The background of the slide is an abstract composition of numerous thin, flowing lines in various shades of blue and green. These lines create a sense of movement and depth, resembling a stylized representation of water or a complex network. The lines are most concentrated in the center and right side of the image, with some lines curving and overlapping to form a central vortex-like shape.

# SYSTEM FRAMEWORK CONCEPT

OREGON RECYCLING  
STEERING COMMITTEE -  
AUGUST 13, 2020



**Recycling Steering Committee  
Local Government  
Representatives**

**Sarah Grimm**  
Lane County

**Scott Keller**  
League of Oregon Cities

**Pam Peck**  
Metro

**Timm Schimke**  
Association of Oregon Counties

**Bruce Walker**  
City of Portland

## Process and Timing

- **Draft** framework concept discussions -- **we're not finished!**
  - RSC small group meetings on Monday (8/10)
  - Second round of RSC small groups on Monday (8/17)
  - A preliminary draft will be sent out later today (Thursday) or early Friday by Robin/Amy
- **Provided an update to LOC and AOC** on this concept last week
- **We expect there will be additional edits/revisions** over the next week and will work to finish our proposed framework concept by late next week
- Full RSC currently has two more meetings scheduled, during which we expect to discuss the framework
  - **Thursday 8/27**
  - **Friday 9/11**

# REFRESHER: The Past And Present

## 1. Oregon is a national leader in recycling

- Oregonians value the environmental benefits of recycling and established state policies in the 1980's & 1990's.
- Local recycling programs were developed when most products were manufactured in the USA and only a few items were packaged in plastic.

## 2. Part of a complex international manufacturing and supply system

- Contamination has devastating environmental and social impacts on end market communities and has resulted in a rapid rise in system costs.
- This has been particularly hard for communities that also pay for transfer, storage, reload and transport of collected materials to distant processing facilities.

## 3. Change

- While residents can buy less stuff and reuse what they have, consumer brands, packaging producers and plastics manufacturers hold the most power to influence change.
- Experience suggests we cannot rely on voluntary industry commitments for change; additional regulations may be necessary to obligate packaging producers to ensure a level playing field and an improved recycling system.

# REFRESHER: RSC Vision

Our challenges are not unique to Oregon, but we have a once in a generation opportunity to develop a unique response that is grounded in **Oregon's 2050 Vision** for responsible materials management, a recycling system that:

Helps us **reduce waste**, use fewer resources and protect the environment

Provides **clean materials to manufacturers** and ensures materials are recycled responsibly in ways that do not burden end-market communities with plastics, air, or water pollution

Is **resilient and able to adapt over the next 30 years** as economic conditions, manufacturing practices, consumer preferences, and products and packaging change

