

SB 582 - Recycling Modernization Act

The Oregon Legislature passed the Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act (Senate Bill 582) during the 2021 Legislative Session. The Recycling Modernization Act will overhaul Oregon's outdated recycling system by building on local community programs and leveraging the resources of producers to create an innovative system that works for everyone in the state. This comprehensive update puts Oregon at the forefront of recycling innovation once again.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE BILL



Responsibility is shared and scaled.

Producers will be brought into Oregon's recycling system to cover the cost of improvements. Cost to producers will be scaled based on what materials they use and how much they sell into Oregon.



Increase access to recycling. SB 582 will provide recycling services to people who didn't previously have it, such as those who live in apartments and rural areas.



Prevents plastic pollution. Ensures collected material is actually recycled and addresses plastic trash that pollutes oceans, rivers and communities.



One list for the state of what can be recycled.

This will provide clarity to Oregonians about what can be recycled and create efficiencies in recycling operations across the state.



Incentivize innovation. Producer fees will be higher for non-recyclable products and those creating more environmental pollution.



Accountability to outcomes. DEQ will permit and audit recycling processors, and a Governor-appointed advisory council will review producer program plans, the statewide collection list, and educational resources.

"At Bob's Red Mill, we value nourishing a healthy planet. We support SB 582 because it will create solutions to urgent issues in our recycling system while also providing brands like ours with clearer direction on how to do right by the environment. We are working to solve the problem of plastic pollution, but we cannot do it alone."

Julia Person, Sustainability Manager, Bob's Red Mill

"SB 582 builds on the best parts of our recycling system and brings in producers to fill in the gaps. The Association of Oregon Recyclers supports the Recycling Modernization Act because it will make needed improvements, expand recycling programs to serve more people, and protect the environment for many decades to come."

Kristin Lechner, Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Public confusion over what can be recycled

One statewide list of recyclable items

Inequities throughout the recycling system

A system that meets the needs of underserved communities

No producer funding for recycling

Producers share responsibility with local government and ratepayers

More garbage and less recycling over time

Recycling increases as it becomes easier and more accessible

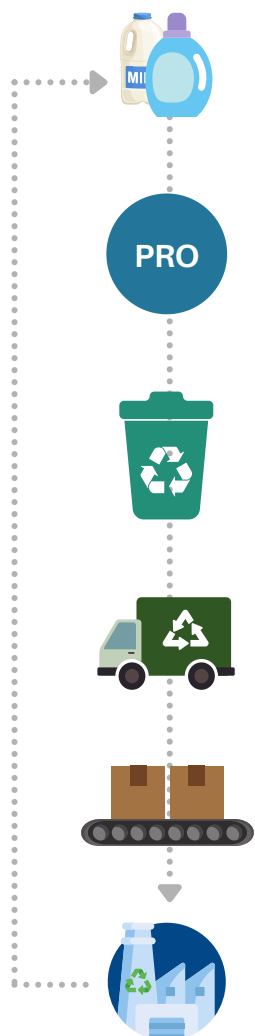
No assurance of responsible recycling

Oversight of producers and processors to ensure responsible recycling

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HOW IT WORKS

SB 582 creates a shared responsibility recycling system. Producers of packaging, paper products and food serviceware will fund necessary upgrades and perform specific functions that will make Oregon's recycling programs convenient, accessible and responsible. Local governments will maintain their role overseeing collection in their communities.



PRODUCERS will join in a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) that will fund improvements to the system and ensure the recyclables that are collected go to responsible end markets.

PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ORGANIZATION collect and spend producer membership fees to ensure better and expanded recycling services. PRO(s) will also fund waste prevention grants and studies to assess challenges and recommend solutions to improve multifamily recycling, equity in the recycling system and litter and marine debris.

ONE COLLECTION LIST will be established by the State of Oregon so individuals and businesses can recycle the same items across the state, at home and at work.

RECYCLING SERVICES will be expanded under the direction of local governments, with support from the PRO(s), especially for rural communities and people living in apartments. The same private collection companies will continue to provide recycling services.

EDUCATION about how to recycle will continue to be offered by local governments, along with new programs to reduce contamination (trash) in our recyclables. PRO(s) will create accessible educational resources that local governments can use and that meet the needs of diverse communities.

PROCESSING of recyclable materials will be done in facilities that meet new performance standards, including material quality, reporting, and paying living wages to facility workers. Recycling processing facilities will be required to obtain a permit from DEQ or meet similar standards in order to receive recyclable material from Oregon communities.

END MARKETS that can handle the material appropriately - without creating plastic pollution - can purchase it after sorting and recycle it into something new. Producers will be obligated to make sure materials collected in Oregon reach responsible end markets.

OVERSIGHT AND INTEGRATION

A new Governor-appointed advisory council will provide feedback to DEQ and the PRO(s) about important elements of this new recycling system, including the statewide collection list. DEQ will oversee the recycling system and provide enforcement where necessary. The PRO(s), processors and local governments will track and report more and better information about where our recyclables go and provide assurance that they are used to make new products.

Get more information at: ordeg.org/sb582. Implementation details will be posted there when available.