program Support

- Technical assistance
- Training, education, guidance

Program Scope



Core Program Work



**Inspections
and
complaint
response**



**Permitting and
corrective
action**



Enforcement



**Rule
implementation
and updates**



**Annual
reporting and
invoicing**



**Technical
assistance
and training**

DEQ: Local experts who know Oregon



Technical Assistance and Local Expertise

Helps generators to:

- Understand requirements to know what applies to their site.
- Maintain compliance by identifying and addressing site-specific issues.
- Reduce waste by identifying safer materials or process changes.

DEQ does this through:

- Technical assistance site visits
- Trainings and education materials
- Phone and email communications
- Offering compliance guidance

Proactive support can reduce risk, waste, and avoidable costs.



The Value of Technical Assistance

**When technical assistance works, the best outcome is often invisible:
the problem that never happens.**

Millions of:

- **Pounds of hazardous waste reduced**
- **Pounds of toxic chemicals reduced**
- **Reported business cost savings**

Program Funding and Challenges



Program Funding

Approximate annual program revenue sources



Generator fees

Paid by LQGs and SQGs: approximately 500 total fee payers

Focus of potential fee changes

Program Costs Continue to Rise

The program faces a shortfall of **approximately \$1.5 million** for the **2027–2029 two-year budget period**. Without additional funding, it faces cuts and a growing shortfall in later periods.



Personnel and operating costs increased



Core program fees that have not been adjusted in nearly 20 years



Federal grant funding did not keep pace



Regulations, data systems, and waste streams became more complex

The program has absorbed position losses, vacancies, and work priority shifts – continuously looking for efficiencies and cost savings.

What Reduced Funding Would Mean for Oregon





Reality of a Reduced State Program

Current Program 24 FTE

- ✓ Technical assistance
- ✓ Training and education
- ✓ Permitting
- ✓ Research and data
- ✓ Local expertise
- ✓ Responsiveness

Reduced Program 19 FTE: 20% staff loss

- ⊖ Reduced generator support
- ⊖ Reduced training and education
- ⊖ Reduced permitting capacity
- ⊖ Reduced research/data capacity
- ⊖ Loss of program expertise
- ⊖ Reduced responsiveness

Risks to the Environment and Human Health

1

Releases & Incidents

- Fires
- Explosions
- Toxic exposures

2

Contamination

- Air
- Water
- Land

3

Long-term harm

- Potential human health impacts
- Lasting environmental damage
- Cleanup costs and lost use of property



Preventing Problems Costs Less Than Fixing Them

Prevention

Support and
oversight



Problems
found early



Lower risk
and cost

**Best outcome:
contamination never happens.**

Corrective Action and Cleanup



**Can cost
millions**



**Can
continue
for decades**

Potential Fee Increase





2027 Potential Fee Increase

1

Base generator fee

- Increases per-metric-ton fee
- Affects all fee payers
- Unchanged since 2007
- Would take effect if legislation passes

2

Annual generator cap

- Increases cap amount
- Predictable maximum
- Affects LQGs
- Unchanged since 2007
- Would take effect if legislation passes

3

Future stability

- Adjusted via public rulemaking if legislation passes
- Helps keep pace with costs
- Helps prevent large increases



Potential Fee Increases

Base generator fee

per metric ton

\$130

Current fee

\$190

Potential fee

**Applies to all
fee-paying generators**

Annual generator cap

maximum annual generator fees

\$32,500

Current cap

\$53,500

Potential cap

**Applies to LQGs
that reach the cap**

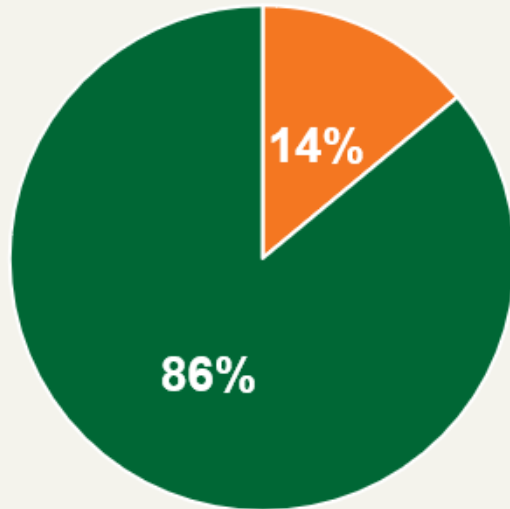
**DEQ is seeking input on alternatives that maintain current staffing levels
(24 FTE statewide).**

Why the Cap Matters

In 2024, Oregon generators reported **15.2 million metric tons** of hazardous waste generated.

Current cap

\$32,500 maximum annual generator fees

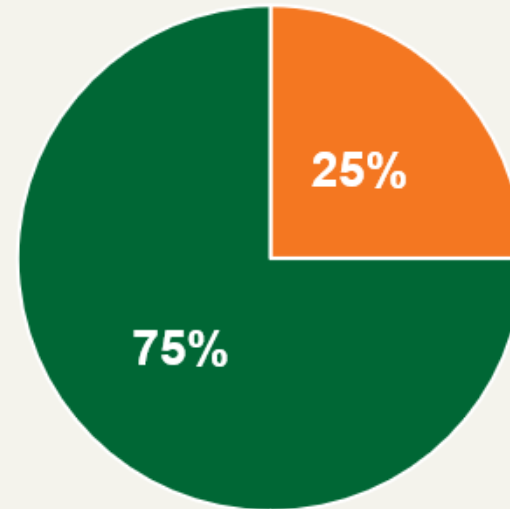


Current cap

14% appeared on an annual invoice
More than \$9 million/year limited by cap

Potential cap

\$53,500 maximum annual generator fees



Potential cap

25% would appear on an annual invoice
More than \$8 million/year would still be limited



Hypothetical Fee Examples

Illustrative examples use rounded 2024 reported quantities.

Example	Current \$130 base fee	Potential \$190 base fee
SQG 4 metric tons	\$520	\$760
LQG 39 metric tons	\$5,070	\$7,410
High-volume LQG 346 metric tons	\$44,980 → \$32,500 current cap	\$65,740 → \$53,500 potential cap

Illustrative examples only; not actual facility invoices.
Management-method fee factors and annual activity verification fee are omitted to isolate the base generator fee and annual cap.



Future Stability

Authority for the Environmental Quality Commission to adjust hazardous waste fees by rule up to a **maximum of 3% per calendar year.**

**Based on need to
maintain current services**

**Smaller, strategic adjustments
that are more predictable**

**Public rulemaking before
each adjustment**

**Help prevent large,
infrequent increases**



Key Takeaways

Authority for the Environmental Quality Commission to adjust hazardous waste fees by rule up to a **maximum of 3% per calendar year.**

**Based on need to
maintain current services**

**Smaller, strategic adjustments
that are more predictable**

**Public rulemaking before
each adjustment**

**Help prevent large,
infrequent increases**

We want to hear from you.

Your input will help inform the development of DEQ's proposal.

DEQ is especially interested in feedback on:

- How the potential fee increase could affect your organization
- Alternative fee scenario ideas to maintain service levels
- Implementation timing or transition concerns
- Potential unintended consequences
- Any additional data or context we should consider
- Any questions you have

Contact: Hazwaste@deq.oregon.gov

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Questions and Comments

- Raise your hand to ask a question or provide comment.
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