

Recycling Steering Committee Meeting

May 15, 2020



Recycling Steering Committee

Modernizing Oregon's recycling system with support from Oregon Consensus

Material-specific LCA database to inform end-of-life and design-for-environment decisions

- Most materials have multiple end-of-life pathways. For example:
 - Cardboard can be recycled, composted, burned for energy or landfilled
 - Glass can be recycled into glass packaging, fiberglass, cement substitute, or aggregate for roadbase. It can also be landfilled.
 - Some plastics can be recycled mechanically; numerous chemical recycling options also exist. Mass burn and landfilling are also options.
- DEQ is already building a material-specific LCA database.



Material-specific LCA database to inform end-of-life and design-for-environment decisions

Draft Proposal for RSC

DEQ should continue to gather and share information on the environmental impacts of different materials and end-of-life management pathways



Defined optimal end-of-life pathways (instead of hierarchy) for materials

- Existing hierarchy (ORS 459.015(2)) establishes policy priorities
- Hierarchy is generally sound, but not infallible, and not nuanced
- 2050 Vision proposes that materials should go to their “highest and best use”, giving consideration to environmental impacts



Defined optimal end-of-life pathways (instead of hierarchy) for materials

Draft Proposal for RSC

Modify ORS 459.015(2) to:

1. First, make decisions to minimize negative environmental and health impacts, where known
2. Where such information is not known, continue to rely on the existing hierarchy for general direction.



Truth in labeling

Two parts:

1. Resin identification code requirement
2. Broader truth-in-labeling

Resin Identification Codes – Draft Proposal for RSC:

Eliminate ORS 459A.680 (requirement to place resin identification code on plastic containers)



PETE



HDPE



V



LDPE



PP



PS



OTHER



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Truth in labeling (continued)

Unqualified (universal) claim



Qualified (conditional) claim



***Not recycled in all communities**



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Truth in labeling (continued)

Recyclability Claims – Draft Proposal for RSC:

- Conditioned on:
 - Having a uniform, statewide list (floor), and
 - Having assurance that everything on that list will be recycled
- New statute to disallow unqualified (broad recyclability) claims for materials not widely recycled throughout Oregon (on Oregon’s statewide list)
- For such materials, require claims (if any) to be qualified (e.g., “check locally”)



Required generator-facing contamination reduction programming

Two issues:

1. What should local governments be required to do?
2. How is this funded?



Some Variables for Consideration (RE: requirements)

- All on-route services + depot customers?
- Requirements for outreach and local enforcement?
- Requirements to be responsive to diverse needs of different generators?

Questions:

- Initial consensus?
- More/fewer/different details?
- OK to confirm finer details through rulemaking?



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