

Information Update: Oregon Recycling Steering Committee

Presentation to the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission

Jan. 23, 2020

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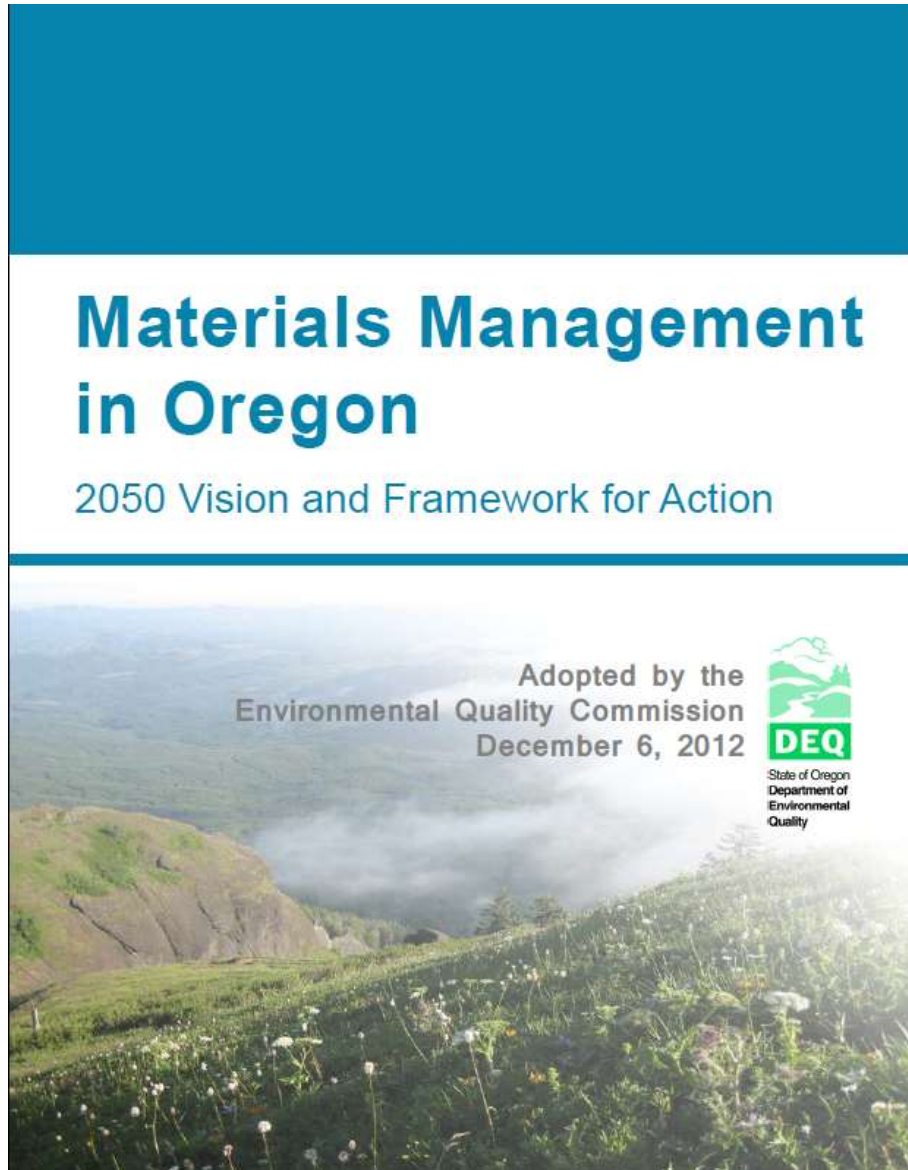
Outline and scope of today's presentation

- Background and context
- Focus on five major issues
- Questions, feedback and discussion

- Scope: “traditional” recyclables (paper, plastic, metal, glass) collected from households and business
 - Not materials with special recycling pathways (e.g., electronics, tires)
 - Not yard debris, food waste, or household hazardous waste

