

Department of Environmental Quality Memorandum

Date: May 8, 2023
To: Environmental Quality Commission
From: Leah Feldon, Director
Subject: Item C: Legislative Session and Budget Updates (Informational)

Purpose of item DEQ will present updates on the 2023 legislative session including progress on the agency's budget.

2023 Legislative Session The legislature convened its 2023 regular session Jan. 17, 2023. Since that time there have been thousands of measures introduced for consideration. DEQ staff will also provide updates on measures introduced on behalf of the agency and brief the commission on other bills that stand to impact agency operations or programs. This includes:

HB 3229

Authorizes an 80% increase to the Title V Federal Operating Permit Program fees. Authorizes the commission to adopt a fee schedule in rules, allowing for robust stakeholder engagement in designing a more sustainable fee structure moving forward.

HB 3273

Sunsetts the statutory dry cleaner program, exempting operators from clean-up liability associated with contamination from dry cleaning solvents. Establishes a deadline by which certain solvents can no longer be used in Oregon.

HB 3220

Modifies provisions of Oregon's electronic recycling program to align with other producer responsibility programming overseen by DEQ.

HB 3207

Amends reporting requirements for Oregon domestic well testing program, requiring laboratories who perform the analysis to report results to DEQ.

HB 3208

Provides authority to the commission to adjust certain water quality permit fees by 3% annually.

HB 3195

Expands eligibility to include a broader range of potential entities that may apply for and be a recipient of Clean Water State Revolving Fund loans.

HB 3196

Provides authority to the commission to establish a fee, paid by Community Climate Investment Entities, to fund positions at the agency focused on providing performance and financial oversight of Community Climate Investments.

Budget development

DEQ presented the agency's Governor's Budget to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Natural Resource Subcommittee March 27-29. The committee heard testimony from the public on DEQ's budget on March 30.

Agency testimony focused on DEQ programs and budgets, and key budget requests for the 2023-2025 biennium.

The final General Fund revenue forecast will be provided to the legislature on May 17, 2023 and will set the tone for final negotiations and decision-making with regard to the state's 2023-2025 biennial budget.

DEQ will report on the final Legislatively Adopted Budget to the commission at its July 2023 meetings.

EQC involvement

DEQ welcomes questions and input from the commissioners on the agency's budget and legislative requests.

Non-discrimination statement

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