

Meeting summary: Oregon Recycling Council

Meeting 5: March 6, 2023



Zoom: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Meeting open

Chair Pam Peck convened the meeting at 10:36 a.m., reviewed the meeting agenda and held a roll call of Council members. Oregon House Representative Susan McLain was unable to attend, and was an excused absence for this meeting.

A list of attendees is at the end of this meeting summary.

DEQ staff provided direction on logistics for the meeting, held by Zoom webinar, and information regarding language access. The meeting was presented in English with simultaneous Spanish interpretation available.

Presentation: Proposed implementation transition phase

Arianne Sperry presented a summary draft proposal for a transition phase, from July 1, 2025, through Dec. 31, 2027, for implementation of some elements of the Recycling Modernization Act. She described what requirements for Producer Responsibility Organizations, local governments/service providers and commingled recycling processing facilities would stay the same, with a start date of July 1, 2025, and what requirements may be subject to additional time during the optional 18-month transition phase.

Discussion: Proposed implementation transition phase

Chair Peck facilitated the Council members through a discussion of four framing questions related to the transition phase document and presentation:

- How might this proposal affect your organization and communities?
- What are potential opportunities and consequences of this approach?
- What's missing from the proposal?
- What questions still need to be answered?

Council members provided their feedback on the draft proposal and asked clarifying and informational questions about parts of the proposal. Council members generally supported a transitional phase approach, and noted several concerns, including:

- Customer confusion about services, including standard messaging of RMA-related engagement/outreach materials
- Unequal service for adjacent towns if some local governments opted to begin July 1, 2025, and some used the transitional time
- Loss of customer confidence in the state's recycling system due to lack of perceived change if local government doesn't implement July 1, 2025
- Legal and legislative conflict with transition phase, since law was intended to be implemented July 1, 2025

DEQ staff noted that the transition proposal is an early draft and will be subject to change based on the Council's feedback, discussion with the Rulemaking Advisory Committee on March 10 and ongoing consultations with policy and legal staff at DEQ and the Oregon Department of Justice.

Presentation: Recycling Modernization Act equity elements

Stephanie Caldera presented a summary of equity topics, projects and approaches that DEQ is developing for the first two rulemakings of the RMA, one in-progress and one to begin in summer 2023. She noted that the RMA specifically relates back to *Oregon's 2050 Vision and Framework for Materials Management*, in which well-being and equity are foundational policy elements. Following the brief presentation, the Council moved to discussion of the elements, as seen below.

Discussion: Recycling Modernization Act equity elements

Chair Peck facilitated the Council members through a discussion of framing questions related to the equity elements document and presentation:

- How do you, as a Council member, want to engage with the equity projects as presented by DEQ?
 - Could include: Small group discussions, individual feedback meetings, written feedback, full Council sessions
- What opportunities or challenges do you anticipate DEQ may encounter?
- How would you center the voices and input of the individual people across Oregon (and elsewhere) who may be affected by the RMA and these projects to ensure that outcomes support an equitable recycling system?

Council members provided feedback on the summary information and supporting document for the equity-related projects. Members noted their continued support for centering a broad definition of equity in the project development, and ensuring that economics remained a factor when considering inequities within the current recycling system. Council members expressed an interest in smaller group and full-Council discussions on equity, with more time dedicated to discussion for better shared understanding of the issues and implications. DEQ affirmed that more time would be scheduled for equity-related discussions, and the Council would have the opportunity for input related to design of an equity study to begin later in 2023, in addition to several in-progress projects related to the first two rulemakings for RMA.

Public input

Four audience members provided input:

- Maya Buelow: Questions regarding prior multifamily study and ensuring best use of time/resources in new projects
- Jerry Powell: Questions regarding transition period proposal
- Eva Serrillos Amaya: Questions regarding responsibilities for brands related to the potential transition period
- Christina McDermott: Support for Powell's comments, additional question regarding transition period proposal and milestones for action to ensure forward progress

Presentation and discussion: Accepted materials lists

David Allaway summarized information for seven material types recommended for inclusion on the Uniform Statewide Collection List, at the request of two Council members. The discussion on accepted materials is the continuation of prior presentations and discussion at the August, October and December 2022 Council meetings. Allaway presented specific information about paper cans, one of the seven material types requested be discussed further, and asked the Council members for their input on that, and the other, materials.

Council members discussed the paper cans example and offered general feedback on the USCL and issues they say related to the successful collection, sorting and processing of some materials.

Allaway noted that the materials list would also be discussed at the March 10 Rulemaking Advisory Committee meeting.

Next steps

Cheryl Grabham summarized next steps for DEQ and reminded Council members of key upcoming dates for the Council and Rulemaking Advisory Committee. Council members discussed the opportunity of an in-person/hybrid meeting in summer, once new members join, to facilitate relationship-building.

Adjourn: Chair Pam Peck adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Meeting attendees

Council members	DEQ staff
Pam Peck (Chair)	Cheryl Grabham (presenter)
Celeste Meiffren-Swango (Vice-chair)	David Allaway (presenter)
Carolyn Stein	Arianne Sperry (presenter)
Joan Popowics	Stephanie Caldera (presenter)
Angie Marzano	Alex Bertolucci
Jason Pierzina	Abby Boudouris
Gary Panknin	Cathy Brown
Vinod Singh	Hannah Carleson
Elizabeth Start	Justin Gast
Laura Leebrick	Blaine Mershon
Steve Kramer	Roxann Nayar
Alando Simpson	Nicole Portley
Dan Felton	Cat Rhodes
Taylor Cass Talbott	Gretchen Sandau
Sergio Garcia-Cruz	
Scott Keller	
Dylan de Thomas	
Rosie (Spanish interpreter)	
Victor (Spanish interpreter)	

Audience members	Audience members
Madeline Smith Lindsay Iten Scott Byrne Maddy Do Peter Bierbaum Lucy Pierce Robert Fortner Jody Snyder Jacob Cassady Andrew Jolin Steve Pincuspy Dave Larmouth Jason Hudson Ruby Mitchell John Hite Jennifer Olson Ishaan Sinha Molly Blessing Rosalynn Greene	Tristan Steichen Amii Chong Andrea Fogue Christa McDermott Joel Schoening Eva Serrillos Amaya Richard Park Jill Hrycyk Maya Buelow Rebecca Hile Pete Chism-Winfield Alicia Givens Walter Reiter Chris Parta Darla Arians Jerry Powell

Please note: Affiliations are not listed for audience members. Organizational affiliation or representation is not required for a person to attend or provide public input at Recycling Council meetings.

Translation or other formats

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