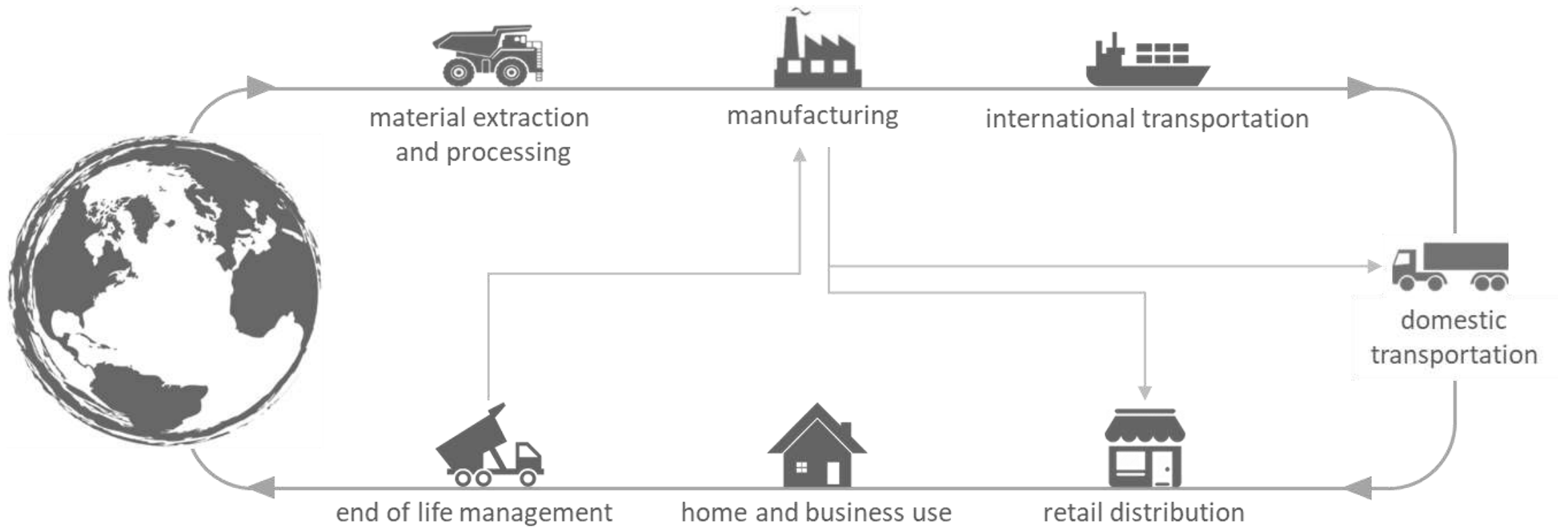


2050 Vision and Framework for Action



*Oregonians in 2050 produce and use materials responsibly
conserving resources • protecting the environment • living well*

