



## NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2023-2024 Materials Management Biennial Report
- DEQ Approves Program Plan for Oregon's Recycling Modernization Act
- 2025 Food Systems Strategic Plan: A Whole-Systems Approach to Food
- Food Waste Prevention Week Returns in April

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### Materials Management Biennial Report Released

The Materials Management Program is proud to share its latest [biennial report](#). Recapping work from 2023 to 2024, the report summarizes the program's accomplishments over the past two years. A few highlights include a deep dive into the program's collaboration efforts with various partners across the state; trends in total generation of material waste; enhanced community grants programs; and milestones for the Recycling Modernization Act.

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As the work of the Materials Management Program continues to expand and evolve, we encourage you to stay updated through our latest reports. To read the full biennial report, [click here](#).

## DEQ Approves Program Plan for Oregon's Recycling Modernization Act



On February 21, 2025, Oregon DEQ approved the first Producer Responsibility Organization Program Plan for the state's modernized recycling system. [The Plan](#), in effect through December 31, 2027, outlines how [Circular Action Alliance](#) will implement recycling system modernization activities statewide. "DEQ's approval of this plan is a significant step towards better recycling in Oregon," said Scott Keller, Chair of the Oregon Recycling System Advisory Council and Senior Program Manager with the City of Beaverton. "Oregon has led the way in recycling for years, and this law will help us improve even more!"

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Read [DEQ's news release](#) for more information on this important milestone along the path to Oregon's modernized recycling system.

## 2025 Food Systems Strategic Plan: A Whole-Systems Approach



The recently released **2025 Food Systems Strategic Plan** establishes a 10-year vision for the Materials Management Program's work on food, emphasizing a whole-systems, equity-centered approach. Preventing food waste remains a core strategy at DEQ, however, the newly adopted approach now extends beyond waste prevention to a broader food systems framework that supports sustainable production, consumption, and waste management. The strategic plan will also establish a roadmap for action, through the inclusion of a **Food Action Plan**. The action plan will focus on implementation and translate the priorities, principles, and values of the strategic plan into concrete projects and activities over a shorter timeframe. We encourage you to visit the Food Systems Strategic Planning webpage

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to learn about the exciting work being done by DEQ's Food Systems team and to [read the full strategic plan](#).

**Webinar:** Learn more about the 2025 Food Systems Strategic Plan and how the Food Action Plan will translate vision into action. [Register here to attend on Wednesday, April 30 from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm \(PTD\)](#).

### Reduce, Reuse, Reimagine Grants: 2026 Grant Cycle



Following a successful relaunch in 2024, the Reduce, Reuse, Reimagine Grants Program is in development for the next grant cycle, which will open in 2026. [The program recently announced updates for the upcoming cycle and its new funding priority area](#). While the 2024 cycle focused on waste prevention, the 2026 cycle will support projects in the [Built Environment](#) sector. The Built Environment encompasses the spaces we occupy, as well as the physical and social

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infrastructures we interact with every day. More detailed information about the new funding priority area will be released later this year.

To prioritize a more inclusive application process, the grant program has also adopted a few new features for the upcoming cycle:

- **Biennial grant cycle** (instead of annual), with the next solicitation scheduled for early 2026
- Up to **\$2 million** available for the 2026 grant cycle
- **Extended application windows** to provide applicants with additional time to develop strong proposals

For the full announcement, [read our latest news release](#). To stay updated with upcoming news, including future details on funding priorities, project examples, and key dates, [we encourage you to sign up for the RRR Grants newsletter](#).

### Food Waste Prevention Week is Almost Here: April 7-13



Oregon's fourth annual [Food Waste Prevention Week](#) is happening April 7–13, 2025! This statewide effort will raise awareness and drive action to reduce food waste, protect the environment, and nourish our communities. Organizations, local

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governments, businesses, and individuals will collaborate to share resources, host events, and inspire practical ways to save food, save money, and safeguard our planet.

This year, DEQ is proud to sponsor three incredible organizations hosting events throughout the week: [Lloyd EcoDistrict](#), [Our Future](#), and [Corvallis Sustainability Coalition](#). We also recognize our many partners who have made a meaningful impact year after year through their dedicated work to further this mission.

Want to get involved? [Become a partner, attend an event, or help spread the word!](#)

### **Mattress Recycling is Here!**



Oregon's new statewide mattress stewardship program launched on Jan. 1, 2025. Established by [SB 1576 \(2022\)](#), this program provides for the collection and environmentally responsible management of mattresses at their end of life. Under

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this product stewardship model, consumers pay an assessment fee at the time of purchase of a mattress to cover the program's cost, including disposal. Additionally, point-of-sale education about the program is provided to consumers. In July 2024, DEQ approved a stewardship organization, designated by mattress producers, to develop and implement the program. The public can [visit the Mattress Recycling Council's website](#) to find participating collection sites or events in their area throughout the year for mattress drop off. Visit DEQ's [Mattress Stewardship web page](#) for more information about the program.

### **Collaboration Efforts with the Building Codes Division Lead to New Embodied Carbon Recommendations**



Last year, DEQ's Built Environment team consulted with Oregon's Building Codes Division on its legislative report to study opportunities to reduce embodied carbon through building code and other means. The newly released report, [\*\*\*Options To Reduce GHG Emissions Attribute To Building Materials\*\*\*](#), aligns with many of Materials Management's priorities in the built environment. The report also recommends three pathways to address embodied carbon through the building

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code: (1) building reuse; (2) environmental product declaration (EPD) reporting; and (3) whole-building life cycle assessment reporting.

## NOW HIRING



### **Food Systems Specialist (Natural Resource Specialist 4)**

Are you passionate about reducing the environmental impacts of food and supporting sustainable food systems in Oregon? Do you have a strong background in leading collaborative project teams to achieve shared goals? If so, please consider applying for the full-time Food Systems Specialist position with DEQ's Materials Management Program in Portland, Oregon. As the Food Systems Specialist, you will provide key staff leadership for the Food Systems team, and lead implementation of DEQ's [new food systems strategic plan](#). Closes March 23, 2025 at 11:59 pm. [Click here to read the full announcement and to apply.](#)

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