Is **transparent and accountable** to communities across the state

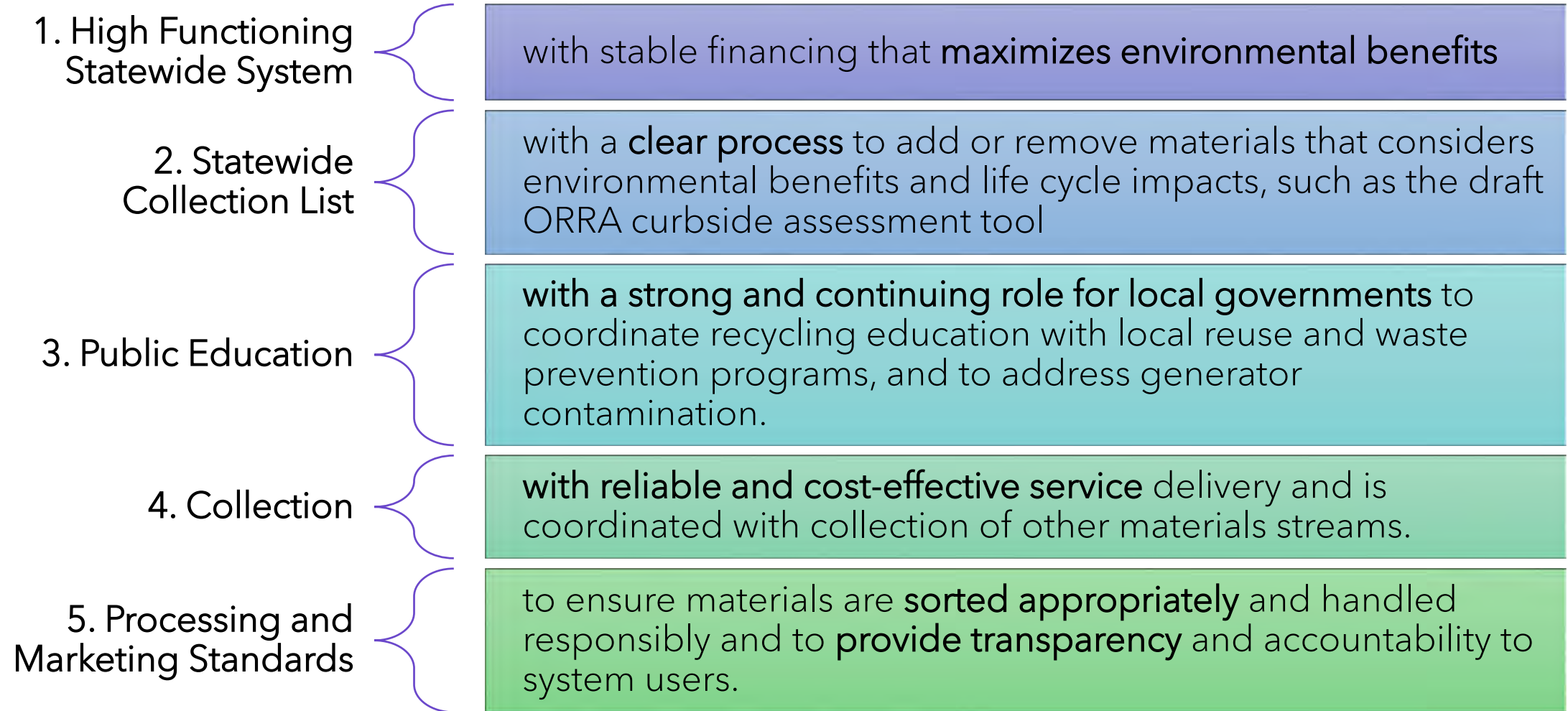
Provides **convenient and equitable access** opportunities for residents to participate in the system, including those who live in rural communities and multifamily homes

Supports **safe, living wage jobs** and opportunities for worker advancement and workforce development, and

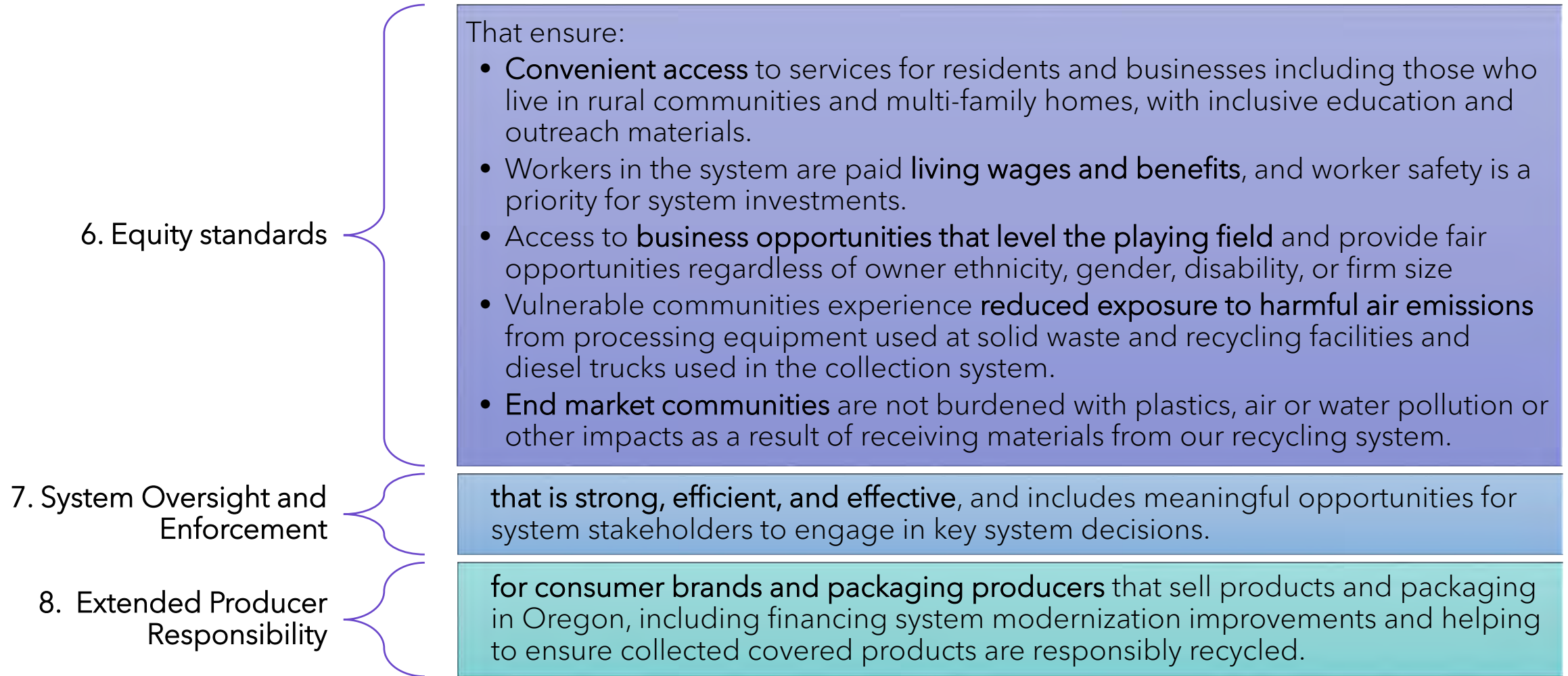
**Advances equity and economic opportunity** for local, Oregon and Northwest businesses, and businesses owned by people of color

