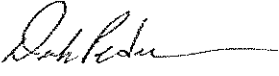


State of Oregon
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

Date: July 24, 2015

To: Environmental Quality Commission

From: Dick Pedersen, Director 

Subject: Agenda item M, Informational item: Update on *Materials Management in Oregon: 2050 Vision and Framework for Action*
Aug. 12-13, 2015, EQC meeting

Why this is important In December 2012, the commission adopted *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 disposal and recovery. 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 DEQ staff to provide annual updates on implementation of the *2050 Vision and Framework for Action* and Oregon's progress toward achieving the vision.

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 both 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, staff identified high priority near- and medium-term actions, considering factors such as staging and sequencing of actions that build on each other, available resources, and opportunities to partner with other organizations. In 2013 DEQ convened a new 23-member stakeholder workgroup to explore key statutory changes needed to successfully implement the *2050 Vision and Framework for Action*. This Workgroup was

supported by three subgroups with more than 90 stakeholders.

**Implementation
updates**

The newer workgroup and subgroups met 22 times in 2013 and 2014 to help DEQ develop several legislative concepts. DEQ held more than 30 additional meetings with stakeholders around the state to discuss and further refine the draft concepts, which DEQ introduced in the 2015 session as Senate Bill 245 and Senate Bill 263. The bills, with amendments, were supported by many organizations, including the Association of Oregon Counties, League of Oregon Cities, Association of Oregon Recyclers, and Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association. Both bills were adopted by the Legislature and signed by Governor Kate Brown. Passage of these bills provides a solid foundation for implementing *Materials Management in Oregon: 2050 Vision and Framework for Action*.

Senate Bill 245 significantly expands DEQ's authority to fully implement the *2050 Vision and Framework for Action*. It authorizes fee increases that will maintain existing services, restore some services cut during the recession, and add several valuable new programs. New fee revenue will support up to 12 new staff and approximately \$1.9 million in new grants and contracts per biennium. Senate Bill 245 further solves a long-standing problem by authorizing EQC to adjust solid waste tipping fees within limits; for example, as program costs change due to inflation or other factors. It also requires a partial fee rebate each year to Oregon's nine most economically distressed counties and expands DEQ's authority to grant and loan funds to support materials management.

Senate Bill 263 modifies existing requirements on larger cities and their counties to provide recycling and waste prevention opportunities. It extends recycling opportunities to the tenants of multi-family and commercial multi-tenant buildings. It updates local and statewide waste recovery goals, updates Oregon's statewide waste prevention goal and establishes new statewide recovery goals for three high-impact wastes: food, plastic and carpet. It also authorizes EQC to adopt watershed or local recovery goals that are measured using environmental outcomes, such as energy savings or greenhouse gas reductions, as opposed to weight of material.

DEQ also made progress during the last year in several other areas, including:

- Advancing green building options in Oregon. DEQ is continuing work to increase the market share of space-efficient housing by providing research, education and policy support for smaller housing models such as accessory dwelling units.
- Understanding the environmental footprints of products. Working with the State of Washington, the Oregon Sustainability Board and key stakeholders from the private and public sectors, DEQ evaluated the benefits, barriers and opportunities to advance environmental footprinting of products by

brand-owners. Based on this research, DEQ and Washington's Department of Ecology are launching several new initiatives that will accelerate fact-based environmental decision-making.

- Improving the recovery of wastes. DEQ completed two studies: one that identifies priority methods for increasing the recovery of waste plastics, and another that evaluates which method of processing food waste has the best environmental outcomes. These studies will inform DEQ's work moving forward.

**Next steps and
commission
involvement**

Implementing Senate Bill 245 and Senate Bill 263 will require revisions to several administrative rules. DEQ proposes a series of four rulemakings, as follows:

- Early 2016: Increase solid waste permitting and tip fees; create partial fee refund program for economically distressed counties; and conform grant rules to the new statute.
- Late 2016: Modify recycling and waste prevention opportunity requirements for cities and counties; modify local weight-based waste recovery goals.
- Late 2017: Establish alternative "outcome-based" waste recovery goals and measurement methods.
- 2017 or later: Establish rules for loans and possibly expand rules for grants.

In addition to the fee rulemaking, DEQ has begun recruiting new staff, and, as staff are added, will restart programs such as grants and household hazardous waste collections, working with stakeholders to design and implement new programs for waste recovery, waste prevention, sustainable production and business partnerships, toxics reduction, sustainable purchasing, outcome-based goals and measures, life cycle analysis and general public outreach.

**Supporting
materials**

Program website:

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

Materials Management in Oregon: 2050 Vision and Framework for Action:

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

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