



Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Materials Management Newsletter

August 2025

Newsletter highlights

- Celebrating Major Milestones of Paint Stewardship in Oregon!
- The Mattress Recycling Council Expands Its Program to Oregon
- Oregon Leads Nation by Launching the Recycling Modernization Act
- Register: Fall/Winter Bad Apple Campaign Sneak Peek
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Celebrating major milestones of paint stewardship in Oregon!

2025 marks a major milestone for the PaintCare program in Oregon. Not only is the program celebrating 15 years of operation, but PaintCare is also celebrating the collection of 10 million gallons of leftover paint in Oregon. The statewide paint stewardship program aims to increase opportunities to properly manage leftover paint, offering convenient drop-off locations and events throughout the state for households and businesses to dispose of their leftover paint, free of charge. With a focus on accessibility, community engagement, and responsible waste management, the program makes it easy for Oregonians to recycle paint responsibly.

As of July, program accomplishments include:



Learn more at [DEQ's program webpage](#) or [PaintCare's webpage](#).

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Mattress Recycling Council expands program to Oregon



This year, the mattress industry's Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) expanded its Bye Bye Mattress program to Oregon. This new statewide mattress stewardship program provides for the collection and environmentally sound management of mattresses and boxsprings, through a network of collection sites and events across the state. In the first six months of the program:

- **More than 55,000 mattresses and box springs were collected.** Of these, 60% were dropped off at participating sites and events and 40% came from large-volume sources such as retailers, hotels and universities.
- **More than 2.3 million pounds of material were diverted from landfills.** The foam, quilted toppers, steel and wood can be used in new products or for mattress renovation/reuse.
- **19 sites are operating, and 27 events were held.** MRC continues to add collection opportunities, which are listed at [ByeByeMattress.com](https://www.byebyemattress.com). Contact MRC about becoming a collection site or event host.

MRC continues to work with site and event hosts, and city and county leaders, to raise awareness about the program. If you would like to get involved, email info@byebyemattress.com.

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Reduce, Reuse, Reimagine 2026 grant cycle funding area announced



The 2026 funding area for DEQ's Reduce, Reuse, Reimagine Grant program is **Built for Well-Being: Reducing Exposure to Toxic Substances in Building Materials**. To be eligible for an RRR grant, all project proposals must fit within the grant cycle's funding area. Up to \$2 million will be available to disburse across eligible and selected projects. DEQ will invite applications for projects that reduce human and environmental exposure to toxic chemicals commonly found in building materials, which can include chemicals found in carpet, paint, furniture, insulation, and contract textiles. A helpful framework for identifying chemicals of concern is the [Six Classes approach](#), but projects can focus on other chemicals and methods with compelling rationale. DEQ will host several webinars for potential applicants before the application period opens in Spring 2026.

For more information, visit the [RRR Grants webpage](#). To stay up to date on the latest information regarding webinars, applicant resources, and the application timeline, [click here to register for email updates](#). For all other questions, please reach out to our grants team at: RRRGrants@deq.oregon.gov.

Pollution prevention at work in Oregon

DEQ recently provided over 20 businesses across the state with direct technical assistance and financial support to conduct prevention assessments, reduce energy use, and encourage the use of cleaner [Safer Choice](#) products. Through a partnership with [BRING Recycling](#), a non-profit based in Eugene, and funded through the EPA Pollution Prevention Grant program, BRING staff worked with a variety of businesses to identify pollution prevention practices to measurably reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Read more about two successful projects from [Hot Mama Salsa](#) and [Surata Soyfoods](#). To learn more about DEQ's **Food and Beverage Manufacturing Partnership Program**, visit the [BRING website](#) or contact Lisa Cox, Sr. Toxics Reduction Analyst at lisa.cox@deq.oregon.gov.

Oregon leads nation by launching the Recycling Modernization Act

Oregon is now leading the way as the first state in the U.S. to implement an extended producer responsibility law for packaging and paper, providing statewide access to consistent and high-quality recycling. The Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act is an update to Oregon's recycling system that expands recycling opportunities in communities throughout the state, upgrades the facilities that sort recyclables, and establishes accountability mechanisms to ensure materials are recycled responsibly. The improvements are funded through fees paid by companies that sell packaging, paper, and food serviceware into Oregon.

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The program officially launched on July 1, 2025, and will be implemented across the state over time as investments and new programs come online. Over the next few years Oregon residents and businesses can expect to see the following improvements:

- Expanded recycling collection in many communities, especially in rural areas. Producer funding will cover the cost of new equipment, facilities, and transporting recyclables long distances.
- A consistent list of recyclable materials.
- New collection opportunities for recyclables that can be hard to sort at recycling facilities.
- Additional information and resources to let communities know how and when they can access this improved recycling system.

The RMA directs producer funding toward improvements at the facilities that sort recycling. Facilities will pay workers a living wage and supportive benefits. They will also report where they market the sorted recyclables and send materials to places that can meet a new standard for responsible end markets.

Visit the [Recycling Modernization Act web page](#) for more information about how the program works. To get the latest updates, [sign up for our GovDelivery emails](#).

Register: fall/winter Bad Apple campaign sneak peek

Join us for a first look at DEQ's updated Bad Apple campaign! This webinar will highlight new resources—including fresh content for social media, blogs, newsletters, and more—to help you engage your community around food waste prevention this fall and winter. It's the perfect way to gear up for holiday-season outreach.

Webinar Details: Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025 from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PTD). [Click here to register](#).

Non-discrimination statement

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