Has **stable system financing** that meets the needs of today and supports the capital investments needed to adapt to change.

# SYSTEM FRAMEWORK CONCEPT (Slide 1)



# SYSTEM FRAMEWORK CONCEPT (Slide 2)





# Conclusion

1. **Critical importance** of full RSC discussion for consensus building
2. **Our concept is an evolving draft:** there will be gaps which will need resolution as it moves through DEQ and legislative council this fall and thru the legislative process in 2021.
3. **There is much that all of us (the entire RSC) already agree upon.**
  - The work of the ad hoc committees is generally aligning well with the framework concept.
4. Though we hope to be a bridge to consensus – we recognize that there are stakeholders who are not at this table.

**It is time for us to be bold in modernizing our system – to keep what is working well and propose solutions to what is no longer effective.** The status quo worked well for many years – but global changes suggest it is time to consider broader system changes for the next 30-40 years.





# **Local Government Ad Hoc Group**

## **DRAFT Recycling System Modernization Concept**

Aug 4, 2020





## Vision

- Oregonians have the opportunity to develop a unique response to recycling system challenges that is grounded in our state's 2050 Vision for responsible materials management.
- It's time to evolve into a modern system that is consistent with our values and includes roles for producer participation and responsibility.



## Vision -- We want a recycling system that:

- Helps us reduce waste, user fewer resources and protect the environment
- Provides clean materials to manufacturers and ensures materials are recycled responsibly
- Is resilient and able to adapt over the next 30 years as economic conditions, manufacturing practices, consumer preferences, and products and packaging change;
- Is transparent and accountable to the communities and businesses who support and participate in the system
- Provides convenient and equitable access opportunities for residents and businesses to participate in the system, including rural and multifamily communities
- Advances equity and economic opportunity for local, Oregon and Northwest businesses, and businesses owned by people of color;
- Supports safe, living wage jobs and opportunities for worker advancement and workforce development; and
- Has sustainable system financing that meets the needs of today and supports the capital investments needed to adapt to change.



## Current situation

System worked well for many years, but Oregon's local recycling programs face major challenges:

- Items in our recycling bins are part of a complex international manufacturing and supply system.
- Contamination and the demand for cleaner material has resulted in a rapid rise in system costs.
- Local governments have had to raise rates and/or drop materials from their programs in response.
- Oregon residents and businesses pay the cost to sort recyclables but have little influence on how those dollars could be used to invest in and modernize the system.
- Local programs also have no control when it comes to how and where items are recycled. We cannot assure residents and businesses that materials are properly sorted and recycled responsibly.
- Consumer brands, packaging producers and plastics manufacturers hold the most power to influence change, but we know from past experience that we cannot rely on voluntary industry commitments to support recycling and waste prevention.





