

Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act

SB582-1 Overview



Oregon's recycling system was created decades ago and was not built for the materials we put in the recycling bins today. The system is outdated and needs an overhaul. Many of the materials being produced and sold today are difficult and expensive to recycle. Adding to this challenge, many people in Oregon lack adequate access to recycling; the public is confused about what should and should not go in the recycling bin; and we lack assurances that materials are being responsibly recycled.

Senate Bill 582-1 will overhaul Oregon's recycling system and make our state a national leader in recycling once again. This proposed legislation will make recycling easier for the public, expand access to recycling services for people statewide, and provide environmental and social equity benefits. To achieve these outcomes, we will need producers to take responsibility for their products and packaging, and to share in investments in our recycling system.

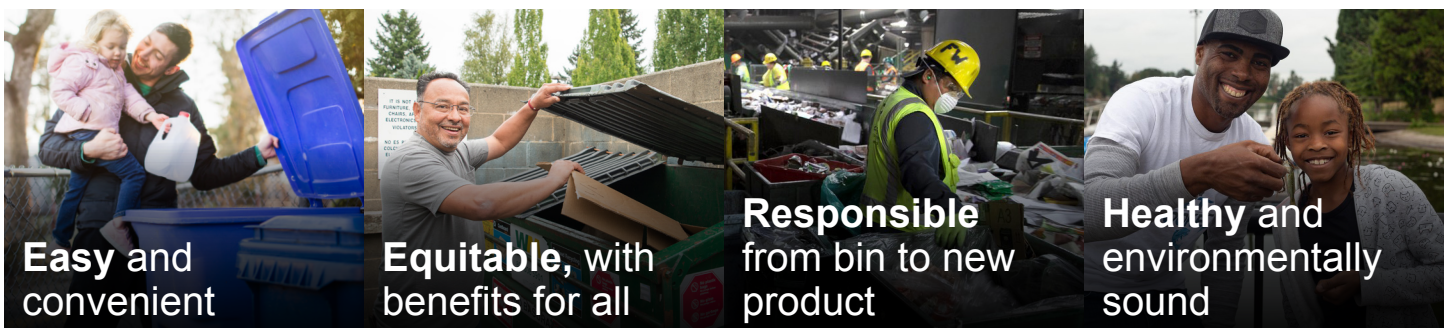
The legislation includes the following key elements that work together to modernize Oregon's recycling system:

- **A statewide list of approved recyclable materials.** One statewide list will determine what can and cannot be put in recycling bins — both at home and at work. This will reduce confusion and make it easier for everyone to recycle. The legislation establishes a process for creating and keeping this up-to-date as products and packaging types change over time.
- **A focus on responsible recycling.** The legislation addresses three critical components of responsible recycling: 1) Informing people about what goes in the recycling bin, in part through new “truth in labeling” requirements. 2) Improving sorting at recycling facilities to produce cleaner materials. 3) Ensuring materials are sent to markets where they will be used to make new products — not burned or dumped into communities, rivers and oceans. These changes in our recycling system will not only benefit the environment, but will also protect public and worker health and safety.

- **Makes producers a key partner in Oregon's recycling system.** Bringing producers into our state's recycling system will cover the cost of improvements that make the system more responsible and accessible. In this new shared responsibility model, producers of printed paper, packaging and food serviceware will provide resources to support expansion of recycling services and help ensure that the materials they produce don't contribute to environmental pollution. Requiring producers to invest in Oregon's recycling system will create incentives for them to reduce the impact of their packaging on the environment.
- **Advances social and environmental equity in recycling.** Many people currently lack adequate access to recycling services — particularly those who live in apartments (multifamily housing) and in rural areas. The proposed legislation would make recycling areas more accessible for people who live in multifamily housing, and make sure there is enough collection service. It will also provide more recycling opportunities to rural communities that are currently underserved.

In addition, the bill will ensure that workers in recycling facilities have safe and healthy work environments and living wages; implement new waste prevention and reuse projects; and support litter prevention and collection programs.

With these proposed changes to Oregon's recycling system, we will prevent our waste from polluting communities and environments locally and around the globe, and make recycling easier and more equitable across the state.



Learn more!

Additional information is available on DEQ's website: <http://go.ora.gov/x7nZG>

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