



Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act

There are BIG changes coming to recycling in Oregon!

What local governments and 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 with populations over 4,000**, 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 products they sell in Oregon

Producer Responsibility Organizations

Will use the fees to fund and reimburse various local recycling service expenses



Recycling Processing Facilities

Will establish new permit and certification requirements

Uniform 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 and address contamination

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 communities across Oregon.

Local governments

The RMA creates new funding mechanisms for local governments, who will continue overseeing collection and will receive financial support to expand recycling services and address contamination. The law includes funding to support the creation of:

- New resources to reduce contamination found in the commingled recycling stream.
- New educational resources about the uniform statewide collection list that are culturally responsive and available in multiple languages
- Opportunities to improve and expand existing recycling services and to implement recycling services for communities that do not currently have on-route collection or depot collection.

Collection and processing

Under the new law:

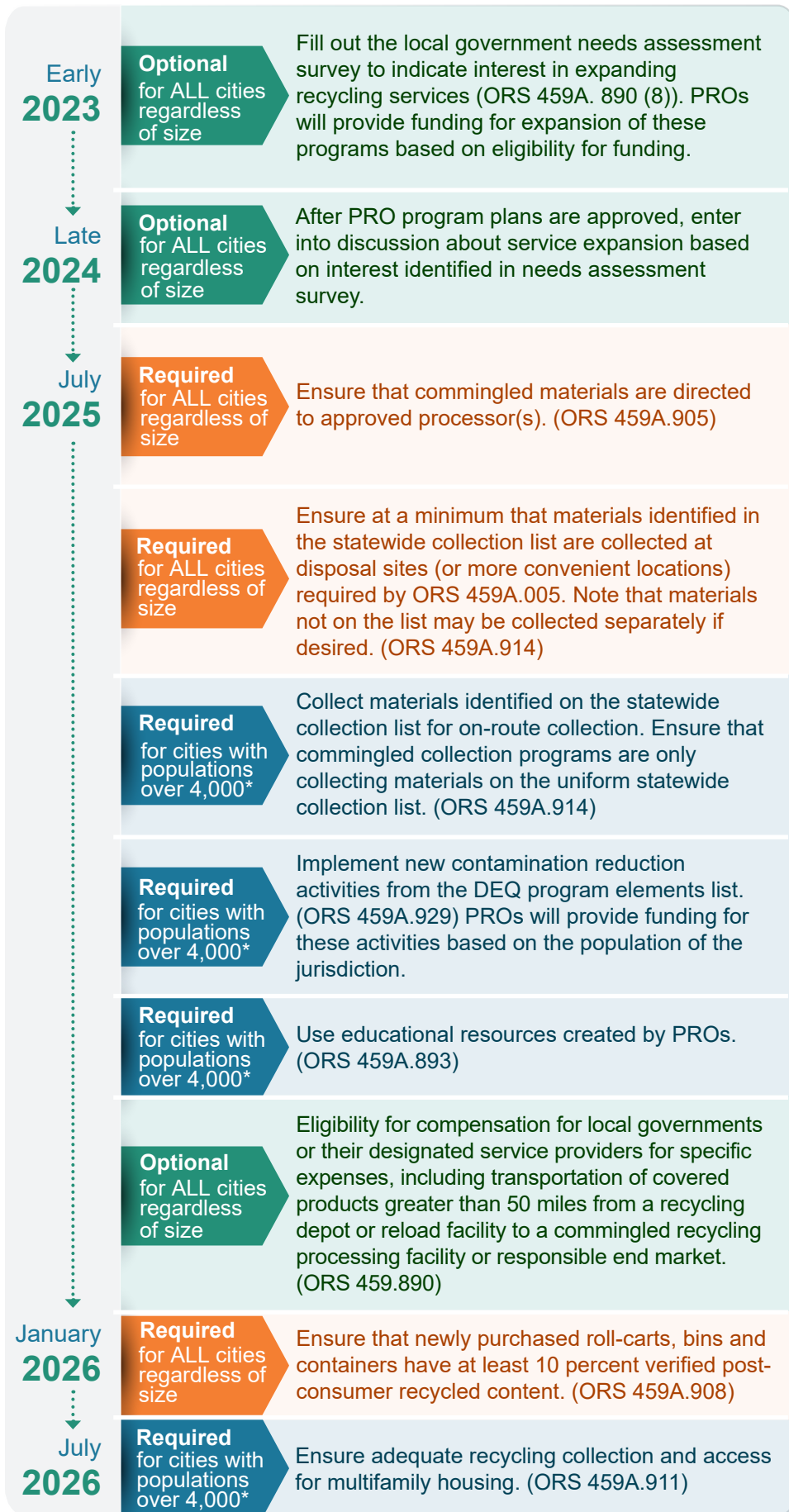
- **DEQ** will publish a uniform statewide collection list for commingled recyclable material, allowing residents and businesses to recycle the same material, regardless of location.
- **PRO** funding will cover the costs of transporting collected recyclables from communities currently 50+ miles from the nearest 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!

In fall 2022, DEQ hosted informational sessions with local governments, service providers and other interested parties across Oregon. The presentation recording and slides can be viewed at RecyclingAct.Oregon.gov. Below is the roadmap for the service expansion needs assessment:



Local government requirements



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

How you can learn more

RecyclingAct.Oregon.gov



Scan the QR code to sign up for email updates and view DEQ's presentation on local government requirements and opportunities for recycling service expansion.

For general questions, email 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 Research & Consulting, 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 2025.

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

