


State of Oregon  
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

**Date:** Jan. 12, 2017

**To:** Environmental Quality Commission

**From:** Richard Whitman, Director 

**Subject:** Agenda item G, Informational item: Update on *Materials Management in Oregon: 2050 Vision and Framework for Action*  
Jan. 17-19, 2017, EQC meeting

**Why this is important**

In December 2012, the commission adopted the *Materials Management in Oregon: 2050 Vision and Framework for Action* to guide a more holistic approach toward reducing the significant impacts from materials produced, used and discarded in Oregon. This material management approach considers the impacts that occur across the full life cycle of materials - from extraction of resources to recovery and disposal. Shifting from a narrow focus on managing wastes to this broader approach is important because the large majority of environmental impacts occur before materials are discarded. EQC requested annual updates on implementation of the *2050 Vision and Framework for Action* and Oregon's progress toward achieving the vision. The last update was provided to EQC in August 2015.

**Background and other information**

The *2050 Vision* describes a future with sustainable materials management. It includes a vision statement – *Oregonians in 2050 produce and use materials responsibly; conserving resources; protecting the environment; living well* – and desired outcomes for the design and production, consumption and use, and end-of-life management of materials in 2050. The document addresses materials produced in Oregon as well as materials used in Oregon but made elsewhere.

The accompanying *Framework for Action* includes actions to reduce ecological impacts at every stage in material and product life cycles. Those actions are organized into four pathways: foundational work, policies and regulations, collaboration and partnerships, and education and information.

To develop the *2050 Vision and Framework for Action*, DEQ worked for over a year during 2011 and 2012 with a diverse group of stakeholders. Following EQC adoption in December 2012, DEQ convened a new 23-member stakeholder workgroup to explore key statutory changes needed to successfully implement the *2050 Vision and Framework for Action*. DEQ also consulted extensively with other stakeholders across Oregon.

Legislation based on this work was enacted in 2015. Senate Bill 245 significantly expanded DEQ's authority to implement the *2050 Vision and*

*Framework for Action.* It authorized fee increases allowing DEQ to maintain existing services, restore some services cut during the recession, and add several important new programs. Senate Bill 245 further solved a long-standing problem by authorizing EQC to adjust solid waste tipping fees within specified limits, such as inflation or other factors. It also expanded DEQ's authority to grant and loan funds to support materials management.

A second bill, Senate Bill 263, modified existing requirements for larger cities and counties to provide recycling and waste prevention opportunities; extended recycling opportunities to the tenants of multi-family and commercial multi-tenant buildings; updated local and statewide waste recovery goals; updated Oregon's statewide waste prevention goal; established new statewide recovery goals for three high-impact wastes (food, plastic and carpet); and authorized EQC to adopt wasteshed (local) recovery goals that are measured using environmental outcomes as opposed to weight of material. Several of these changes are the subject of a proposed change to administrative rules that the commission will consider under agenda item H.

## Updates

In February 2016, the commission adopted rules that increased solid waste permitting and tip fees, created a partial fee refund program for economically distressed counties, and conformed grant rules to the new statute.

Revenue from these fee increases have allowed DEQ to recruit for seven new positions and launch several new initiatives, including the following:

- In early 2016, DEQ awarded \$584,527 in grants to local governments across the state for projects to reduce and recover solid wastes. By early January 2017, DEQ expects to announce intent to award a second round of grants to local governments and not-for-profit organizations, totaling approximately \$1.2 million.
- Household hazardous waste collection event services were restarted and collection events provided in fourteen cities in late 2015 and 2016. DEQ has also provided a contractor to remove dangerous chemicals from school science labs, and has begun a process to update the statewide household hazardous waste management plan.
- Working closely with stakeholders, DEQ has proposed administrative rules to implement portions of Senate Bill 263 relating to local recycling and waste prevention programs. DEQ is also planning to provide technical assistance, plan templates, outreach materials, and grant opportunities to help local governments with implementation.
- DEQ has completed or is in the process of completing three separate strategic planning efforts, addressing reuse, repair and product lifespan extension; preventing the wasting of food; and new initiatives to engage businesses in sustainable materials management. Implementation of these plans is already underway.

- Separately, DEQ has continued to implement projects, in partnership with the U.S. EPA, Oregon Sustainability Board, Oregon Concrete and Aggregate Producers Association, and the State of Washington, to accelerate fact-based environmental decision-making relating to government procurement, concrete and food.

**Next steps and  
commission  
involvement**

Implementing Senate Bill 245 and Senate Bill 263 will require revisions to several administrative rules. Proposed rulemakings will:

- Modify recycling and waste prevention opportunity requirements for cities and counties and modify local weight-based waste recovery goals (proposed January 2017)
- Establish alternative “outcome-based” waste recovery goals and measurement methods (anticipate EQC adoption in 2018).
- Establish rules for loans and possibly expand rules for grants (2018 or later).

DEQ has committed to updating *Materials Management in Oregon: 2050 Vision and Framework for Action* every six years. The next update, which will require EQC adoption, is anticipated in late 2018.

In the coming year, DEQ will continue to work with stakeholders to design and implement new programs for waste recovery, with a focus on food waste, plastic waste, and multi-tenant recycling, waste prevention and sustainable consumption, sustainable production and business partnerships, sustainable purchasing, outcome-based goals and measures, life cycle analysis, and public outreach. Adoption of Policy Option Package 131 by the 2017 Legislative Assembly would provide five additional positions that would greatly enhance this work.

**Additional  
information**

More information is available on the program website:

<http://www.oregon.gov/deq/LQ/Pages/SW/MaterialsManagement.aspx>

Link to *Materials Management in Oregon: 2050 Vision and Framework for Action*:

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/pubs/docs/sw/2050vision/MaterialsManagementinOregon.pdf>

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  
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