

Date: May 1, 2019

To: Environmental Quality Commission

From: Richard Whitman, Director

Subject: Agenda item n, Informational item: State of Oregon's Environment
May 16-17, 2019, EQC meeting

Why this is important DEQ will present on the agency's environmental outcome measures, as collected from several data-reporting mechanisms in use at DEQ, and on the use of measures, generally, to track agency progress and opportunities for improvement.

Prior EQC involvement This presentation is the first time DEQ has brought the comprehensive collection of environmental outcome measures for commission discussion. The agency's Key Performance Measures are included as part of the budget submittals DEQ prepares, and the commission certifies, each biennia.

Background The Department of Environmental Quality's mission is to be a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, water and land. DEQ's core functions are to regulate air and water emissions so that our air is healthy to breathe and our waters are clean; work with private and public partners to clean up contaminated lands; prepare for and respond to emergency events involving spills and fire; and manage solid and hazardous wastes - all to protect public health and the environment.

In order to track progress on our mission and environmental goals, DEQ reviews measures of Oregon's air, land and water quality. These measures track the success of DEQ programs.

Content being presented There are three types of measures DEQ uses to track Oregon's environmental health:

- Key Performance Measures
- Environmental Council of the States measures
- DEQ measures for outcome-based management

DEQ reports Key Performance Measures to the Oregon Legislature. During the budget deliberation process of each legislative session, the Legislature approves,

disapproves, or updates each agency's proposed key performance measures. The Legislature uses these measures to assess agency performance. Each year agencies submit an Annual Performance Progress Report to the Legislative Fiscal Office. The report provides a detailed analysis of agency Key Performance Measures. DEQ uses a handful of these measures to track environmental outcomes annually or biennially.

The Environmental Council of the States is the national non-profit, non-partisan association of state and territorial environmental agency leaders. The purpose of ECOS is to improve the capability of state environmental agencies and their leaders to protect and improve human health and the environment. Oregon participates in the ECOS common measure project, which is an interactive web tool displaying state-identified common measures. It seeks to communicate public health, environmental progress, and economic impact over time. ECOS Results displays measures within three fundamental areas: air healthy to breathe, less and properly managed waste, and water clean and available for all uses. These measures are tracked annually.

DEQ tracks a set of measures quarterly in a quarterly performance review meeting. These measures track specifics about DEQ's on-going work. DEQ collects and analyzes data about each measure and compares this to targets to assess how close we are to meeting our goals. These reviews can also identify areas for improvement. Although most measures are reported quarterly, some, such as the environmental outcome measures, are reported on annually or less often. The timeframe for review reflects the rate of change in environmental conditions.

Key issues These measures were selected because they address the wide range of services and activities performed by DEQ to protect our environment and the health of our communities. This presentation will focus on the agency's outcome measures. There are additional measures not covered in this presentation that DEQ tracks related to DEQ's core work. DEQ updates and improves measures as necessary.

These measures cover areas where DEQ has authority, data reporting requirements, or influence. There are measures where DEQ does not have authority over all of the factors that contribute to the success of a measure.

EQC involvement There is no EQC action associated with this agency information. DEQ will bring regular updates on this topic to the commission by request.

Supporting materials None

Note: A copy of the measure slides, as used to report progress, will be provided prior to the meeting, pending final review in early May 2019

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