



State of Oregon  
Department of Environmental Quality

# Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act

## There are BIG changes coming to recycling in Oregon!

### What local governments and waste service providers need to know:

There are changes coming to Oregon's recycling system relevant to the communities you serve. This mailer contains information and resources about how these changes will impact your community.

The Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act updates Oregon's recycling system by building on local community programs and leveraging resources from producers, creating a system where everyone in Oregon has the same opportunities to recycle. The law requires producers of packaging, printing and writing paper and food serviceware to share responsibility for the effective, responsible handling of their products after use.

The new law became effective Jan. 1, 2022, and program implementation begins in July 2025. RMA builds on existing standards and requirements from Oregon's Opportunity to Recycle Act, or OTR. The new law creates:

- **Many benefits for local governments**, including funding to expand recycling opportunities and to help reduce contamination in the recycling system.
- **Some new requirements for cities over 4,000 population**, the areas within their urban growth boundaries and all cities in the Metro Regional Service District.
- **Many benefits and opportunities to expand recycling with very few requirements for cities with populations under 4,000.**

## HOW IT WILL WORK



### Producers

Will join a Producer Responsibility Organization and pay fees based on the packaging they sell in Oregon

### Producer Responsibility Organizations

Will use the fees to fund and reimbursement various local recycling services expenses



### Recycling Processing Facilities

Will meet new performance standards and permitting requirements

### Unified Statewide Collection List

Will establish a uniform list of materials that are recyclable across Oregon



### Local Governments

Will receive financial support to expand recycling services, including for education and contamination reduction

[RecyclingAct.Oregon.gov](https://RecyclingAct.Oregon.gov)

# Producers and Producer Responsibility Organizations

## Producers:

Companies identified as 'Producers' are required to join and pay fees to a Producer Responsibility Organization, or PRO.

## Producer Responsibility Organization:

A PRO is a non-profit organization and will be established to administer the statewide program for the management of the covered products. The PRO will use the fees to fund recycling system improvements in municipalities across Oregon.

## Local governments

The RMA creates new funding mechanisms for local governments, who will continue overseeing collection and providing education in their communities. Service providers will still provide recycling services. The law includes funding to support the creation of:

- New resources to reduce contamination found in the commingled recycling stream.
- New educational resources to meet the needs of diverse communities.
- Great opportunities to improve and expand existing recycling services.
- New opportunities to implement recycling services for communities that do not currently have on-route collection or depot collection.

## Collection and processing

Under the new law:

- **DEQ** will publish a uniform statewide collection list for commingled recyclable material, allowing residents and businesses to recycle the same material, regardless of location.
- **PRO** funding will cover the costs of transporting collected recyclables from rural communities currently 50+ miles from a commingled recycling processing facility or responsible end market.
- **Commingled recycling processing facilities** will meet new performance standards for material quality, reporting, and providing a living wage and supportive benefits to workers, among other things.

## Stay tuned!

**DEQ is reaching out to communities across Oregon this fall!** DEQ will host informational sessions with local governments, service providers and other interested parties across Oregon. These meetings will include time for questions. Options for in-person local meetings and virtual meeting details will be posted on DEQ's website. See the following section titled "How you can learn more" for more resources.

