



Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act: Equity

The Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act includes [policy statements and updated legal requirements](#) that are intended to make Oregon’s recycling system, from collection points to end markets, reflect a more equitable distribution of benefits and reduce the economic, social and human-health related burdens of recycling. DEQ will work in collaboration with the Oregon Recycling Council, government partners and many others engaged with Oregon’s recycling system to develop and implement this work.

Living wage, supportive benefits and healthy workplace requirements

DEQ will develop policy proposals for the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission to define the wages and benefits provided to workers, and human-health based workplace requirements for all people working or visiting, at Oregon’s commingled recycling processing facilities. The new requirements will be effective Jan. 1, 2027.

- Related law: ORS 459A.905
- Timeline: Rulemaking 2 - February 2023 through summer 2024

Study of recycling system equity for Oregon’s communities

DEQ will engage in a broad study of equity in Oregon’s recycling system and assess areas of improvement specific to recycling services offered to people in multifamily housing.

- Related law: ORS 459A.932 (equity), and ORS 459A.935 (multifamily)
- Multifamily service assessment timeline: Winter 2023 start
- Equity study timeline: Summer 2023 start; required every four years with a report to the Legislature

Updates to service for rural communities, including reimbursement for transportation costs

Local governments will be compensated for transportation costs of bringing recyclable materials to processing facilities, most of which are centered near the Portland metropolitan area. This is a current economic barrier for rural governments, which leads to reduced service for many people in Oregon’s smaller communities.

- Related law: ORS 459A.890
- Timeline: Rulemaking 1 – Summer 2022 through fall 2023

Commitment to inclusive engagement and communications

Producer Responsibility Organizations, working with the Recycling Council and local governments, will be required to create engagement, communication and educational materials to promote recycling opportunities and updates to Oregon’s recycling system. These materials must be in languages spoken and read by the people affected by the information and reflective of the diverse communities across Oregon.

- Related law: ORS 459A.893 and ORS 459A.929
- Timeline: Following DEQ’s approval of Producer Responsibility Organization Plans, in summer 2024

Policy alignment with Oregon’s 2050 Vision and Framework for Action

Oregon’s [2050 Vision and Framework for Action](#) presents a future in which all people in Oregon can produce and use materials responsibly, conserving resources, protecting the environment and enhancing well-being. The Oregon Legislature included policy statements in the Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act to explicitly include social equity as part of the state’s approach to recycling opportunities statewide. DEQ included assessments of environmental and social impacts of materials in the development of material collection lists and requirements. The Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act also requires that all materials collected for recycling in Oregon must be sent to responsible end markets that reduce or eliminate displaced pollution burdens and social equity discrepancies present in the current global recycling system.

- Related law: ORS 459A.860, ORS 459A.896, ORS 459A.914 and ORS 459A.955
- Timeline: Rulemakings 1 and 2, with ongoing updates related to the four-year system assessment and report cycle

Announcements and updates

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