the “life cycle” of materials

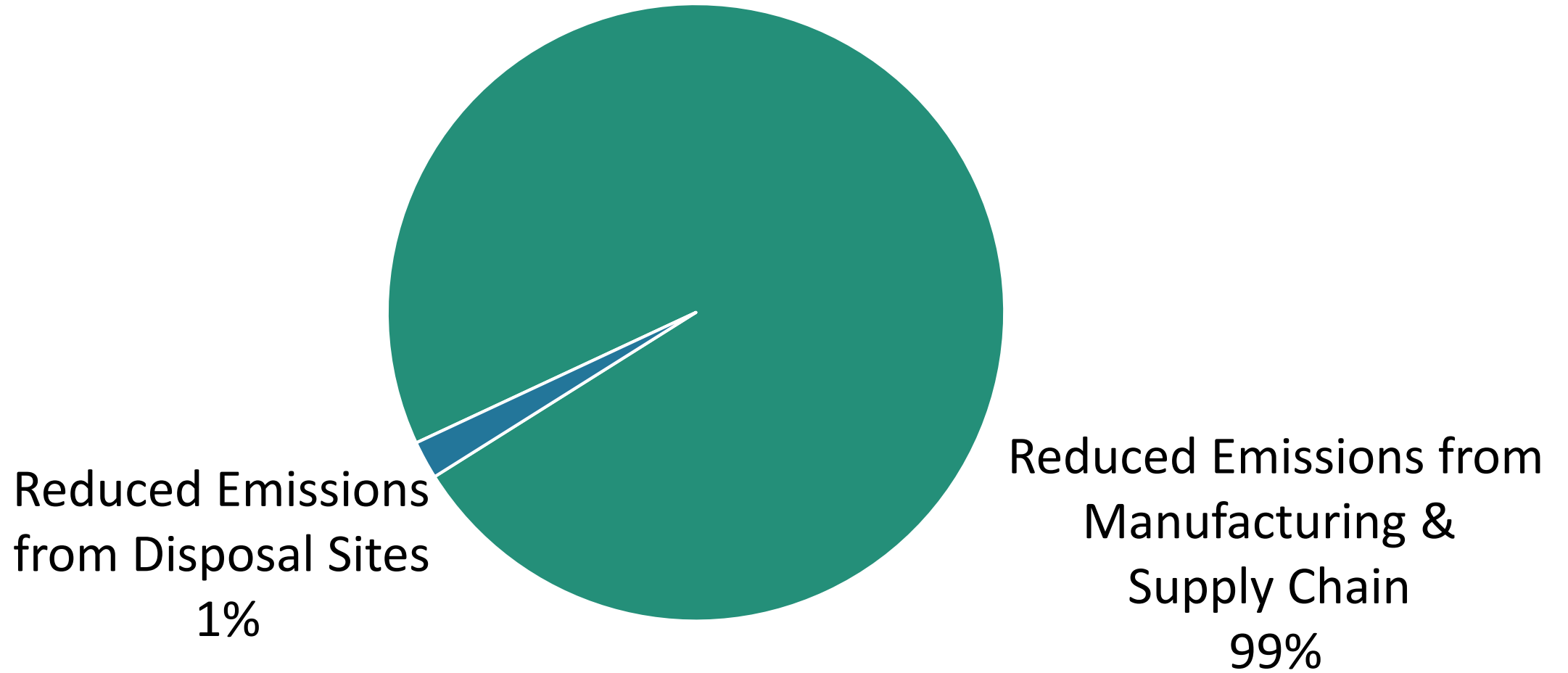


Benefits of recycling

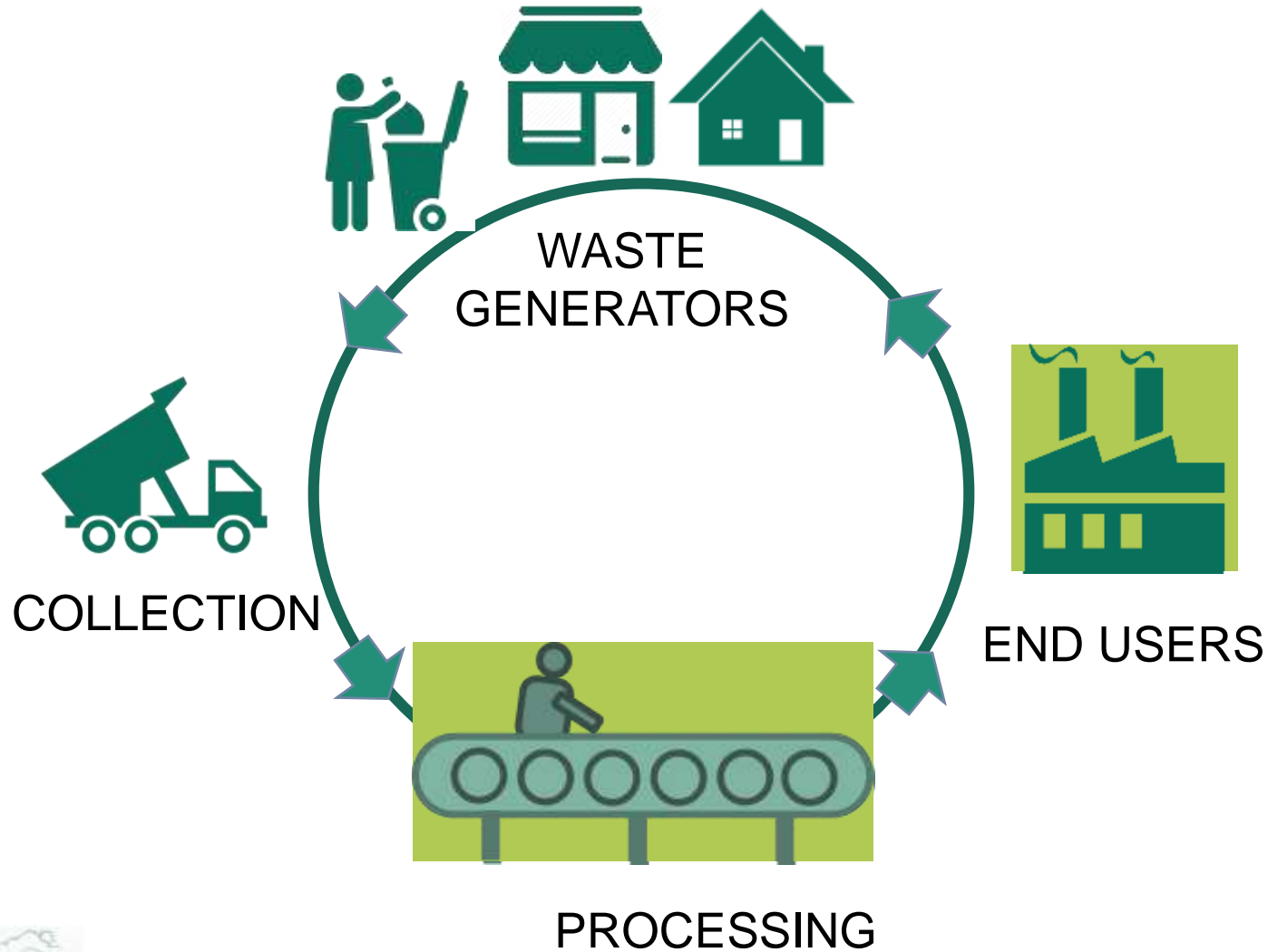
- Provides local employment and other economic/social benefits
- Conserves resources
 - Recycling by Oregonians in 2017 reduced ~32 trillion BTUs of energy use
 - Equivalent to ~3% reduction of statewide energy use
- Reduces pollution
 - Recycling by Oregonians in 2016 reduced greenhouse gas emissions by ~3.1 million metric tons of CO₂e
 - Equivalent to ~5% reduction of sector-based inventory



