

Materials Management Program

Recycling Modernization Act: Material Lists Technical Workgroup

Meeting Summary: Meeting #5

Tuesday Aug. 23rd, 2022
Zoom

List of Technical Workgroup Members in attendance

- Dan Weston
- Dave Claugus
- David McCall
- Jerry Powell
- Kate Eagles
- Kim Holmes
- Laura Leebrick
- Liz Bedard
- Nicole Willett
- Rosalynn Greene

DEQ project staff (participating)

- David Allaway
- Gretchen Sandau
- Jessica Branom-Zwick (Cascadia Consulting Group, under contract to DEQ)
- Justin Gast
- Martin Brown
- Nicole Portley
- Peter Canepa



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Time Topic

Time	Topic
8:30 a.m.	Welcome, review agenda, meeting logistics Justin Gast started off the meeting with a review of the agenda and a reminder for how to engage in the public comment period.
8:35 a.m.	Scenario modeling: baseline and potential future scenarios David Allaway began this section by giving a brief overview and providing context to the different scenarios Cascadia Consulting Group has been modeling for DEQ. He noted that scenario modeling will be used to evaluate both economic and environmental considerations associated with different whole system scenarios. He added that more discussion will be scheduled for the September 20 th meeting. Jessica Branom-Zwick of Cascadia Consulting Group introduced the scope of the model, the definition of “baseline”, model architecture and modules (base tons, transportation, bales, and transactional costs), and data sources. Jessica concluded her presentation by providing some guidance on how to review the baseline model (providing links and guidance on the documents) and provide feedback. David noted that feedback by September 2 nd will be most useful, although DEQ will keep the model open for review by Technical Workgroup members and others through the end of September (with draft models of future scenarios added for review later in September).

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	<p>Discussion with workgroup members revolved around clarifying questions on geographic groupings, data sources and contamination rates and costs.</p> <p>Martin Brown with DEQ presented next on how DEQ is using Cascadia's material flow projections to estimate environmental impacts and social costs. He used Cascadia's baseline to illustrate that the social costs of production are many times higher than the social costs of discards management, and also how DEQ is modeling uncertainty in estimates of both transactional and social costs. Martin noted that discussion in the September 20th meeting should allow for comparisons between costs for different scenarios, and that these discussions will focus on discards management (as production impacts are assumed to be constant). Martin's preliminary assessment of social costs also illustrated that transportation-related emissions contribute relatively little. Martin noted current limitations in the analysis (see slides) and plans to address those as DEQ continues to build and refine its model.</p> <p>David and Jessica then gave a very brief overview of the 17 future scenarios which are still under preliminary assessment by Cascadia Consulting Group, and noted that further discussion of these scenarios will happen in the 9/20 meeting. These scenarios are meant to help inform DEQ by answering questions and providing insight on what the marginal costs could be of making changes to Oregon's recycling system. David reminded workgroup members that with thousands of possible scenarios, it is unlikely that any one of the 17 under evaluation, in its exact form, will comprise DEQ's eventual rule concept. Concerns over aerosol cans and potential impacts at MRFs were voiced, and a clarifying question was asked regarding depot density. David again encouraged workgroup members and others to review Cascadia's baseline model and to share feedback and data.</p> <p>Justin Gast shared one last detail of Cascadia's modeling, involving baseline capture rates at MRFs and outbound bale quality. He noted that implementation of the Recycling Modernization Act should improve both of these factors, and gave examples of how Cascadia is assuming they will change. Exact standards will be established in a separate administrative rulemaking, but DEQ shared this information to confirm its expectations and general assumptions being used for the current round of cost estimation. A future MRF technical work group will address many of these concepts/issues in greater detail. Discussions here involved baseline rates for certain materials, where future rates are derived from, increased contamination concerns, sorting and space constraints, and the need for "reality checks" in this process. David noted that review of Cascadia's model by workgroup members is an important element of ensuring that the model is providing reasonable estimates of costs and impacts.</p>
11:05 a.m.	Short break
11:10 a.m.	<p>Follow-up to 7/19 discussion on responsible end markets</p> <p>Because discussion on the prior agenda item ran long, David requested that feedback on this section be provided offline in the interest of time.</p> <p>David shared and invited feedback on a revised and more detailed concept for defining the term "practicable", as it applies to the obligation that PROs have to ensure that</p>

