



Upcoming meetings and reminders:

- May 18, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | Life Cycle Impact Evaluation Listening Session ([Register in advance](#))
- May 25, 2023, from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Oregon Impact Reduction and Reuse Program Listening Session ([Register in advance](#))
- June 12, 2023, from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Recycling Council Meeting ([Register in advance](#))
- June 15, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Customer-Facing Contamination Reduction Forum ([Register to attend in-person](#) | [Register in advance for Zoom meeting](#))
- June 30, 2023 | Life Cycle Impact Evaluation Request for Information Response Deadline

General updates:



Introducing the Recycling Modernization Act's new spokesperson, Binny! Check out the [RMA web page](#) to get to know Binny and learn more about the future of recycling in Oregon.

Recycling Council

Oregon's Recycling Council last met on April 17 to discuss elements of the RMA focused on improving equity, to hear an update on customer-facing contamination reduction programs, and to provide feedback on DEQ's proposal for considering exemption requests for covered products.

The next meeting will be held June 12 from 10:30 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. Public input is welcome during Recycling Council meetings! Please visit the [Recycling Council website](#) to register for meetings and review the agenda.

First Rulemaking Process

The first rulemaking process addresses topics related to Producer Responsibility Organization obligations, local government compensation, and recycling acceptance lists.

The Rulemaking Advisory Committee met for the last time on April 11 to review the draft rules, the equity statement and fiscal impact statement. View the agenda, presentation, and meeting notes on the [website for the first RMA rulemaking](#).

DEQ plans to publish proposed rules and seek public comment beginning in late May or early June.

Second Rulemaking Process

The second rulemaking process will launch this summer and will address a variety of topics, including:

- Permitting and certification standards for commingled recycling processing facilities

- Contamination Management Fee and Processor Commodity Risk Fee paid to recycling processors by producer responsibility organizations
- Living wages and supportive benefits for workers at commingled recycling processing facilities
- Set the fee for the Oregon Impact Reduction and Reuse Program
- Establish standards for life cycle impact evaluation and disclosure
- Covered product exemptions

For more information, visit the [website for the second RMA rulemaking](#).

Fees and Permit and Certification Standards for Recycling Processing Facilities

The Commingled Recycling Processing Facilities technical workgroup was convened to bring partner knowledge and insight into the research process that will help develop the recycling processor permit and certification programs and the fees that the producer responsibility organizations will pay to the facilities. At its most recent meeting on April 24, the workgroup reviewed the draft study designs for the Contamination Management Fee and the Processor Commodity Risk Fee. To view the agenda and meeting materials, please visit the [DEQ Commingled Processing Facilities website](#).

Covered Product Exemption Request Process Now Open

From May 1 to June 30, DEQ is accepting requests from producers and other interested parties for the exemption of additional products from the definition of a covered product in ORS 459A.863(6). Producers would not be required to pay fees for exempted products, though they would still pay fees for any of their other covered products.

Instructions for submitting requests are [here](#). DEQ will evaluate requests this summer, in consultation with the Recycling Council.

Oregon Impact Reduction and Reuse Program

Think the RMA is only about recycling? Think again! DEQ is beginning work on a section of the Recycling Modernization Act that will fund reuse programs and other upstream efforts that reduce the environmental impacts of covered products through means *other* than recycling. Under [ORS 459A.941](#), the Environmental Quality Commission shall establish a fee to be paid by producer responsibility organizations to support such programs. This work is critical because recycling by itself is helpful but insufficient for realizing a sustainable future. For more information, please visit the [project web page](#) or contact the project manager, [Blaine Mershon](#).

DEQ is hosting a listening session during the lunch hour on May 25, 2023 to gather feedback and insight on potential projects for the Oregon Impact Reduction and Reuse Program. All are welcome to learn and share their thoughts. To attend, please [register in advance](#).

Life Cycle Impact Evaluation

The Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act requires the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission to establish by rule the methodology, procedures, and requirements to be used by producers of covered products when conducting evaluations of life cycle environmental impacts pursuant to the Act. Evaluations conducted by producers of packaging, printing and writing paper, and food serviceware in accordance with these rules will be used by the top 25 largest producers in the state to fulfill an obligation to evaluate and disclose impacts and can be used by all producers in requesting eco-modulated fee discounts.

DEQ is requesting information that will help inform a rule concept. A listening session will be held on May 18 at 9:00 a.m. and interested attendees can [register in advance](#). This request for information can be found on the [project web page](#). Submit information, identified by RFI name, to RethinkRecycling@deq.state.or.us. Responses must be received by June 30, 2023.

Customer-facing Contamination Reduction

One of the ways the RMA aims to build a resilient and responsible recycling system in Oregon is to reduce contamination in the commingled recycling. In addition to requiring improved sorting at recycling processing facilities, the RMA will fund programming by local governments to help Oregon residents and businesses learn how to recycle right.

DEQ also has a role to play in supporting this work, by evaluating the relative cost-effectiveness of different methods for reducing contamination and developing a list of approved program elements for local governments to use in their contamination reduction efforts. DEQ is currently seeking a contractor to conduct research and evaluation on these topics.

DEQ is collaborating with the Association of Oregon Recyclers to host a June 15 forum on reducing contamination in commingled recycling. The morning session focuses on technological solutions and will be held at McMenamins Edgefield in Troutdale. DEQ is hosting the afternoon session at 2:00 p.m., which focuses on the RMA's new requirements and funding for customer-facing contamination reduction programming. The afternoon forum is free and there are both in-person and virtual participation options. Register to attend in-person at the [AOR website](#) or register for the [Zoom meeting](#) here.

Prospective PROs post their information to DEQ's website

In April DEQ asked prospective producer responsibility organizations to post their contact details to DEQ's website. Three groups have responded, and their contact information is posted on the Recycling Modernization Act [web page](#). Any prospective PROs may reach out to [Nicole Portley](#), PRO Program Plan lead.

Want to learn more about the Recycling Modernization Act and find opportunities for engagement?

More information is available at the following resources:

- [Implementation Timeline](#) (Cronograma de implementación)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (Preguntas y respuestas frecuentes)
- [Fact sheet](#) (Hoja informativa)
- [Public Involvement Timeline](#) (Ley de modernización del reciclaje: cronograma de participación pública)

For all other inquires, contact RethinkRecycling@deq.state.or.us.