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Oregon Recycling System Advisory Council 2022 Legislative Report

Submitted to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly



This document was prepared by
The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
on behalf of the Oregon Recycling System Advisory Council

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Oregon is a national leader when it comes to recycling. Oregonians value the environmental benefits of recycling and established state policies in the 1980s and 1990s that require communities to provide recycling opportunities for everyone in the state. In 2018, following China's ban on the import of recycling commodities, Oregon's recycling system was in jeopardy. The Department of Environmental Quality, in partnership with local governments, recycling haulers and processors, producers and more, convened the Recycling Steering Committee. This diverse group reached a consensus on recommended concepts for modernizing Oregon's recycling system. These recommendations became the basis for Senate Bill 582 during the 2021 legislative session. The Oregon Legislature passed the Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act, and Governor Brown signed it into law on August 6, 2021. The new law took effect on January 1, 2022.



The law established the Oregon Recycling System Advisory Council to advise DEQ and Producer Responsibility Organizations throughout the implementation of the RMA. The Council will meet at least quarterly in perpetuity. From now until 2025, the Council will focus on reviewing and making recommendations to DEQ and Producer Responsibility Organizations on key recycling system elements, including a uniform statewide collection list, PRO program plans, and more. The Recycling Council has met twice since forming in May of 2022. Meetings focused on establishing the Council, background updates and review of rule concepts developed for the rule advisory committee as part of the new law. Following the full implementation of the law in 2025, the Council's role will shift from a focus on foundational work to a focus on the maintenance and long-term success of the law.

As required by the Act, the Recycling Council will provide a report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to the environment every even-numbered year. This report fulfills that requirement for 2022.

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The Oregon Recycling System Advisory Council

The Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act (SB 582, 2021), or RMA, created the Oregon Recycling System Advisory Council. The Recycling Council comprises 17 members appointed by the Governor, plus two non-voting members of the Legislature appointed by the Senate President and Speaker of the House. Members of the Council represent local governments, community-based organizations representing the interests of historically underserved groups, small businesses, environmental nonprofit organizations, the recycling industry, service providers, processors or material end-users and producers of covered products or producer trade associations or suppliers. The Council will advise DEQ and Producer Responsibility Organizations, or PROs, on key recycling system elements, including the uniform statewide collection list, PRO program plans, and much more.

The Recycling Council is an advisory body whose duties began in 2022 during the initial development and implementation phase of the RMA and will continue in perpetuity. The Council will review key elements of the recycling system and provide recommendations to DEQ and the PROs as outlined in Section 18 of the RMA. Section 18 outlines the duties of the Council. These duties include: reviewing activities related to sections 1 to 43 of the RMA; advising DEQ and PROs on issues related to the implementation of the RMA; reviewing PRO program plans; making recommendations related to the establishment and maintenance of the recycling acceptance lists, covered products, PRO membership fee structures, recycling depot or mobile collection events, PRO plans to improve access to recycling, PRO fee distribution, system funding, and education campaigns and resources.

Section 17 of the RMA directs DEQ to provide administrative and staff support and facilities necessary for the Council to carry out its responsibilities.

Recycling Council Members

Governor Appointed

Name	Organization	Represents
Dan Felton	AMERIPEN	Producers
Dylan de Thomas	The Recycling Partnership	Producers
Sergio Garcia-Cruz	Centro Cultural	Community-based organizations
Scott Keller	City of Beaverton	Local Government
Commissioner Steve Kramer	Wasco County	Local Government
Laura Leebrick	Rogue Waste Systems	Recycling Industry
Angie Marzano	Lane County	Local Government
Celeste Meiffren-Swango	Environment Oregon	Environmental Nonprofit
Gary R. Panknin	Pak Tec	Producers
Pam Peck (Chair)	Oregon Metro	Local Government
Jason Pierzina	International Paper	Recycling Industry
Joan Popowics	Procter & Gamble	Producers
Alando Simpson	City of Roses Disposal & Recycling	Recycling Industry
Vinod Singh	Far West Recycling	Recycling Industry
Elizabeth Start	Start Consulting Group	Small Business

Carolyn Stein	BRING Recycling	Environmental Nonprofit
Taylor Cass Talbott	Trash for Peace	Community-Based Organizations

Legislators

Legislative members of the Council are non-voting members and act in an advisory capacity.

Name	Organization	Represents
Sen. Bill Kenemer	Oregon Legislature	Oregon Senate
Rep. Susan McLain	Oregon Legislature	Oregon House

DEQ Recycling Council Staff

Cheryl Grabham – Materials Management Program Manager

Alex Bertolucci – Interim Project Manager

Council members serve staggered three-year terms. The role of the Chair and Vice-Chair will last one year.

To ensure the Recycling Council retains institutional memory, runs smoothly and establishes a staggered rotation of members, some original Council member's terms are staggered for the first three years of the Council, as shown in the table below.

Name	Council term start date	Council term end date
Alando Simpson	01-12-22	06-30-25
Angie Marzano	01-12-22	06-30-24
Carolyn Stein	01-12-22	06-30-25
Celeste Meiffren-Swango	01-12-22	06-30-24
Dan Felton	01-12-22	06-30-25
Dylan de Thomas	01-12-22	06-30-23
Elizabeth Start	01-12-22	06-30-24
Gary Panknin	01-12-22	06-30-23
Jason Pierzina	01-12-22	06-30-24
Joan Popowics	01-12-22	06-30-24
Laura Leebrick	01-12-22	06-30-23

Pam Peck	01-12-22	06-30-25
Scott Keller	01-12-22	06-30-23
Sergio Garcia Cruz	01-12-22	06-30-25
Steve Kramer	01-12-22	06-30-24
Taylor Cass Talbott	01-12-22	06-30-23
Vinod Singh	01-12-22	06-30-25

Meetings

The Council has met twice since its formation, on May 11, 2022, and August 18, 2022. Meeting topics included background presentations on SB 582, Council housekeeping such as Council [rules](#) and election of Chair and vice-Chair, project updates, and discussion on rule concepts working through the Rule Advisory Committee process. Subjects the RAC is considering include: the definition of "responsible end markets"; obligations of PROs including coordination, fees, and market share; how PROs will compensate local governments; and what materials could be included on recycling acceptance lists and how DEQ developed these lists.

To see all Recycling Council meeting agendas, presentations and summaries, please visit the Recycling Council webpage at oregon.gov/deq/recycling/Pages/ORSAC.aspx.

Pam Peck of Oregon Metro was nominated and elected as Chair of the Council. Elizabeth Start of Start Consulting was elected as Vice-Chair but later stepped down. A new nomination process and Vice-Chair election will occur after the August 2022 meeting.

By statute, the Council must meet at least quarterly. The current Council preferred to meet more frequently due to numerous projects during the RMA implementation phase.

Recommendations

Section 18 subsection (3) of the RMA directs this report to describe any Council recommendations. Due to the limited number of meetings and the Council's recent formation, the Council has yet to make formal recommendations to either the PROs or DEQ.

What comes next?

Over the next two years, the Council will provide feedback and recommendations to DEQ on rule concepts and implementation of the RMA. Once PROs begin establishing, the Council will review and provide input on PRO program plans. These plans describe how PROs will manage and administer a producer responsibility program to meet the organization's obligations under the RMA using objective and measurable criteria whenever possible.

The Council looks forward to engaging with DEQ and PROs to produce a system that works well for all people in Oregon and the obligated producers of printed paper and packaging.

For more information about the Recycling Council and upcoming meetings, visit the Recycling Council webpage at oregon.gov/deq/recycling/Pages/ORSAC.aspx.