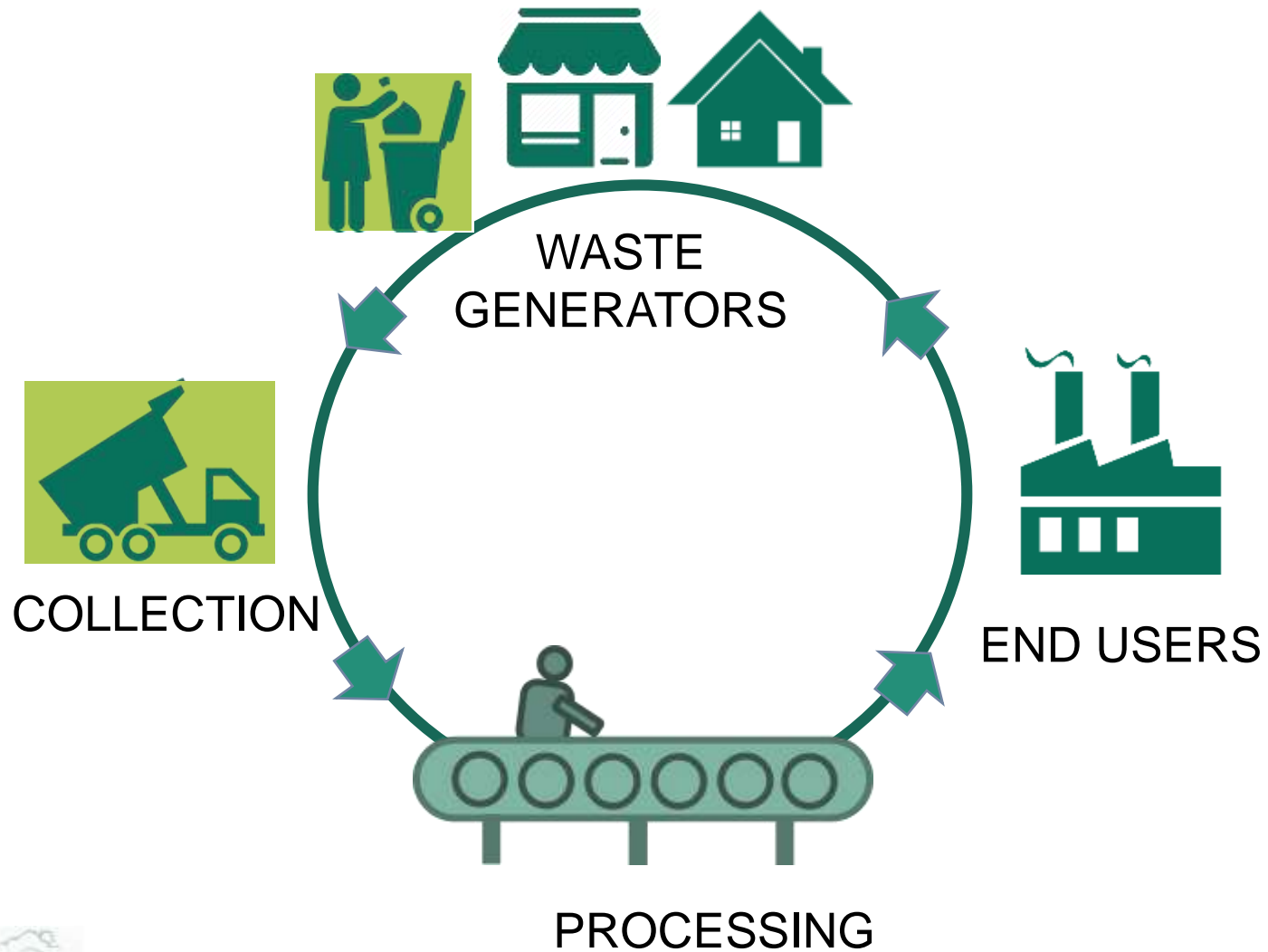
Climate Benefits of Recycling by Oregonians, 2016



What is recycling?



What is recycling?



Recycling in Oregon

- Opportunity model, with primary responsibility assigned to local governments
- 1983 – 1997: Intensive material separation



Recycling in Oregon

- Opportunity model, with primary responsibility assigned to local governments
- 1983 – 1997: Intensive material separation
- 1997 – present: Shift to commingling

RECYCLE
every week



PLASTIC Bottles with a neck (6 oz. or larger), tubs (6 oz. or larger), plant pots (4" or larger), buckets (5 gal. or smaller).

