

Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act (SB 582, 2021) Update

Senate Interim Committee on Environment and Natural
Resources

Jan. 11, 2024

About Materials Management

The 2050 Vision describes how people in Oregon:



Produce and use materials



Conserve resources



Protect the environment



Live well

Materials Management in Oregon

2050 Vision and Framework for Action

Adopted by the
Environmental Quality Commission
December 6, 2012

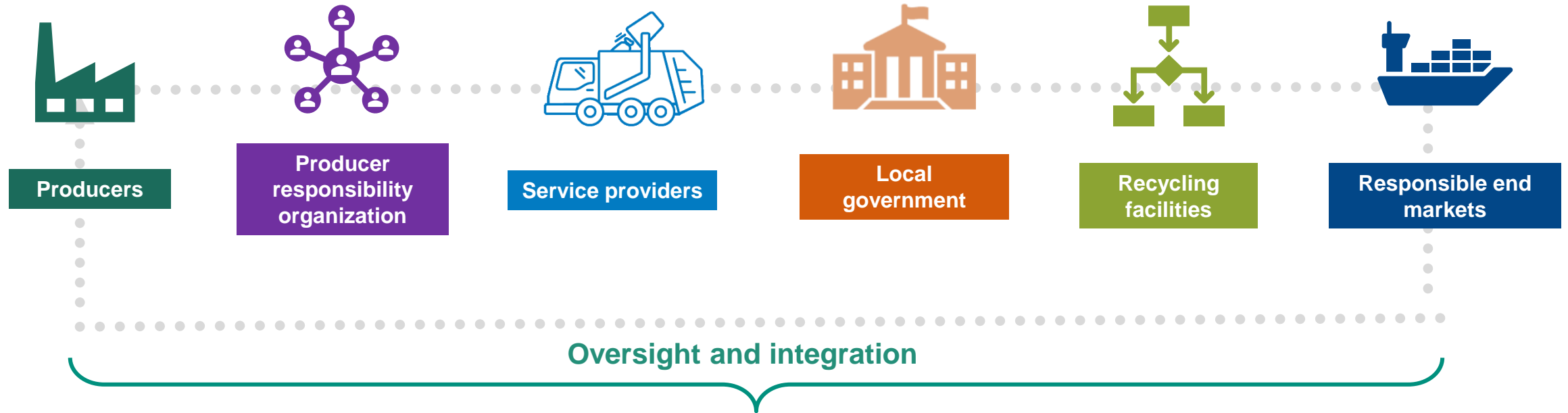


State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

How did we get here?



Shared responsibility model



A photograph of a recycling facility. In the foreground, a large pile of paper waste, including newspapers and magazines, is visible. In the background, several workers wearing yellow safety vests and blue long-sleeved shirts are sorting through the waste. One worker in the center is looking down at the pile. The scene is brightly lit, and the overall atmosphere is one of active industrial work.

A Modernized Recycling System

Expanded recycling services

Funding for recycling infrastructure and transportation subsidies



Statewide collection list

Oregon commits to recycling *better*



Improvements for multifamily collection

Recycling services and infrastructure for dwellings of five or more units



Material processing

New standards for sorting quality, managing contamination, reporting, and paying workers a living wage.



Education and contamination reduction

Engaging communities directly in system improvement



Recycling

Reciclaje Утиль Rác Tái chế 回收

Plastic bottles, plastic round containers, metal, paper & cardboard

No plastic bags or wrap, lids, glass, garbage



Producer involvement

Producers now pay about 1/3 of all system costs



A Collaborative Effort

Over 90 people participated or are active in task forces, councils, rulemaking advisory committees and technical workgroups.



3 community-based organization representatives



30 recycling industry representatives



4 PRO representatives



2 public members



2 small business owners



26 government representatives



18 producer representatives



5 environmental organization representatives



And many more!

Recycling Council

Reviewed

- Material Lists
- Covered products exemption requests
- Waste prevention and reuse fee
- Equity study plan
- RMA transition phase proposal
- Specifically Identified Materials

Next up

- PRO plan review

Status update

Major Milestones



Status update

Major Milestones

New staff

The Materials Management Program hired several new staff to implement the RMA.

First rulemaking

The first set of rules for the RMA were adopted by the Environmental Quality Commission on Nov. 16, 2023

First needs assessment

All Oregon cities and counties are eligible to receive funding from PROs for expanding collection of covered recycling products.

Recycling studies

The Act required DEQ to undertake several studies including the equity study, multifamily needs assessment and the recycling contamination study.



Rulemaking #1 update



Recycling acceptance lists



Convenience standards, performance standards and collection targets for certain recyclables



Requirements on PROs, including fees to DEQ, coordination in the event of multiple PROs, and more



Standards for compensating local governments for transportation, contamination reduction, and new or expanded collection services



Responsible end markets

Materials Acceptance Lists

- Uniform Statewide Collection List
 - Materials that may be commingled
 - Assessed against 12 statutory criteria
- PRO Recycling Acceptance List
 - Materials PRO must collect
 - Harder to recycle materials

Fact Sheet

Oregon Adopted Recycling Acceptance Lists

Updated December 2023

Beginning July 2025, all Oregon community members and businesses throughout the state can recycle a consistent set of materials. The Oregon Environmental Quality Commission adopted the following recycling acceptance lists on Nov. 16, 2023. These lists may change over time. For example, producer responsibility organizations may propose to add materials to the Uniform Statewide Collection List in their program plans.

