

State of Oregon
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

Date: March 5, 2014

To: Environmental Quality Commission

From: Dick Pedersen, Director

Subject: Agenda item E, Informational item: Update on *Materials Management in Oregon: 2050 Vision and Framework for Action*
March 19-20, 2014, EQC meeting

Why this is important In December 2012, EQC 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, regardless of where they occur. 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. The commission requested that DEQ staff 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 To develop the *2050 Vision and Framework for Action* DEQ worked for over a year with a diverse group of stakeholders, exploring the new challenges and opportunities of the materials management perspective. The workgroup included long-term partners in the solid waste industry and government, and also new partners that DEQ will need to be successful.

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 and materials used in Oregon but made elsewhere. It includes actions to reduce those impacts at every stage in material and product life cycles.

The *Framework for Action* identifies about 50 key actions to lead DEQ and the state toward achieving desired outcomes for 2050. Those actions are organized into four pathways: foundational work, policies

and regulations, collaboration and partnerships, and education and information. DEQ will reevaluate and update the *Framework for Action* every six years and identify new actions over time.

Implementation Staff prioritized near-term and medium-term actions by considering factors such as staging and relative timing of actions that build sequentially on each other, internal resource availability and opportunities to partner with other organizations. Some of the work is a continuation and expansion of existing, ongoing work and some is new for DEQ.

DEQ made progress in several key areas during its first year implementing the *2050 Vision*:

- 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, known as ADUs.
- Understanding the environmental footprints of products.
 - Working with the State of Washington and the Oregon Sustainability Board, DEQ is launching a project this spring to evaluate and discuss with key stakeholders opportunities to advance environmental footprinting of products by brand-owners.
- Building expertise to maximize benefits of recovery for high impact materials.
 - DEQ is partnering with Metro, the plastics industry and many others to determine how much more plastic can be recovered from the waste stream, and how to maximize its value when it is recovered. DEQ has also started a project to evaluate which method of processing food waste has the best environmental outcomes.
- Streamlining oversight of regulated facilities.
 - DEQ is implementing agency permit and inspection breakthrough efforts developed in 2012 and 2013.
- Developing legislative proposals.
 - In fall 2013, DEQ convened a new 23-member stakeholder workgroup to explore key statutory changes needed to successfully implement *Materials Management in Oregon: 2050 Vision and Framework for Action*. The goal is to develop legislative proposals for 2015 that engender broad stakeholder and agency support. The workgroup will meet a total of seven times, and will continue through fall 2014.

The workgroup is supported by three sub-groups with over 90 stakeholders:

- Sustainable Funding - to identify options to restore and stabilize funding for DEQ's materials management program.
- Goals and Measures - to identify goals and measures to help guide progress toward the *2050 Vision*.
- Recycling Opportunities - to examine options for increasing and improving recovery of materials in Oregon.

In the near-term, DEQ will begin other priority work such as advancing reuse and repair infrastructure in Oregon and developing a program to reduce food waste.

**Next steps and
commission
involvement**

DEQ may develop legislative concepts and budget requests for 2015, and would identify those actions or any other potential rulemaking in discussion with the commission.

Attachments

- A. *Materials Management in Oregon: 2050 Vision and Framework for Action*
- B. Materials Management Workgroup Members 2013 – 2014

Available online

More information is available on the program website:
<http://www.oregon.gov/deq/LQ/Pages/SW/MaterialsManagement.aspx>

Approved: _____
Division: Environmental Solutions

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Section: Materials Management

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