METAL Aluminum, tin and steel food cans, empty dry metal paint cans, empty aerosol cans, aluminum foil, scrap metal (smaller than 30" and less than 30 lbs).

PAPER Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, phone books, flattened cardboard boxes, scrap paper, cartons (milk, juice, soup), shredded paper (in paper bag).

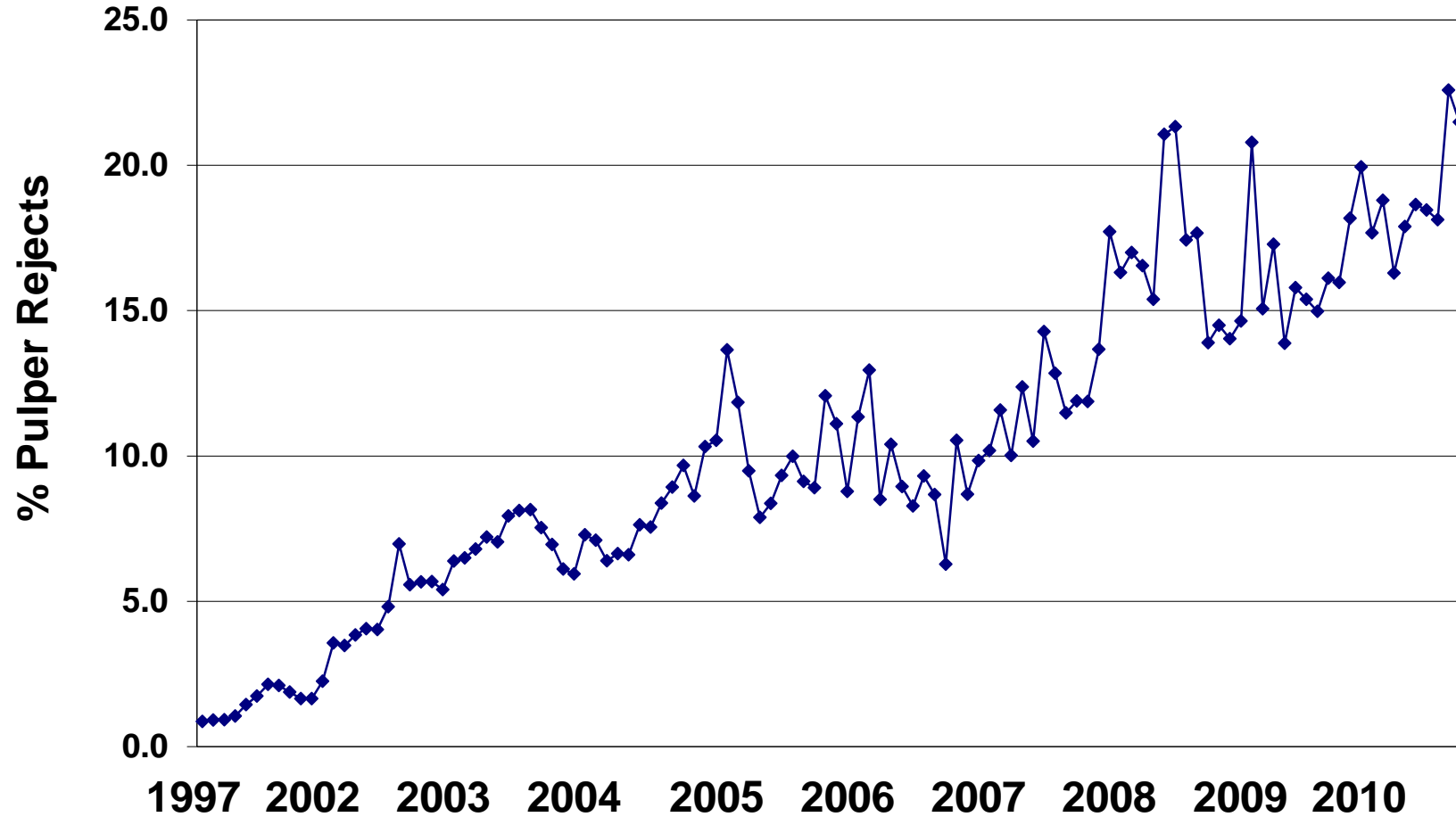
NO: Plastic bags, plastic caps/lids, diapers, propane cylinders, coffee cups/lids/pods, plastic "clamshells," Styrofoam, plastic containers under 6 oz., prescription medicine bottles.



Recycling contamination



NORPAC (Longview) pulper rejects as suppliers switched to commingled collection



Exports . . . and “National Sword” (2017)



Oregon response to “National Sword”

- DEQ formed a short-term stakeholder group
- Cities and counties:
 - Dropped materials
 - Increased rates to pay for additional processing
 - Stepped up efforts to reduce contamination at the source



Creation of the Recycling Steering Committee

Charter

“ . . . examine and make recommendations for modernizing recycling system in Oregon, in order to:

- Optimize the environmental benefits of managing materials at the end of life using a life-cycle perspective.
- Create a recovery system that is strong and resilient to changes in supply and demand.
- Restore and maintain public trust in the system through education and engagement with the public.”

