Introduction to Recycling Acceptance Lists

Background Paper for August 18, 2022, Oregon Recycling Council Meeting

This document describes a project to identify lists of materials for recycling under Oregon's Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act, and introduces initial recommendations for placement of some materials on recycling collection lists.

Background

Oregon law requires local governments to provide an "opportunity to recycle". The exact requirements (ORS 459A.005 and .007) depend on the size and location of the local government. The standard approach includes a depot at the disposal site or a more convenient location, at-least monthly collection of recyclables from all service customers, and additional services (including more frequent service) drawn from a menu of elements. Currently, each local government chooses which materials to collect. That will change in 2025 under the Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act. Oregon's Environmental Quality Commission will define what constitutes a "recyclable material" after considering criteria such as end markets, economics and environmental impacts. The Commission will designate some materials as "opportunity to recycle" obligations for local governments and others as separate recycling obligations for Producer Responsibility Organizations to collect via depots or mobile collection events.

Current Evaluation and Rulemaking

DEQ has initiated a [rulemaking](#) that includes, among other topics, identifying:

- Materials that local governments must collect for recycling under their Opportunity to Recycle obligations.
    - For those materials, designate which are appropriate for collection at recycling depots, on-route collection, or both; and
    - Which materials must be collected separately (e.g., motor oil) and which *may* be collected commingled (the "Uniform Statewide Collection List").
- Materials that PROs must provide collection and recycling for.
    - For those materials, identify convenience standards, collection targets, and performance standards that Producer Responsibility Organizations must meet.

DEQ may also designate covered products as a "specifically identified material." Such a designation creates additional obligations by the PROs.

Rules concepts related to these lists will be brought to a Rulemaking Advisory Committee for discussion later this year. To develop the concepts, DEQ is currently evaluating materials and possible future scenarios using evaluation criteria established in the Act (ORS 459A.914(3)). DEQ issued a request for information; convened a technical workgroup; initiated discussions with producers, processors, and end markets; and is modeling

economic and environmental impacts. This work is ongoing and can be reviewed at
https://www.oregon.gov/deq/recycling/Pages/Material-Lists.

DEQ's initial recommendations about placement of materials on different lists are summarized below. Many other materials are still under evaluation.

Figure 1. Initial DEQ Recommendations for Material Placement on Recycling Lists (August 18, 2022)

Material	Opportunity to Recycle Obligation		PRO Depots or Mobile Collection	No Recycling Obligation
	Drop-Off	On-Route		
Corrugated cardboard: uncoated, recycle-compatible coated. Includes pizza boxes.	✓ (USCL)	✓ (USCL)		
Waxed corrugated cardboard				✓
All kraft paper (paper bags, paper mailers)	✓ (USCL)	✓ (USCL)		
High-grade office paper	✓ (USCL)	✓ (USCL)		
Newspaper/newsprint	✓ (USCL)	✓ (USCL)		
Shredded paper			✓	
Aluminum food and beverage cans	✓ (USCL)	✓ (USCL)		
Steel cans, including empty and dry steel paint cans	✓ (USCL)	✓ (USCL)		
Scrap metal (size and weight limits TBD)	✓ (USCL)	✓ (USCL)		
Aluminum foil and pressed foil products			✓	
Clear PET bottles, >6 ounces in volume	✓ (USCL)	✓ (USCL)		
Pigmented/opaque PET				✓
Natural and colored HDPE bottles (and jugs), >6 ounces in volume	✓ (USCL)	✓ (USCL)		
PP bottles, >6 ounces in volume	✓ (USCL)	✓ (USCL)		
Small plastic containers <6 ounces in volume				✓
Polyethylene film and wrap			✓	
PP film, wrap, woven bags				✓
All expanded polystyrene food serviceware and packaging except block/rigid white foam				✓
PP and polyethylene block and sheet foams				✓
All flowable loosefill ("peanuts")				✓
Multimaterial flexible packaging/films				✓
All other materials – To Be Determined				

USCL = Uniform Statewide Collection List (material could be commingled)

Questions for Discussion at the August 18, 2022, Recycling Council Meeting

At the August 18, 2022 Recycling Council meeting, DEQ will invite discussion and feedback on the following:

1. Do you have questions about the requirements of the law relating to recycling acceptance lists, and how these relate to local governments' and PRO collection requirements?

2. Regarding Figure 1 above, do you support, or have questions or concerns about this initial batch of recommendations?

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3. Are there specific materials that you would prioritize for discussion at a future meeting? If so, which ones, and why?

4. DEQ welcomes feedback on these questions by September 9, if possible. Please send any input to Recycling.2023@deq.oregon.gov.

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