



Recycling Acceptance Lists: Oct. 20, 2022 Update

Prepared for consultation with Oregon Recycling Council at its Oct. 20, 2022 meeting

During the Oregon Recycling Council's Aug. 18, 2022 meeting, DEQ introduced efforts to evaluate and recommend materials for inclusion in two different recycling acceptance lists – one for local governments and one for PROs. These lists, which will initially be established by administrative rule in 2023, will define which materials local governments and PROs must collect for recycling. The lists also have implications for commingled processing facilities, the fees paid to those facilities by PROs, the design of public outreach efforts and programs to reduce contamination, and the fees PROs charge their members.

Background

Prior to naming any material to an acceptance list, the Environmental Quality Commission is required to consider a number of factors listed in ORS 459A.914(3). These include the viability of responsible end markets, impacts on existing infrastructure, quantities, contamination, behavioral effects, and economic, environmental and health and safety considerations. The commission is also required to consult with the Oregon Recycling System Advisory Council regarding recycling acceptance lists. Discussions planned for the Oct. 20, 2022 Recycling Council meeting are part of that mandated consultation.

DEQ is currently evaluating materials that might be considered for placement on a recycling acceptance list. DEQ is not prepared at this time to offer a complete recommendation regarding placement of all materials. At the Oct. 20 meeting, DEQ will invite feedback on two "partial" acceptance lists. These are described as "partial" because a third list of materials – also provided below – is still under consideration.

These lists may vary slightly from lists that DEQ will share with the Rulemaking Advisory Committee later in October. The ongoing evaluation process and parallel, but staggered, schedules of Recycling Council and Rulemaking Advisory Committee meetings means that draft acceptance lists are currently in a state of flux.

PRO acceptance lists

DEQ is currently recommending requiring PROs to provide for recycling of the following materials under separate collection services as required by ORS 459A.914(1)(b) and ORS 459A.896(1):

- Steel and aluminum aerosol packaging
- Aluminum foil and pressed foil products
- Shredded paper
- Polyethylene film
- Plastic buckets and other bulky HDPE (#2) or polypropylene (#5) packaging

Local government acceptance lists

DEQ is currently recommending requiring local governments to collect the following materials under their Opportunity to Recycle obligations:

- At both depots and on-route collection, and suitable for commingled collection (Uniform Statewide Collection List):
 - Corrugated cardboard (uncoated and recycle-compatible coated; clean pizza boxes OK)
 - All kraft paper (brown paper bags, mailers)
 - Paperboard packaging (e.g., cereal, cracker and medicine boxes)
 - Molded pulp packaging (e.g., egg cartons, but not food serviceware)
 - Polycoated cartons (e.g., milk cartons), aseptic cartons, and polycoated paper cups
 - Tissue paper used as packaging (not facial or sanitary tissue)
 - Non-metalized gift wrap
 - High-grade office paper (e.g., white and colored ledger)
 - Newspaper/newsprint
 - Magazines, catalogs and similar glossy paper
 - Telephone directories
 - Other printing and writing paper (e.g., envelopes, "junk mail", cards)
 - Paperback books
 - Aluminum food and beverage cans
 - Steel cans, including empty/dry paint cans
 - Scrap metal less than 10 pounds in weight and 18 inches in length; excluding sharp items and "tanglers" (e.g., bicycle chains, wire)
 - Plastic bottles and jugs, 6 ounces and larger, made of clear PET (#1), natural or colored HDPE (#2) or LDPE (#4), or clear or colored polypropylene (#5) (caps OK if screwed on)
 - Plastic tubs (e.g., cottage cheese), 6 ounces or larger, made of PET (#1), HDPE (#2), LDPE (#4), or polypropylene (#5)
 - Any plastic buckets, pails, storage containers and other bulky HDPE (#2) or polypropylene (#5) plastic packaging that fit loosely in the provided on-route collection container
 - Clear plastic cups, made of PET (#1) or polypropylene (#5), but no other plastic food serviceware
- Only at depots and collected segregated from other materials (not commingled):
 - Motor oil
 - Scrap metal including items not on the Uniform Statewide Collection List

Other materials still under consideration

DEQ will bring recommendations to a future meeting of the Recycling Council regarding possible placement on acceptance lists of the following materials:

- Paper "cans" with metal ends (e.g., Pringles can)
- Glass packaging
- PET thermoform packaging (e.g., clear lettuce and berry clamshells)
- Nursery packaging (e.g., flower pots and trays)
- Block white expanded polystyrene
- Polyethylene and polypropylene lids
- HDPE package handles (such as 6-pack handles)
- Large metal appliances (such as refrigerators, washers, and dryers)
- Single-use propane canisters

Conclusion and next steps

Materials not on any of the three lists described above have either not been evaluated by DEQ, or have been evaluated and set aside as not recommended for inclusion on acceptance lists at this time.

As part of the consultation with the Recycling Council mandated by ORS 459A.914(1), DEQ invites feedback from Council members on all materials – those recommended for placement in this document, those still under consideration, and any other materials. Initial discussion will occur at the Oct. 20 meeting and DEQ will seek additional feedback at a future meeting.

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