Two Primary Tracks of Inquiry

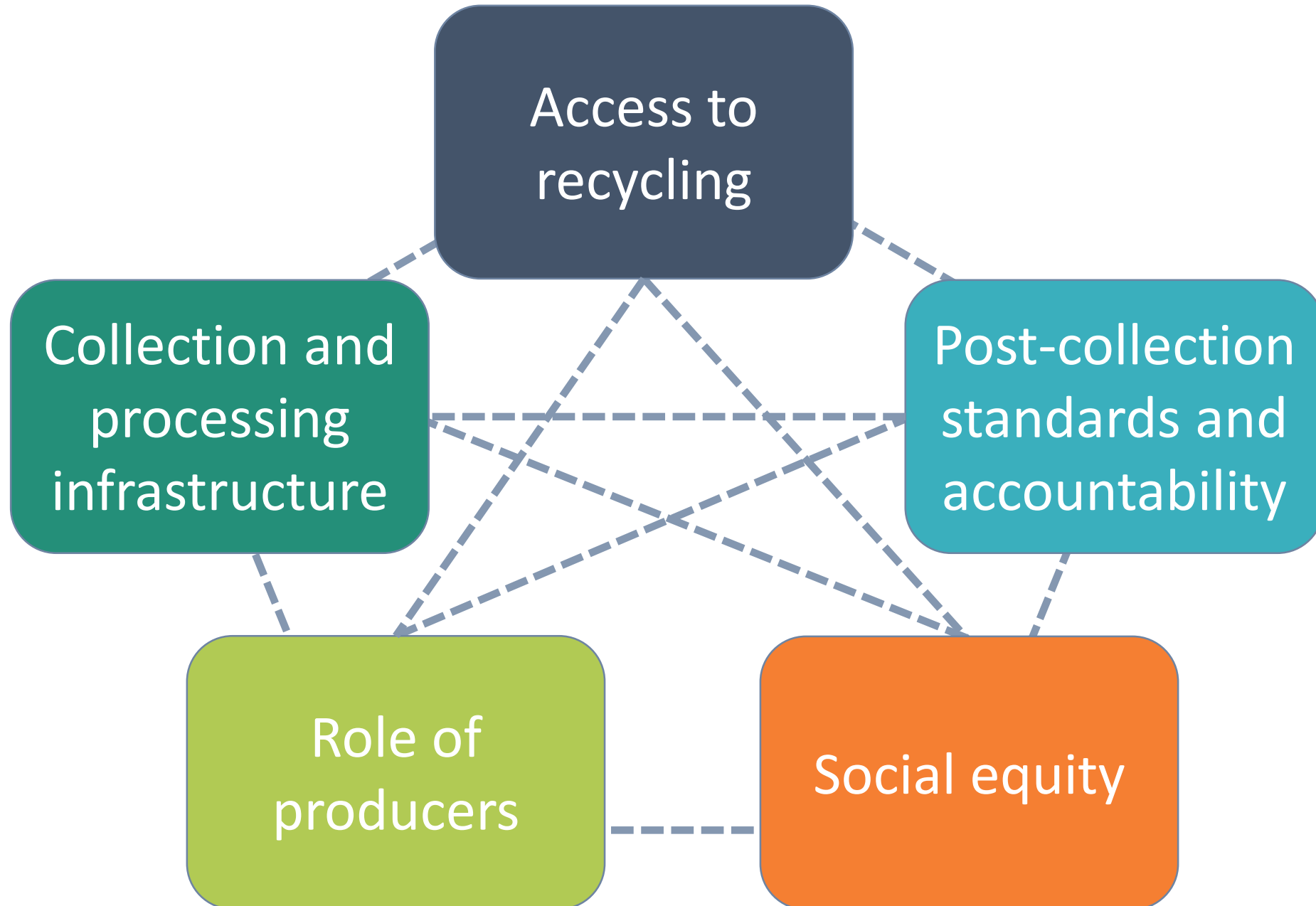
- Infrastructure
- Legal and Relational Frameworks



Recycling Steering Committee members

- Jay Simmons, NORPAC
- Nicole Janssen, Association of Plastics Recyclers/Denton Plastics
- Timm Schimke, Association of Oregon Counties (Deschutes County)
- Scott Keller, League of Oregon Cities (City of Beaverton)
- Bruce Walker, City of Portland
- David Allaway & Abby Boudouris, DEQ (co-chairs)
- Sarah Grimm, Lane County
- Pam Peck, Metro
- Kristan Mitchell, Oregon Refuse & Recycling Association
- Laura Leebrick, Rogue Disposal & Recycling
- Jason Hudson, Waste Connections
- Matt Stern, Waste Management
- Jeff Murray, EFI Recycling
- Vinod Singh, Far West Recycling
- Amy Roth, Association of Oregon Recyclers
- Dylan de Thomas, The Recycling Partnership

Key issues



Key issues

Access to recycling

- Which materials?
- Equal or unequal collection opportunities in all areas of the state?
- What about access for multifamily tenants?



