



Memorandum

To: Joint Task Force on Municipal Solid Waste in the Willamette Valley

From: Kali Sullivan, Senior Legislative and Policy Analyst, DEQ

Date: March 4, 2026

Subject: Solid Waste Composition and Disposal Presentation Follow-up

Chair Malone, Vice Chair Mitchell, and members of the Task Force,

During the Department's presentation on Solid Waste Composition and Disposal to the Joint Task Force on Municipal Solid Waste in the Willamette Valley on January 30, 2026, the Task Force requested data on solid waste and associated agency reports, and information on the Recycling Modernization Act Program funding. Please see the requested information below:

1. What is the total tonnage in the Willamette Valley?

Total tons of material disposed, recovered, and generated from each Oregon county in 2022 is available in [Table 1](#) (beginning page 33) from the [2022 Oregon Material Recovery and Waste Generation Rates Report](#). In the report, disposal refers to all materials placed in landfills and many materials burned in incinerators; recovery refers to recycling, composting, and some incineration with energy recovery; and generation is the sum of disposal and recovery and represents the total tonnage of the waste stream.

This report describes results and methodology of Oregon's Material Recovery Survey for the calendar year 2022. Material recovery includes all materials collected for recycling or composting, and, for a subset of materials, incineration with energy recovery. Each year, DEQ compiles data on municipal post-consumer waste recovery. DEQ sends a survey to all collection service providers and private recycling companies that handle materials for recycling, composting and energy recovery. Survey data is combined with data gathered from quarterly and annual disposal site reporting forms. Together, recovery and disposal numbers make up the amount of waste generated by people in Oregon each year.

Recovery tonnage in this report excludes:

- a) Waste from manufacturing and industrial processes (pre-consumer materials);
- b) Reconditioned and reused materials;
- c) Material that can be disposed of as clean fill without being put in a landfill such as brick and concrete; and
- d) Waste originating out of state (but handled in Oregon).

Disposed tonnage in this report excludes:

- a) Sewage sludge or septic tank and cesspool pumping's;
- b) Waste disposed of at an industrial waste disposal site;
- c) Industrial waste, ash, inert rock, dirt, plaster, asphalt and similar material if delivered to a municipal solid waste disposal site or demolition disposal site and if a record is kept of such deliveries and submitted as part of the annual report submitted under [ORS 459A.050](#);
- d) Waste received at an ash monofill from an energy recovery facility; and
- e) Solid waste not generated within this state.

Cumulative tonnage for multiple counties and watersheds can be found by adding tonnage in the same category (disposal, recovery, or generation) together from each county of interest. Data for additional years prior to 2022 is available in [Tables 5-7](#) from the [2022 Oregon Material Recovery and Waste Generation Rates Report](#).

2. What is the breakdown of solid waste composition and recovery rate county by county? Was the latest recovery data from 2023? When will new recovery rate data be published?

Solid waste composition and solid waste recovery rate can be found in two separate data sources, as detailed below.

Solid Waste Composition

Solid waste composition is from the [2023 Waste Composition Study](#). In 2023, DEQ conducted three interrelated waste and recycling composition studies, which are detailed in web page the linked above:

- Disposed Waste Composition Study
- Inbound Commingled Recycling Study
- Outbound Commingled Recycling Study

Semifinal disposal and inbound recycling data have been published, and outbound recycling data has not yet been published.

The disposal composition study sampled municipal solid waste destined for disposal. Details about this study are available on the [2023 Waste Composition Study](#) webpage. Statewide disposal composition data and subsets of data are available as listed below. Disposal composition data is also available for specific watersheds that participated in the study (listed below), but not for each individual watershed in the Willamette Valley. Semifinal disposal data is available in the excel file links below:

- a) [Statewide results 2023](#)
- b) [Metro Tri-County area 2023](#)
- c) [Marion County 2023](#)
- d) [Lane County 2023](#)
- e) [Deschutes County 2023](#)
- f) [All of Oregon except the Metro area and Marion, Lane, and Deschutes Counties 2023](#)
- g) [All of Oregon except the Metro area 2023](#)

The inbound recycling study sampled material coming into recycling reload facilities or commingled recycling processing facilities. Statewide inbound recycling composition data and subsets of data are available as listed in the data excel file. Inbound recycling composition data is also available for specific wastesheds that participated in the study (listed in the excel file), but not for each individual wasteshed in the Willamette Valley. The data and report are available in the file links below:

- a) [Inbound Commingled Recycling Study Results 2023](#)
- b) [Inbound Commingled Recycling Study 2023](#) (Report)

Recovery Rate

The recovery rate is the percentage of total waste generation that is recovered. DEQ calculates both the statewide recovery rate and a recovery rate for each of the 35 individual wastesheds in the state. Recovery rate by county is available in Table 1 from the [2022 Oregon Material Recovery and Waste Generation Rates Report](#).

3. What makes up the total amount of waste that is recoverable?

The amount of waste that is recoverable can be estimated using semifinal results for the disposal portion of the [2023 Waste Composition Study](#). Each disposal data sheet is linked in the previous question and on the [webpage](#).

The USCL (Uniform Statewide Collection List), PRO (Producer Responsibility Organization), LG (Local Government) Lists excluding yard debris combined category (row 250 in each disposal data sheet) shows the amount of material in those three recycling lists, excluding yard debris, that were disposed of instead of recycled in 2023. The combined USCL, PRO, LG Lists excluding yard debris category made up 16.40% of disposed materials statewide in 2023.

USCL, PRO, and LG lists are recycling lists detailed in [340-090-0630](#) (4), [340-090-0630](#) (3), and [340-090-0630](#) (2), respectively, and show what is accepted for recycling.

4. How is the RMA program funded? Where is the funding directed?

The Recycling Modernization Act Program is funded by fees paid by producers of packaging, printed paper, and food service ware.

The funding covers a variety of activities set in statute to improve Oregon's recycling system. In this shared responsibility model, the funding is directed through a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) to other parties such as local governments, their service providers, recycling sorting facilities, and the state to support their obligations in the system.

- [ORS 459A.938](#) authorizes the Environmental Quality Commission to assess fees to PROs for the purpose of administrative cost recovery, including a one-time fee for program plan review and an annual fee for DEQ administration.

- [ORS 459A.941](#) requires DEQ to establish a program to reduce the environmental impacts of covered products through means other than recycling, such as [waste prevention and reuse](#). It authorizes DEQ to enter into agreements (including grant agreements) with other public bodies to implement such programs, funded by additional fees charged to PRO's. The fees charged to PROs may not exceed 10 percent of a 3-year average of the PRO's other annual expenses.

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