



Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Compensation for Local Governments or Service Providers

Questions for service providers

Contact: Brian Stafki, brian.stafki@deq.oregon.gov, 503-229-5492

Local governments or their service providers will have new opportunities under the Recycling Modernization Act to receive funding from producers and manufacturers of packaged items, paper products and food serviceware. Beginning in 2025, producer responsibility organizations will be required to provide advanced funding or reimbursement to local governments and their service providers for aspects of local recycling systems as described in [Oregon Revised Statute 459A.890](#), as well as other duties.

In preparation for the first rulemaking for the Recycling Modernization Act (SB 582), DEQ staff are meeting with representative parties to understand various operational and financial procedures and perspectives related to local government compensation. There will be robust stakeholder and public engagement as part of the rulemaking process. Other service providers are welcome to submit answers to the questions below to brian.stafki@deq.oregon.gov before June 30, 2022.

Learn more about the Recycling Modernization Act at www.oregon.gov/deq/recycling/Pages/Modernizing-Oregons-Recycling-System.aspx.

General reimbursement

ORS 459A.890 requires PROs provide advanced funding or reimbursement to local governments or their service providers, as is appropriate. Some of the elements such as expansion of recycling collection service, would likely be funded in advance, while others would likely follow a reimbursement model that would include receipts.

Questions

1. What is the appropriate level of detail for receipts?
2. What is the appropriate frequency for submitting receipts?

Costs of transporting covered products

ORS 459A.890(2) requires PROs cover the costs of transporting covered products from recycling reload facilities or depots to a commingled recycling processing facility or end market. Eligible costs include material receiving, consolidation, loading and transportation to the closest facility with capacity.

Questions

1. How does your company arrange for transfer of recyclable materials to processors or markets (common carriers, own vehicles or other)?
2. What are your common recycling transfer options used to transport commingled materials for distances of 50 miles or more (closed trailers, flat beds, walking floor trailers, dumping vehicles, etc.)?
3. What are your average weights of various full loads being transferred by recyclable material (commingled, cardboard, glass, etc.)?

4. How do your recycling transfer sites in smaller communities manage storage of recyclables before accumulating a full load?
5. What are the benefits or drawbacks for your company of the following systems for paying recycling transfer costs?
 - a. Direct receipts
 - b. Mileage records
 - c. Fixed payments by formula
 - d. Payment per ton shipped based on location-specific rate schedules or zonal map
6. What are the benefits or drawbacks of the PRO or the processor directly arranging and providing for the cost of transportation of material between the transfer site dock and the destination processing facility?
7. For a system with rate schedules or zonal map, how frequently should prices be updated?
8. Are there any other factors or issues we should consider as we work to create a reimbursement framework that is not overly burdensome and also fair to both local governments, their service providers and the PROs?

Costs of periodically evaluating contamination of collected materials

ORS 459A.890(3) requires PROs cover the costs for local governments or their service providers to periodically evaluate the quality and contamination of collected materials, but only if the evaluation occurs at a location other than a commingled recycling processing facility. Local programs will periodically evaluate individual route trucks to determine which routes might need additional attention. Evaluation will be more qualitative in nature and not require sorting of loads, but more of a quick visual assessment.

Questions

1. What are the challenges associated with conducting a visual assessment of recycling route truck loads for significant contamination after being tipped and before being reloaded for transfer?
2. How is recycling route truck assessment being conducted after being tipped for reload and transfer?
3. How long would it take to do a quick visual inspection of dumped recycling loads from route trucks to generate an estimate of significant contamination for the purposes of route feedback, including data entry and data submittal?
4. What would be a reasonable estimate of the fully-loaded hourly rate for someone who would visually inspect a recycling load?
5. What is a reasonable frequency for inspecting loads for the purpose of understanding route issues?

Expansion and provision of recycling collection services

Under ORS 459A.890(5), PROs must fund the costs associated with expanding collection for covered products by local governments. To be eligible for this funding, local governments must indicate what expansion is needed as part of a needs assessment conducted by DEQ in the fall of 2022 and periodically thereafter. Eligible expenses include startup expenses with new on-route collection and reload facility, if needed, and both startup and ongoing operating costs of new or expanded depots.

Questions

1. How often should the local government needs assessment occur?

2. What is a reasonable timeframe for making improvements once an agreement has been made between local governments, their service providers and the PRO?

Returning funding

Under ORS 459A.890(11)(b), funding received by local governments or their service provider and is not used must be return to the PRO.

Questions

1. What is a reasonable timeframe for returning funds that were provided to local governments and service providers from the PRO for expansion that didn't occur?

Alternate 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.