**November 2022**

DEQ informational sessions

**October 2022 - January 2023**

Rulemaking Advisory Committee considers draft rule concepts

**January 2023**

Needs assessment survey

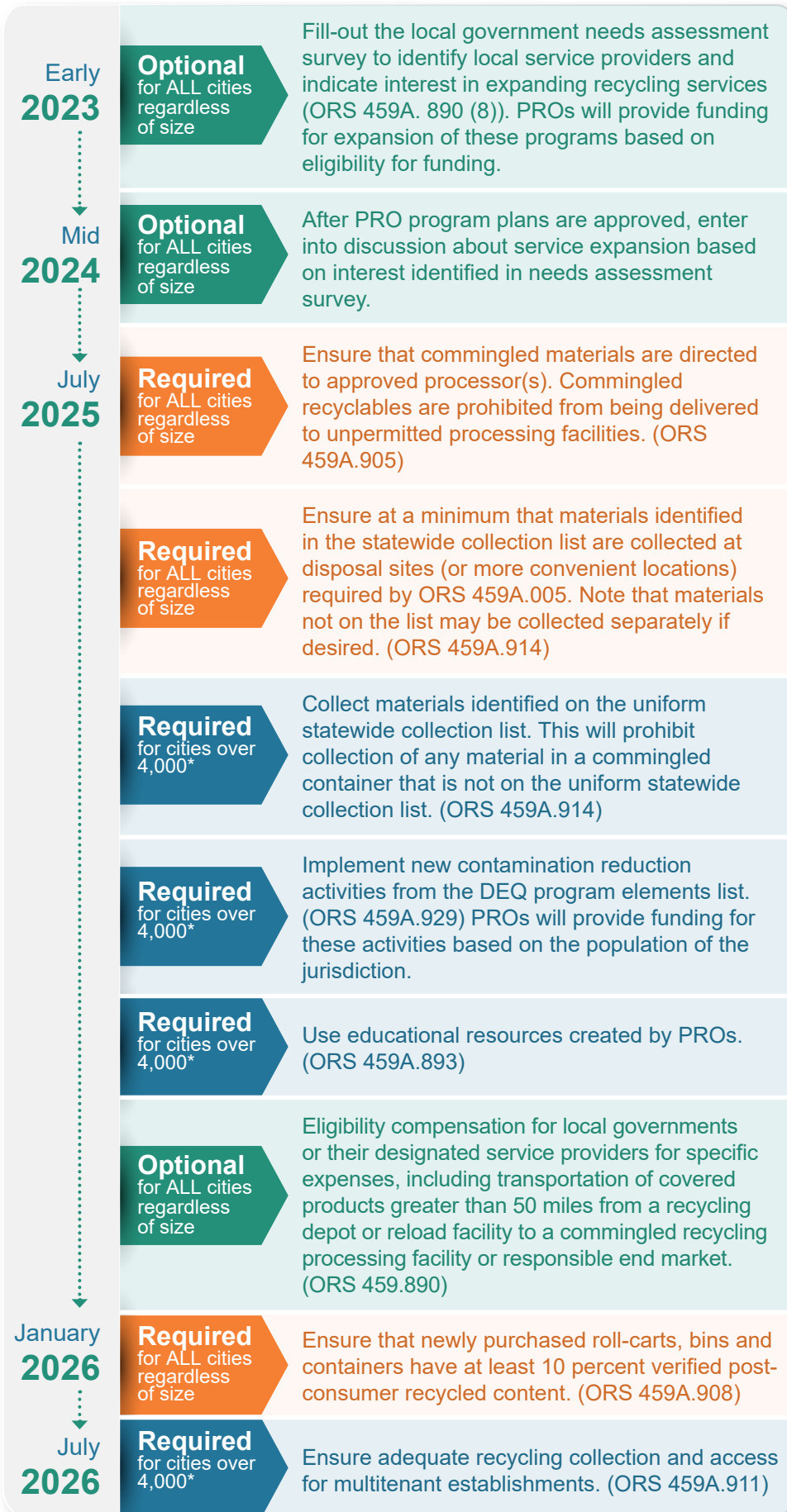
**March 2023**

DEQ to prepare draft rules

**May - June 2023**

Public comment period

# Local government requirements



\*Including areas within the urban growth boundary of those cities, cities in the Metro Service District.

## How you can learn more

**RecyclingAct.Oregon.gov**



Scan the QR code to sign up for email updates and upcoming meetings.

For general questions, email [RethinkRecycling@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:RethinkRecycling@deq.oregon.gov) or reach out to one of the DEQ specialists in your area:

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## Opportunities for local governments

Under the new law, DEQ will assess local interest in expanding collection options and recycling depots. Look for a needs assessment survey from DEQ contractor, Eunomia, in early 2023 asking how your community would like to expand recycling services.

Those who complete the needs assessment survey and express interest in expanding recycling services will be eligible to receive funding under this new system beginning in mid-2024.

Expansion of services will begin in 2025 after the PROs work with participating local governments and service providers to determine what service expansions will be funded.

Examples of services expansion include but are not limited to:

- **new or expanded curbside collection** of covered recyclable materials such as roll carts, educational materials and collection trucks;
- **new or expanded depots** for covered recyclable products such as containers, equipment, new staff;
- **new recycling reload facilities** if needed. For example, compactors, containers, or other equipment; and
- **other system improvements** to be determined