Key issues

Collection and processing infrastructure

- More vs. less intensive separation by waste generators?
- Stronger or more consistent consequences for contamination?
- Processing investments?



Key issues

Post-collection standards and accountability

- Processing standards (outbound quality)
- Transparency and accountability, especially related to exports

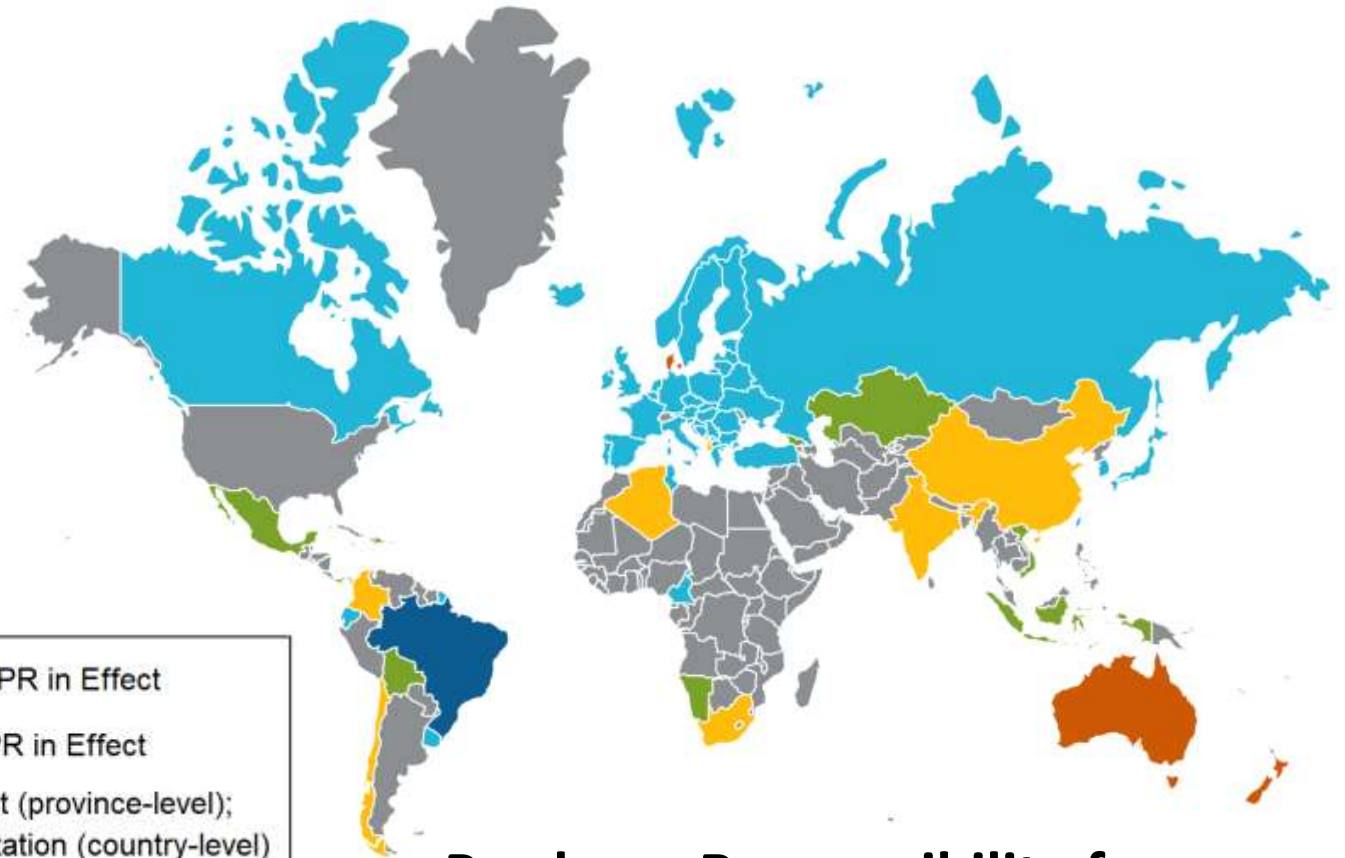


Photos: Megan Ponder

Key issues

Role of producers

- Labeling requirements
- Mandated use of post-consumer content
- Broader extended producer responsibility



