

DEQ Snapshot

DEQ works with all Oregonians to provide a healthy, sustainable environment that supports a diverse economy. Guided by state and federal laws, DEQ's activities reflect statewide priorities, community interests and economic conditions.

DEQ staff and offices

DEQ employs approximately 650 scientists, engineers, geologists, toxicologists, inspectors, legal and policy staff, technicians, managers and professional support staff as follows:

- 12 offices across the state
- Seven vehicle inspection stations which serve more than 650,000 customers per year
- An accredited environmental laboratory

Overview of DEQ's work

DEQ implements state and federal environmental laws to protect the quality of Oregon's air, water and land. The Oregon Environmental Quality Commission, a five-member citizen panel appointed by Oregon's governor, serves as DEQ's policy and rulemaking board. In addition, the governor, the Legislature and Oregon communities help shape DEQ's work to ensure that we are responsive to changing environmental and economic needs.

Science is DEQ's cornerstone

Science and environmental information, the foundation of our work, require regular monitoring and analysis of Oregon's air, water and land. We use the data to determine appropriate permit limits and to inform citizens and policy makers about the best ways to provide a healthy environment and a sustainable economic future for Oregon. In addition to scientific data, DEQ provides regulatory services and technical assistance to Oregon businesses, local governments, homeowners and community groups.

Monitoring and analysis

DEQ's laboratory monitors the quality of Oregon's air, land and water statewide. Staff collect roughly 10,000 samples from more than 1,500 locations annually, producing roughly 300,000 individual analysis results.

The lab also processes over half a million data points from 35 locations across the state to support Oregon's Air Quality Index. DEQ uses this information to determine sources and amounts of pollution, whether it is increasing or decreasing, and how to reduce it with cost-effective strategies.

Permitting and licensing

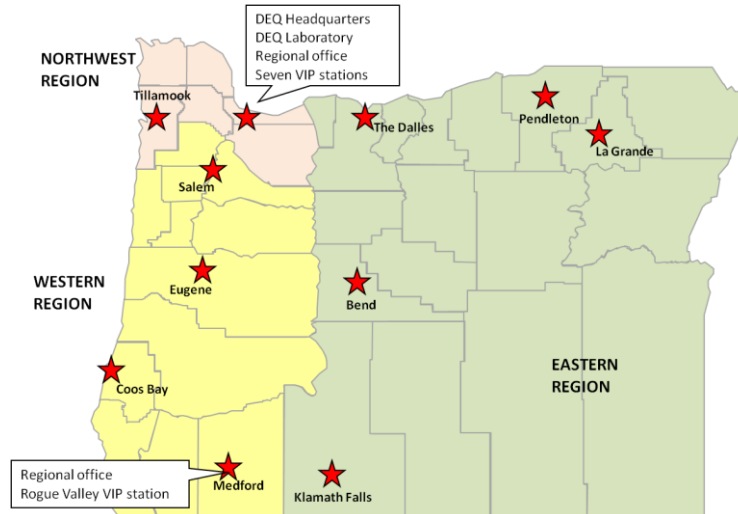
DEQ uses monitoring information, science and laws to carefully design permits and licenses for municipalities, service providers, businesses and industrial facilities. (See column to the right.)

Emergency response and cleanup

Each year, DEQ's emergency response team follows up on more than 1,500 reports of spills, oil or hazardous materials. We respond on-scene to about 20 significant spills and advise on the cleanup of approximately 700 other environmental incidents across the state, biennially.

Environmental cleanup

DEQ currently oversees the cleanup of more than 440 contaminated sites statewide. In addition to working at industrial or commercial cleanup sites, we work with homeowners to decommission unused heating oil tanks. In 2014 alone, DEQ reviewed and completed 70 cleanup projects and decommissioned 428 heating oil tanks.



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Over **6,300** federal
and state water quality
permits

More than **2,600**
federal and state air quality
permits

Over **700** onsite septic
system installers and service
providers

88% of Oregonians
have access to Household
Hazardous Waste Collection
Services

60 service providers that
decommission underground
storage tanks

Approximately **1,500**
tanker truck vapor
certifications

DEQ oversaw the successful
destruction of all chemical
agents stored at the Umatilla
Depot, which included more
than **3,717** tons of
nerve and blister agent.

Inspections, compliance and enforcement

To better ensure that regulated facilities comply with permits, DEQ conducts inspections. If a potential violation is identified, our first goal is to offer compliance assistance. Most violations are corrected through informal, non-enforcement measures. We issue approximately 200 penalties per year derived from over 2,000 inspections. DEQ provides expedited enforcement options which allow us to offer lower penalties, streamline the settlement process and meet compliance goals.

Technical assistance

DEQ helps Oregonians comply with federal, state and local environmental regulations through public education, training and technical assistance. Technical assistance, offered through the Small Business Assistance Program, Hazardous Waste Technical Assistance Program, Dry Cleaner Program and Toxic Use Reduction Programs, is given without the risk of enforcement. These programs, workshops and one-on-one assistance from DEQ technical staff, businesses and organizations make it possible to correct small environmental issues that could otherwise lead to non-compliance and environmental damage.

Pollution reduction

DEQ uses innovative, non-permit-based programs to reduce pollution. We interact with local communities and the public to solve everyday pollution problems such as:

- Monitoring an average of 2,500 asbestos abatement projects each year.
- Tracking statewide greenhouse gas emissions.
- Implementing the Heat Smart program which requires the removal of uncertified woodstoves at the time of a home's sale.
- Working with farmers and ranchers to reduce releases of pesticides into surface or groundwater through voluntary changes to application and storage practices.
- Implementing the Oregon E-Cycles program, which provides free recycling of certain electronics. Oregon E-Cycles has kept over 33 million tons of electronic waste out of the landfill and diverted over 51,000 products for reuse since 2009.
- Providing tax incentives and grants to retrofit school bus and trucking fleet diesel engines.
- Implementing the governor's new green chemistry executive order which fosters environmentally preferred purchasing and product design to further reduce toxics.

Other ways we help businesses

DEQ conducts activities that help grow, sustain and protect Oregon's economy by:

- **Promoting community and economic development** through Oregon's Regional Solutions Team. DEQ is one of 10 state agencies that, with direction from the governor's office, collaborate to find local solutions to community and economic issues across Oregon.
- **Protecting Oregon's natural resources** by ensuring that ships, barges and other vessels have oil spill contingency plans and properly manage ballast water to prevent costly spills and introduction of invasive species during 2,500 vessel trips per year.
- **Restoring valuable property** by promoting redevelopment of "brownfield" sites. An average of 10 prospective purchaser agreements are signed each year by developers seeking to revitalize previously contaminated and often abandoned property.
- **Supporting communities** by issuing state revolving fund loans that provide roughly \$50 million per year for water quality improvement projects.

Service support and infrastructure

The efficient and effective delivery of our diverse set of services requires support and infrastructure. We maintain critical support services in the following areas:

- **Information Services** to provide technology and systems to support efficient internal processes, improve access to environmental information and modernize the public's interaction with DEQ.
- **Financial Management** to ensure proper fiscal controls, manage funding and provide operational data to support budget planning and management of DEQ's programs.
- **Employee and organization advancement** to provide human resources support, conduct training, improve recruitment and retention and provide strategic and operational planning, including process improvement activities.