

Meeting summary: Oregon Recycling Council

Meeting 6: April 17, 2023



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

Meeting open

Chair Pam Peck convened the meeting at approximately 10:30 a.m., reviewed the meeting agenda and held a roll call of Council members. Alando Simpson, Senator Lynn Findley and Representative Susan McLain were excused absences 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.

Update: Recycling Modernization Act milestones and implementation

Ariane Sperry presented updates on RMA milestones and implementation activities. Sperry described the updated proposal for a transition period that DEQ may make available to local governments who identify a need for capital investment and other structural upgrades before they can begin successful collection and processing of materials on the Uniform Statewide Collection List. Those communities, which may need funding provided by the Producer Responsibility Organizations to support major purchases, would be allotted up to 30 months after the July 1, 2025, implementation date of the RMA to provide the modernized recycling opportunities to residents.

She also described educational and engagement materials that will be developed and made available for local governments, and general implementation milestones starting in 2024. Council members asked clarifying questions throughout the presentation and provided feedback on the updates.

Discussion: Equity study

Stephanie Caldera presented a summary of the equity study authorized as part of the Recycling Modernization Act to be conducted in partnership among DEQ, local governments and the Recycling Council. Caldera described initial design ideas and outlined the general timeline for the study, and noted that DEQ is developing a coordinated engagement strategy for the equity study and several related projects that are on parallel timelines and likely to engage many of the same project partners and communities.

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

- What information might your organization need to assess the sufficiency and availability of services and opportunities, as outlined in the statute?
- Has your organization, or a partner entity, conducted research in the last 10 years regarding any of the study's required elements?
- What does a modernized recycling system, centering equity, in Oregon look like to you, your organization and the communities you serve?

Council members provided their feedback on the questions and general feedback on the equity study initial design. Caldera noted that DEQ will provide ongoing updates on the study throughout its development and process, to ensure close ongoing coordination with the Council as a study partner.

Inform: Customer-facing contamination reduction

Arianne Sperry presented information about an updated obligation for local governments to provide and support contamination reduction efforts. This element of the Recycling Modernization Act means that business and residential customers will have more and better information on how to reduce improper recycling that can lead to contamination of materials at the processing facilities. That information, supported by funding from the Producer Responsibility Organizations, will help local governments and facilities achieve their goals for reduced system contamination and better-quality materials that can be sent to responsible end markets.

Council members asked questions and provided their feedback on the update. Sperry noted that DEQ is co-planning an informational session on this element with Association of Oregon Recyclers as part of AOR's annual conference, both in-person at McMenemy's Edgefield in Troutdale and also virtually, the afternoon of June 15.

Inform: Covered product exemption request

Nicole Portley presented information regarding the draft proposed criteria and process the Recycling Council members will use to assess and make formal recommendations to DEQ for exemptions of categories of RMA-covered products. An exemption would result in the producers not being obligated to pay fees to the Producer Responsibility Organizations for that category of product. The covered product exemption request process, and recommendations, are part of the second RMA rulemaking, starting summer 2023. DEQ must consult with the Recycling Council on any requests for exemptions, and the Council may provide formal recommendations to DEQ for action on the requests that would ultimately be decided through EQC rulemaking.

Portley described the draft criteria DEQ has proposed to assess any exemption requests, and outlined the timeline for next steps. She noted that DEQ would return later in 2023 for consultation with the Recycling Council and their potential decisions and recommendations on which, if any, covered product exemption requests submitted to DEQ by the producers should be included with the Council's support as part of the eventual rulemaking proposal in late 2024.

Council members asked clarifying and general questions and provided feedback on some elements of the presentation.

Public input

No people signed up to speak during the public input portion of this meeting.

Video premiere: Binny!

Cheryl Grabham introduced a series of five new videos, produced by DEQ, that describe the changes associated with recycling in Oregon in 2028 when the Recycling Modernization Act has been implemented. The meeting attendees watched one of the five videos and provided their feedback and support for the videos. DEQ provided the links in the meeting chat for the full playlist:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= stzMRvKU80&list=PLvRFIYvh4XfmGghB1qSWrPFSB74ekcOCF>

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 approximately 12:10 p.m.

Meeting attendees

Council members	DEQ staff
Pam Peck (Chair)	Cheryl Grabham (presenter)
Celeste Meiffren-Swango (Vice-chair)	Ariane Sperry (presenter)
Carolyn Stein	Stephanie Caldera (presenter)
Angie Marzano	Nicole Portley (presenter)
Joan Popowics	David Allaway
Travis St. Clair (for Jason Pierzina)	Alex Bertolucci
Gary Panknin	Abby Boudouris
Vinod Singh	Justin Gast
Elizabeth Start	Laurie Gordon
Laura Leebrick	Gretchen Sandau
Steve Kramer	
Dan Felton	
Taylor Cass Talbott	
Sergio Garcia-Cruz	
Scott Keller	
Dylan de Thomas	
Rosie (Spanish interpreter)	
Victor (Spanish interpreter)	

Audience members	Audience members
Kristin Leichner	Kimberly Holmes
Frank Leach	Nick Isbister
Gary Cohen	Alicia Givens
Andrea Fogue	Maddy Do
Heather Kazmark	Brad
Heather Timm	Rodd Pemble
Nicole Janssen	Erin Raden
Carol Patterson	Tim Shestek
Maya Buelow	Joel Schoening
Lindsay Iten	John Hite
Peter Bierbaum	Antonia Borek
Amy Roth	Trina Matta
Jacob Anderson	Eleanor Sano
Gary Jones	Dakota Tangredi
Heather Trim	Scott Klag
Sergey Yurcha	Brendan Jamieson
Natalie Zito	Scott Byrne
Walter Reiter	Joel Kalegi
Jeff Murray	Kristan Mitchell

Please note: Affiliations are not listed for audience members and names shown are those provided by the audience members through the Zoom platform. 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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