Local government acceptance lists

DEQ requires local governments to collect the following materials under their Opportunity to Recycle obligations in the modernized system.

Uniform statewide collection list

To be collected at depots and on-route collection, and suitable for commingled collection:

Corrugated cardboard (uncoated and recycle-compatible coated; clean pizza boxes OK)	All kraft paper (brown paper bags, mailers)
Paperboard packaging (e.g., cereal, cracker and medicine boxes)	Molded pulp packaging (e.g., egg cartons, but not food serviceware or flower pots)
Polycycoated cartons (e.g., milk cartons), aseptic cartons.	Tissue paper used as packaging (not facial or sanitary tissue)

Translation or other formats
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Department of Environmental Quality

PRO Obligations - Responsible End Markets

- Material-specific “end market” definitions
- Clarifying the “responsible” standard
- Mandating how markets will be verified
- Requirements for auditing verification results
- Defining “practicable” action



Rulemaking #2 topics



Recycling processor permitting standards and fees



Living wages and supportive benefits



Waste prevention and reuse fee



Standards for evaluation and disclosure of impacts

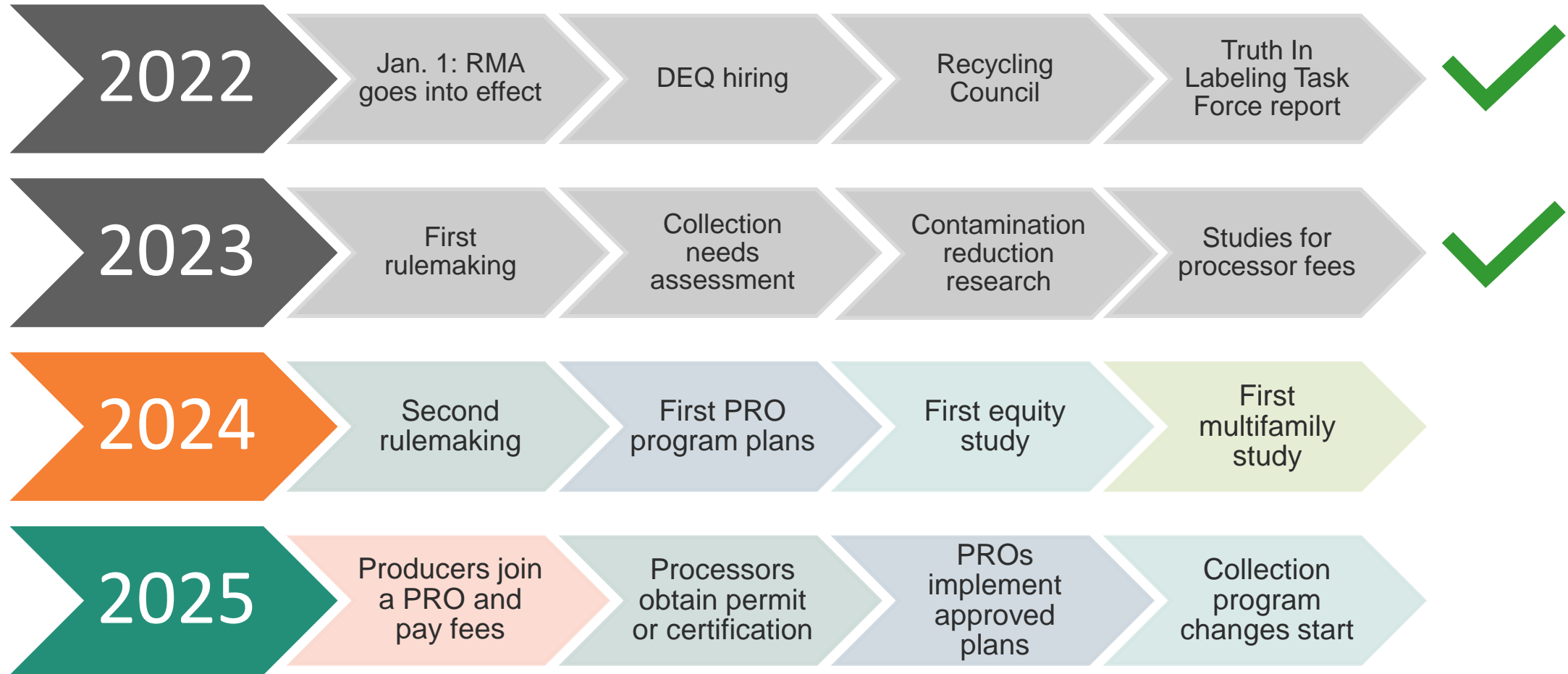


Covered product exemptions



Contamination reduction programming

Major Milestones





Thank you!

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