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	<p>materials flow to responsible end markets that are consistent with Oregon's policy hierarchy. Please see slides for details.</p> <p>Nicole Portley provided additional updates on rule concepts for responsible end markets, third party certification, and other questions from the prior meeting. She described several updates to rule concepts shared at the July 19th meeting, including changing the definition of "responsible" to include compliance with local labor laws, and sharing two examples of implementation pathways to meet obligations to identify responsible end markets (again, please see slides for details). Nicole added that DEQ intends to perform a more detailed review of different chain of custody and sustainability certifications that are relevant to the proposed definition of "responsible" and thanked workgroup member Kim Holmes for sharing extensive information on that topic.</p> <p>Workgroup members shared ideas involving landfills as a potential disposition for some collected recyclables, and a question about potential competition for materials between multiple PROs.</p>
11:30 a.m.	<p>Follow-up to 7/19 screening-level LCA of glass: status report</p> <p>David noted that DEQ is making several changes to the glass evaluation shared at the July 19th meeting, in response to suggestions and questions raised by workgroup members. Updated results should be available in September.</p>
11:30 a.m.	<p>Screening-level LCA of disposition options for polycoated and aseptic cartons</p> <p>Peter Canepa from DEQ presented preliminary results from a new, screening-level life cycle assessment of different end markets for polycoated and aseptic cartons. (Please see slides for details.) Preliminary findings are that converting cartons to tissue appears to be most beneficial, followed by converting cartons to packaging. While landfilling of cartons increases impacts, preliminary modeling finds the same for recycling the cartons into a roofing board material. The choice of end market/disposition appears to be important, while transportation is much less so. Further, domestic end markets and end markets with higher yields don't necessary result in better environmental outcomes.</p> <p>Invited guest Jordan Fengel of the Carton Council asked several questions regarding the assessment of cartons to roofing material, and DEQ agreed to explore this topic further offline. Workgroup member Kim Holmes expressed support for further evaluation.</p>
12:10 pm	Lunch break
12:40 p.m.	<p>PRO depot collections: performance standards, convenience standards, and collection targets</p> <p>David Allaway opened this portion of the meeting by reminding workgroup members that if the Commission identifies materials as obligations of the PRO, the Commission is also to establish convenience standards, collection targets and performance standards for such collections. Today's discussion is the start of information gathering and assessment of potential standards.</p> <p>Gretchen Sandau of DEQ shared a list of possible performance standards (see website) and invited feedback. Feedback and questions here revolved around the affordability and</p>

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	<p>necessity (or lack thereof) of high standards, clarification on the meaning of “ADA accessibility”, and the benefits of co-locating depots. Additional suggestions included considering OBRC’s challenges with depots and using different lists of performance standards for different types of depots.</p> <p>David then shared several different methods of defining convenience standards, and related several of these to existing EPR programs for other materials in Oregon. Discussion here revolved around the public’s perception of convenience, ensuring that depots are convenient to people who aren’t dependent on motor vehicles, and other ways a PRO may collect these materials, such as mobile events or a “Recycle Plus” style supplemental on-route collection service.</p> <p>Gretchen then shared and invited feedback on three proposed guiding principles for collection targets. Several workgroup members expressed support for these principles, including setting targets as a percentage of generation rather than a fixed tonnage. There was additional discussion of lessons learned from other EPR programs in Oregon, data collection and where/how to estimate generation.</p>
1:50 p.m.	<p>Round 2 of DEQ preliminary recommendations for placement of materials David reminded workgroup members of the framework for placing materials on different acceptance lists and then shared preliminary placement of several additional materials. He solicited specific feedback on size and weight thresholds for scrap metal, and a size threshold for large format HDPE and PP packaging. Discussions were mostly about concerns of accepting tangles as a “recyclable” item in scrap metal due to public confusion and potential concerns that promotion of depots could backfire and increase contamination in the commingled system.</p>
2:10 p.m.	<p>Public input Christa McDermott of Community Environmental Services at Portland State University provided three comments. First, she hopes that producers will create better products and packaging that are more recyclable in Oregon’s system, as opposed to burdening millions of individual residents with a complex or inconvenient recycling system. Second, she appreciated the thoughts around not basing convenience standards off population but around access and how convenience may look for different populations (different modes of transportation, etc.) Christa also supported connecting with OBRC to discuss user experience problems, since their depots were designed for a prototypical user and they often do not get those users at their sites; she asked how Oregon could design these new depots to be accessible to all Oregonians. Third, she said that she would like to see depots incentivizing reuse and repair alongside recycling, an example being collecting furniture that a reuse organization would then come and pick up from the depot.</p>
2:25 p.m.	<p>Next steps and final questions David thanked workgroup members for their engagement and noted that the group has one remaining meeting scheduled. The next meeting will feature draft scenario modeling from Cascadia and DEQ. David invited workgroup members to identify any outstanding issues they would like to see discussed. Laura Leebrick asked about the</p>

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	possibility of additional meetings. David noted some time constraints associated with the rulemaking process.
2:30 p.m.	Adjourn

List of other attendees

Abby Boudouris
Alex Bertolucci
Alicia Givens
Angie Marzano
Beth Vargas Duncan
Carole Branom
Carolina Paez Jimenez
Cat Rhoades
Charles Zwick
Cheryl Grabham
Chris Bell
Christa McDermott
Clarence Rasquinha
Colette Bazirgan
Denise Barnes
Devon Morales
Eleanor Sano
Elena Bertocci
Evonne Soon

Garth Hickle
Gayla McClamma
Greg Ryan
Heather Kazmark
Heather Trim
Jason Pelz
Jeff Murray
Jennifer Olson
Jill Hrycyk
Joel Baxter
Jordan Fengel
Joyce Thung
Kristan Mitchell
Laurie Gordon
Luis Sandoval
Madeline Do
Matt Markee
Maya Buelow
Neil Menezes

Nicole Janssen
Paloma Sparks
Paul Rainey
Peter Spendelow
Ryan Pessah
Sabrina Gogol
Sam Schlaich
Samantha Kappalman
Samantha Siegner
Sarah Buchanan
Scott Mouw
Shannon Crawford
Susan Robinson
Thomas Egleston
Tim Brownell
Tim Buwalda
Travis Comfort
Trevor Beltz
Vinod Singh

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Alternative formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.oregon.gov.