



Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Charter: Technical Workgroup (2025 – 2026) for Recycling Modernization Act – Recycling Material Acceptance Lists

Revised: Dec. 9, 2025

Introduction

The Oregon Legislature passed the Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act (RMA) during the 2021 legislative session (Senate Bill 582). It was signed by then Governor Kate Brown on Aug. 6, 2021. The new law became effective Jan. 1, 2022, and recycling program changes started in July 2025.

In 2022 through 2024, DEQ undertook two multi-topic rulemakings to support implementation of the RMA. A third rulemaking commenced in November 2025, with draft rules tentatively scheduled for consideration by the Environmental Quality Commission in January 2027. This rulemaking will address a variety of topics, including possible changes to Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 340-090-0630 ("Recycling Acceptance Lists").

Purpose

DEQ is convening a Technical Workgroup ("TWG" or "workgroup") to provide technical input to DEQ as the Department evaluates a limited number of materials against statutory criteria for potential inclusion on, or removal from, Recycling Acceptance Lists codified in OAR 340-090-0630(2) and (3). This early-stage research and deliberation will also inform subsequent discussion by a Rulemaking Advisory Committee, which will consider the full proposed rule changes (not limited to recycling acceptance lists).

TWG members will provide feedback to DEQ on a variety of questions and issues related to the evaluation of different materials against statutory criteria relating to recycling acceptance lists (ORS 459A.914(3)). The TWG may review and discuss draft research products prepared by DEQ, and may engage in conversations with other parties that choose to share information regarding the evaluation of different materials against statutory criteria.

The workgroup will help DEQ perform the necessary background research and evaluation to ensure that the rulemaking is well-informed. Members of the Technical Workgroup will provide information to DEQ that the Department will consider in forming recommendations for the Rulemaking Advisory Committee.

Background and Process

ORS 459A.914 requires the Environmental Quality Commission to adopt [administrative rules](#) that identify materials that are suitable for recycling collection. Administrative rules explain, expand on or implement laws, and carry the power of law. Existing rules (adopted in 2023) identify several lists of materials suitable for recycling in Oregon, including a "uniform statewide collection list" (which many local governments must provide for collection of) and a separate "producer responsibility organization recycling acceptance list" which contains additional materials that Oregon's producer responsibility organization, Circular Action Alliance, must provide for collection and recycling of.

In response to feedback on the adopted rules received from local governments and collection service providers, Circular Action Alliance and producers, DEQ intends to consider some potential changes to recycling acceptance lists. Several of the changes under consideration are relatively limited in scope or simple, with some being largely clarifying in nature. While all proposed changes will be shared with the Rulemaking Advisory Committee, a subset of possible changes would benefit from a deeper technical discussion. Possible examples of such topics, to be brought to the Technical Workgroup for evaluation, include:

- Use of the term “pesticide” in OAR 340-090-0630(2)(j) as it relates to packaging of disinfectant products (e.g. bleach wipes)
- Potential removal of paint containers from the Local Government Recycling Acceptance List (OAR 340-090-0630(2))
- Definition of “tub” in OAR 340-090-0630(1)(n)
- Potential removal of aerosol cans (all or a subset) from the Producer Responsibility Organization Recycling Acceptance List (OAR 340-090-0630(3))
- Consideration of recycling alternatives for automotive product packaging (motor oil, diesel exhaust fluid, etc.)

This workgroup’s discussions will focus on selected rules contained in OAR 340-090-0630. Members will discuss a variety of topics but will not be making formal recommendations. Meetings will be structured to allow for conversation between TWG members and DEQ staff.

Anticipated Schedule and Time Commitment

- DEQ currently anticipates holding several meetings between mid-December 2025 and March 2026, with up to 10 total meeting hours expected.
- Meetings will be held virtually.
- Schedule depends in part on the level of interest in, and discussion about, individual materials.

Membership

This Technical Workgroup consists of the following members:

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| • Kate Eagles, Association of Plastic Recyclers | • Mark Carpenter, Lubricants Packaging Management Association |
| • Jeff Rouse, Carson | • Jennifer Powers, Metro Recycling Information Center |
| • Greg Ryan, Circular Action Alliance | • Sean Daoud, ReMA Pacific Northwest Chapter Board and PNW Metal Recycling |
| • Eric Ahnmark, Circular Action Alliance | • Nathan Smith, Waste Connections/Pioneer Recycling Services |
| • Nicole Janssen, Denton Plastics | • Ellie Brown, DEQ Hazardous Waste Program |
| • Molly Blessing, Household & Commercial Products Association | |
| • Chad Ficek, Lane County Household Hazardous Waste | |

Other individuals may be invited to participate in the workgroup, based on additional subject matter expertise as needed to inform the department.

Roles for Non-Members

Workgroup meetings will be open to attendance by the public and will include an opportunity for public comment. Non-members seeking to provide public comment longer than the standard two or three minutes in duration may contact DEQ staff at least two weeks prior to a meeting to request (and confirm) time on an upcoming agenda.

Relationship to Oregon Recycling System Advisory Council

DEQ consultation with the Recycling Council on the topic of recycling acceptance lists will occur in parallel with, but separate from, meetings of this workgroup.

Participation Guidelines

All members of the workgroup are expected to:

- Participate to the best of their abilities and to ensure continuity throughout the process.
- Come prepared for meetings by reading materials prior to the meeting.
- Engage in honest, open-minded, constructive and good-faith discussions to seek understanding and optimal outcomes.
- Treat everyone and their opinions with respect.
- Share air time with peers. Comment constructively and specifically.
- Operate according to, and stay focused on, the TWG's charter.

If a workgroup member is unable to attend a meeting, they may request (in advance) DEQ approval of an alternate.

More Information

Contact david.allaway@deq.oregon.gov or visit DEQ's [Recycling Modernization Act website](#).

Non-discrimination Statement

DEQ does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status in the administration of its programs and activities. Visit [DEQ's Civil Rights and Environmental Justice page](#).

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