Producer Responsibility for Packaging & Printed Paper

Key issues

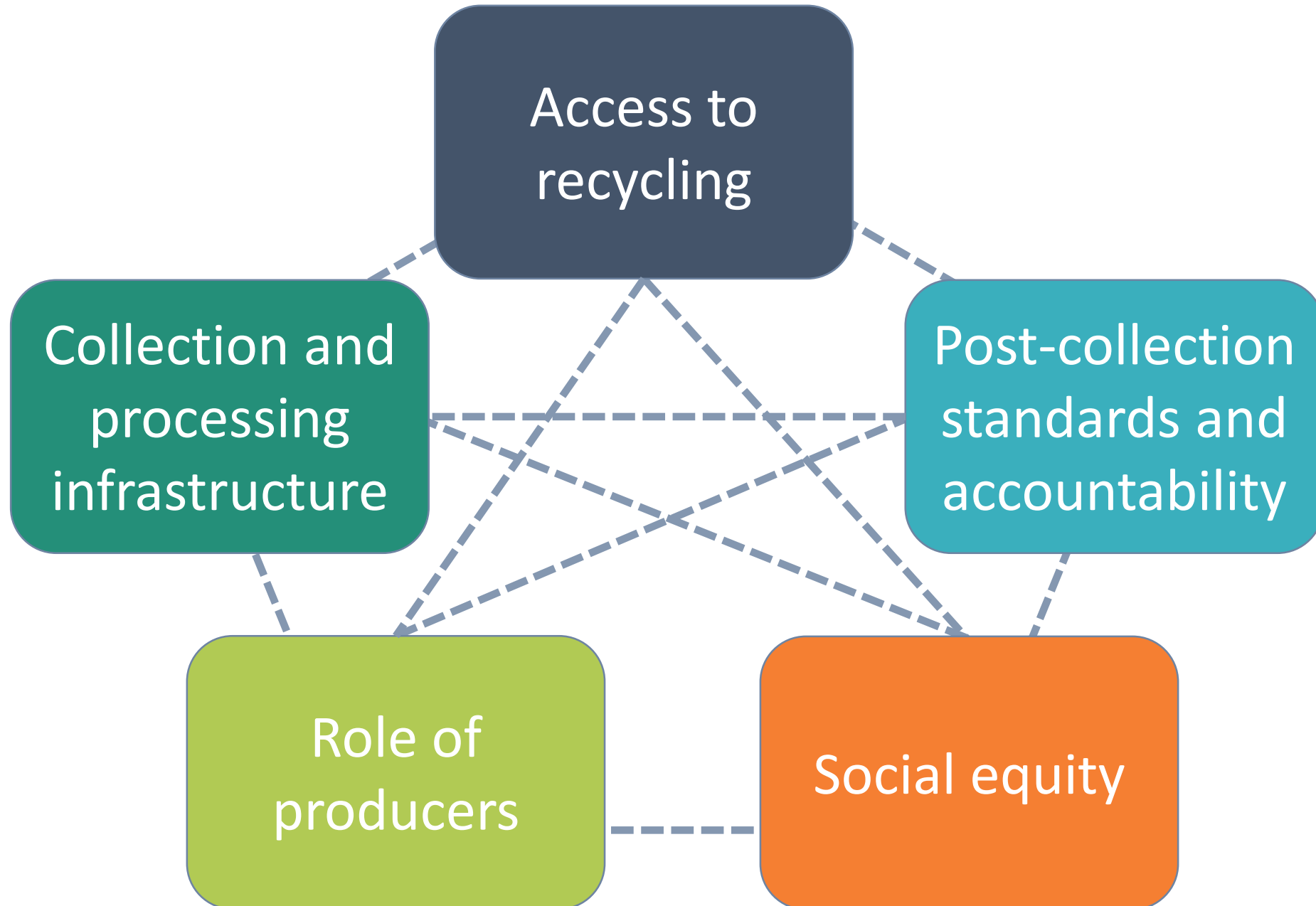
- Equity as a desired function of the future system
- Efforts to raise understanding and consideration of equity in the Recycling Steering Committee

Social equity



Photo: Oregon Business

Key issues



Project overview

Legal and relational frameworks research and deliberation

Infrastructure research and deliberation

Summer 2019

Broader community engagement

Whole system integration and consensus seeking

Late spring 2020

Implementation planning

Summer 2020

Implementation



Key upcoming actions

- **Evaluation of five scenarios for legal and relational frameworks**
 - January 31: Information Session (+ webinar option) and survey
 - February and March: ten local government listening sessions
 - February – April: underrepresented stakeholder listening sessions
- **Infrastructure research**
 - Evaluation of six different statewide scenarios
 - Consideration of multiple criteria including cost and environmental benefit
- **Ongoing Recycling Steering Committee meetings**
 - Consensus-seeking begins in March
 - Anticipated final recommendations by fall 2020
- **Subsequent implementation, including legislation**

Thank you

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