## Key elements of system -- local government perspective

1. High functioning statewide system with sustainable financing
2. Statewide collection list – enabling standardized education and contamination reduction programs, backed by truth in labeling requirement
3. Public education with a strong continuing local government role
4. Collection that is reliable, accessible and coordinated with other material streams
5. Processing and marketing standards to ensure materials are sorted appropriately and handled responsibly
6. Equity standards, including: convenient access to services, living wages and benefits for workers in system, access to business opportunities, third party certification of end markets outside the U.S., and reduce harmful air emissions that impact vulnerable communities
7. Strong and effective state oversight and enforcement
8. Extended producer responsibility obligations



# System Design

State and/or local government role	Producer role
<p>Legislation defines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Producer obligations and DEQ oversight role</li><li>• Scope of covered products</li><li>• Equity standards</li><li>• Performance requirements including contamination standards</li></ul> <p>State (Oregon DEQ) review and approves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Producer stewardship plan that describes how they will meet their obligations – including how they will incorporate eco-modulated fees</li><li>• Standard statewide list of covered materials collected for recycling</li></ul>	<p>Submit stewardship plan to Oregon DEQ for review and approval</p> <p>Design and distribute their covered products into the market</p> <p>Track and report covered products that come into Oregon</p> <p>Work with DEQ to develop standard statewide list of covered materials collected for recycling</p> <p>Incorporate eco-modulated fee schedule</p>



## Education

State and/or local government role	Producer role
<p>Local governments primarily responsible for business and resident education</p> <p>Local governments ensure education information meet the needs of people in their community who speak languages other than English.</p>	<p>Finance statewide education and promotion of the standard statewide list of materials collected for recycling</p> <p>Finance at the level needed to ensure the information meets the needs of people who speak languages other than English</p> <p>Meet product packaging truth-in-labeling requirement</p>





## Collection

State and/or local government role	Producer role
<p>The current role of local governments in the system does not change.</p> <p>Local governments are responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collection</li><li>• Contamination reduction education to generators</li><li>• Access to collection services for multifamily residents</li></ul> <p>Local governments, Oregon DEQ, producers and other system stakeholders work together to determine what covered products are not suitable for curbside collection but should be included in a depot and/or mobile collection event system.</p>	<p>Financially responsible for at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collection of their covered products</li><li>• Statewide transportation and reload</li><li>• Collection system improvements including, but not limited to, generator feedback for all sectors</li><li>• Multifamily collection system upgrades to address equity in access to service</li><li>• Plastic litter collection</li></ul> <p>Finance and potentially operate depots and/or mobile collection events. Ensure equity convenience and language accessibility standards are met for any services provided.</p>



# Processing

State and/or local government role	Producer role
<p>Local governments are responsible for directing collected covered products to certified processors.</p> <p>State government (and/or Metro) is responsible for certifying/permitting MRFs and incorporating material sorting and equity standards related to worker wages, benefits, and safety, impacts on facility and end market host communities, and opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses to remove barriers to ownership.</p>	<p>Ensure collected covered products are responsibly recycled. Finance processing improvements where needed to achieve this.</p> <p>This could be implemented in a variety of ways (e.g., contracts between the PRO and MRFs) and developed through producer stewardship plans.</p>



## Marketing

State and/or local government role	Producer role
<p>State government is responsible for review and approval of producers' plans for ensuring collected covered products are responsibly recycled (sent to acceptable markets).</p> <p>State government sets criteria to define acceptable markets and includes equity criteria. State determines third party certification program that will be used to ensure responsible recycling.</p>	<p>Ensure collected covered products are responsibly recycled. This includes operational responsibility where needed (e.g., consolidate materials into marketable loads, develop acceptable end markets)</p> <p>Producer stewardship plans approved by Oregon DEQ describe how producers will carry out their responsibilities</p>

***“Responsible recycling”*** means processing collected materials at certified/permitted processors, transparently sending materials to acceptable markets, and ensuring that end market communities are not burdened with plastics, air or water pollution or other negative impacts.