

REGIONAL WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Worksheet

PRESENTATION DATE: Jan 21, 2020 **LENGTH:** 35 minutes

PRESENTATION TITLE: Statewide Recycling Modernization Legislation Update

DECISION TYPE: Informational

RELATED REGIONAL WASTE PLAN GOALS: Goal 3, Action 3.2; Goal 5, Action 5.4; Goal 7, Action 7.2; and Goal 15, Action 15.7

PRESENTER(S): Abby Boudouris and Sanne Stienstra, Oregon DEQ, and Pam Peck, Metro,

PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

- Update the committee on the legislative proposal to modernize Oregon’s recycling system that was developed by a statewide Recycling Steering Committee, particularly elements related to advancing equity and producer responsibility in the recycling system.
- Desired outcome is that the committee has shared understanding of the high level outcomes the bill seeks to advance and where they get more information and/or engage in the legislative process.

ACTION REQUESTED

- The item is informational and includes time for the committee to ask questions.

BACKGROUND

Oregon is a national leader when it comes to recycling. Oregonians value the environmental benefits of recycling and established state policies in the 1980s and 1990s that require communities to provide recycling opportunities for residents and businesses. This system worked well for many years, but our local recycling programs now face major challenges and increasing costs. In response to these problems, the Department of Environmental Quality established a Recycling Steering Committee (RSC) to look into updating and modernizing Oregon’s recycling system.

The RSC was comprised of representatives from local governments, waste and recycling hauling companies, recycling processing facilities, and others. The RSC provided an opportunity to inform stakeholders on issues and options that could go into modernizing Oregon’s recycling system. At the outset, the DEQ communicated to the RSC that the DEQ, through the Governor’s office, hoped to propose legislation to modernize the system in the 2021 legislative session.

The RSC process concluded on September 18 with a consensus proposal. The proposal represents the best efforts of the Committee to identify a set of concepts that those at the table could concur on. Most notably, the proposal would establish an Extended Producer

Responsibility (EPR) system for packaging and paper products and advance equity in the recycling system.

Potential impacts and relationship to the Regional Waste Plan

- Provides a modernized, more sustainably managed and more financially sound state and regional recycling system that requires producers to share in responsible management of their products.
- Supports the Metro Council's legislative principles and advances multiple Regional Waste Plan goals, including: ensuring that all jobs in the garbage and recycling industry pay living wages and include good benefits (Goal 3, action 3.2); reducing the life cycle impacts of products and their packaging and advancing producer responsibility (Goal 5, action 5.4); reducing product environmental impacts and waste through policies that support prevention practices and better purchasing choices (Goal 7, action 7.2); and improving systems for recovering recyclables to make them resilient to changing markets and evolving community needs.
- The program will advance greater equity in the provision of recycling services across the region and state and improve wages and the working environment for those employed in the recycling industry.

List any prior engagements conducted on the issue

- Statewide Recycling System Modernization Update -- May 21, 2020 RWAC meeting. Update on next steps in the process to modernize Oregon's recycling system with a focus on policy elements that are under discussion by the state's Recycling Steering Committee.
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Policy Overview -- Feb. 20, 2020 RWAC meeting. Informational: introduction to product stewardship and Metro/State of Oregon's role in EPR policy development. The Oregon State Legislature is currently considering a product stewardship program for mattresses.

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- N/A

NEXT STEPS

- Summer 2021 legislative outcomes update.

ATTACHMENTS

- DEQ Legislative Concept Fact Sheet (LC 578), Dec. 2020.