



Oregon Impact Reduction and Reuse Program

The Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act aims to update Oregon's recycling system by building on local community programs and leveraging the resources of producers to make an innovative system that works for everyone. This law will work to reduce social and environmental impacts of materials with a focus on packaging, printed paper, and food serviceware.

Background

Under [ORS 459A.941](#), obligated producers of packaging, printed paper, and food serviceware will join and pay fees to a producer responsibility organization. The PRO will make specific and targeted investments that focus primarily on recycling, but which include payment of a new waste prevention and reuse fee. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality will use revenues from this fee to establish a program, the Oregon Impact Reduction and Reuse Program to reduce environmental impacts of covered products through activities other than recycling, such as waste prevention and reuse.

The fee will be established by Oregon's Environmental Quality Commission via rulemaking that DEQ will begin this summer and programming (funding) is anticipated to begin in late 2026. In the meantime, DEQ hopes to engage with anyone interested in this work and will seek feedback through a variety of methods.

Listening Session (Thursday, May 25, 2023, 12-1 pm PST)

DEQ is currently planning this work, seeking feedback, and generating ideas about potential projects that could be supported by the program. During a listening session scheduled for May 25, participants will have the opportunity to share their ideas and suggestions.

The listening session will include a short background presentation, but the primary focus is intended to be attendee ideas and imagining future opportunities for the program. Please note that there may not be time to flesh out or discuss ideas in detail, but follow-up is welcomed and encouraged.

Criteria to consider

- Funds must be used to reduce the environmental impacts of covered products. Covered products are defined as packaging, printing and writing paper, and food serviceware. Covered products do not include items outlined in [459A.863\(6\)\(b\)](#). Funds cannot be used to reduce impacts of items that are not covered products, such as food, textiles or building materials.
- Environmental impacts can occur anywhere in the life cycle of covered products, including supply chain, production, transport, use, and disposal. Impacts can be reduced through changes in any of those life cycle stages (such as industrial efficiency or pollution prevention), including but not limited to material substitution.

Translation or other formats

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- DEQ may enter into agreements and may provide grants or loans to reduce environmental impacts of covered products. Entities eligible for a grant or loan include, but are not limited to:
 - Public bodies;
 - Tribal governments;
 - Nonprofit organizations; and
 - Private organizations, if DEQ determines that the funds would be used for public benefit.
- In providing grants or loans under this program, DEQ must consider criteria that include, but are not limited to:
 - Environmental benefits;
 - Human health benefits;
 - Social and economic benefits;
 - Cost-effectiveness; and
 - Needs of economically distressed or underserved communities.

Prompting Questions

Please reflect on these questions prior to the listening session! The ideas shared at the listening session will guide the discussion.

1. Imagine there were no limitations. What would a priority project, system, or idea focused on reducing environmental impacts of covered products look like?
2. What are the biggest barriers to reducing the environmental impacts of covered products and how can they be overcome?
3. How could the impact reduction and reuse program be implemented statewide while ensuring that benefits are spread equitably and accessibly across all communities?
4. How might DEQ be responsive to the needs of economically distressed or underserved communities?
5. What partnerships or collaborations could be formed in this work? Is there anyone specific DEQ should engage or speak to? Who has done this work well?

Additional Opportunities for Discussion

Participation in the May 25 listening session is not your only opportunity to discuss this work with DEQ. Please share any ideas you have following the meeting with DEQ's project manager, [Blaine Mershon](#).

Announcements and Updates

For more information and to stay current with important updates, sign up for text or email updates via [GovDelivery](#).

Non-discrimination statement

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