

Contamination in Recycling Bins

June 18, 2020

Presented by Rosalynn Greene and Pam Peck

Contamination in mixed recyclables





Collection of mixed recyclables









Recycled and processed locally

overseas for recycling



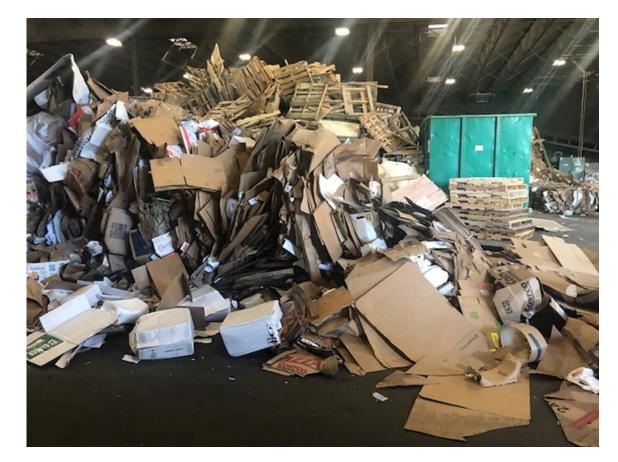
Shipped domestically for rocycling

| | for recycling | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 | Step 4 |
| Recyclables are set-out for collection by: • people living in single family homes, apartments and condos • businesses and their employees | Mixed recyclables are collected by one of the 40+ companies providing garbage and recycling service in the Metro region. | Recyclables are taken to one of the Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) located in the Metro region for sorting. | Recyclables are shipped locally, domestically or internationally to be processed and recycled. |

Building a resilient system

Why does decreasing contamination in mixed recyclables matter?

- Produce quality materials that can be recycled
- Increase efficiency and decrease processing costs
- Ensure health and safety of workers
- Optimize environmental and human health benefits of recycling



RWP Goals and Actions

Goal 15 Improve the systems for recyclables, food scraps and yard debris to make them resilient to changing markets and evolving community needs.

Actions (10 total)

- 15.1 Implement regionally consistent contamination reduction efforts to improve material quality, including education, sorting instructions, collection equipment changes and customer feedback methods.
- 15.3 Develop public private partnerships to expand local markets for priority recyclable materials, with an emphasis on minority-owned and other business owners from historically marginalized groups.
- 15.4 Fund investments to improve the performance of materials recovery facilities through collection rates and/or other mechanisms

RWP Indicators













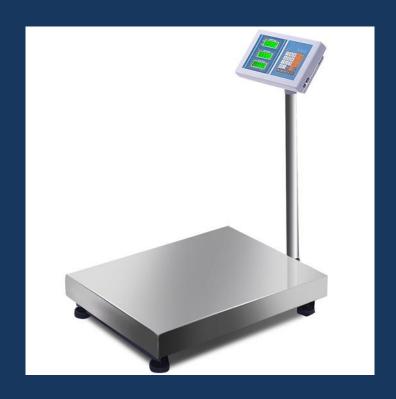
3. Share of the regional's recoverable materials, by material type, that is sent to markets in Oregon and the U.S.

- people living in single family homes
- people living in apartments or condos
- businesses and their employees

^{*}Sector refers to the type of customers and includes:

Data Collection





Contaminants in recyclables by sector

| | Plastic | Glass | Food | Paper | Other | Total |
|---------------|---------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Single-family | 3% | 2% | 1% | <1% | 3% | 9% |
| Multifamily | 3% | 5% | 3% | 3% | 7% | 21% |
| Commercial | 4% | 1% | 1% | 3% | 5% | 14% |

Contamination reduction efforts

- Regional Contamination Reduction Education Plan -- meets state requirements for communities that select expanded education option under Opportunity to Recycle Act
- Recycling behavior research -- found high levels of confusion about what goes in the bin
- Recycle or Not -- cooperative regional effort provides online resources for everyday recyclers
- Local newsletters, mailings and advertising
- Residential cart tagging campaigns in Clackamas Co. and Gresham
- Business technical assistance programs