

The strategies within this plan are non-regulatory and non-binding recommendations provided for the consideration of Salem City Council and other parties that have the authority to implement. The wording used to describe the strategies should not be taken to mean an outcome has been predetermined. Additionally, local, state, and federal regulatory or statutory requirements may exist that will impact the degree to which some strategies can be implemented.



MATERIALS & WASTE

24 STRATEGIES





VISION: Salem will be a closed-loop community when it comes waste, first reducing waste at the source, then repairing and reusing materials, and impacts from disposal will be minimal.

GUIDING EQUITY PRINCIPLES: Ensure that waste disposal practices and requirements do not disproportionately affect low-income neighborhoods or historically marginalized communities.









OBJECTIVE 1: Establish data tracking and reporting processes

Code	Task	GHG Reduction Potential	Cost	Lead Agency	Co-Benefits	Suggested Timeframe
MW01	Calculate a baseline, track, and report a diversion rate for City of Salem using Marion County data.	Low	\$\$	City		S
MW02	Conduct regular waste audits to identify materials being sent to the landfill, to gain an understanding of contamination rates, and to identify diversion opportunities.	Low	\$\$	City		S







OBJECTIVE 2: Reduce waste at the source and facilitate a closed loop, circular economy

Code	Task	GHG Reduction Potential	Cost	Lead Agency	Co-Benefits	Suggested Timeframe
MW03	Continue reducing emissions and minimizing waste through current practices, including following State guidance on prioritizing sustainable products, limiting deliveries to two days per week, and facilitating electronic RFP/bid processes.	Low	\$	City	 	S
MW04	Write and implement a sustainable purchasing policy for the City to be informed by best practices, reducing GHG emissions, limiting harmful chemicals, prioritizing local businesses, and ensuring safe and fair supply chains.	Low	\$	City	 	S











OBJECTIVE 2: Reduce waste at the source and facilitate a closed loop, circular economy

Code	Task	GHG Reduction Potential	Cost	Lead Agency	Co-Benefits	Suggested Timeframe
MW05	Develop more comprehensive sustainable specifications for City bidding/RFP processes.	Low	\$	City	 	S
MW06	Develop lending libraries of things (ex. Thingery in Vancouver) to be located at neighborhood resilience hubs. Collaborate with public libraries and neighborhood associations.	Low	\$\$\$	City	  	S
MW07	Collaborate with local and regional producers to recycle packaging, printing and writing paper and food serviceware at the end of life, i.e. support policies and practices related to extended producer responsibility per SB 582.	Low	\$\$\$\$	City	 	M
MW08	Implement and enforce a city-wide ban on non-essential single-use plastics and expanded polystyrene (EPS) products.	Low	\$	City		M


OBJECTIVE 3: Set a goal to achieve zero waste (meaning at least 90% of waste is diverted from the landfill through waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting) in municipal operations

Code	Task	GHG Reduction Potential	Cost	Lead Agency	Co-Benefits	Suggested Timeframe
MW09	Set goals and determine practices (e.g., using reusable materials over single-use items) to reduce waste at City-funded events, including all meetings and conferences.	Low	\$	City		S
MW10	Create policies and procedures for waste reduction through purchasing and waste handling for City employees.	Low	\$	City		S
MW11	Train custodial staff in waste diversion instructions.	Low	\$	City		S
MW12	Analyze the waste generated from municipal operations to establish a baseline; track and report progress towards achieving the 90% diversion rate.	Low	\$	City		S
MW13	Engage City employees in activities to encourage behavior change, like training, discussion, competitions, presentations, awards, etc.	Low	\$	City		S
MW14	Establish a city-wide waste reduction education program.	Low	\$	City		S

OBJECTIVE 4: Reduce food waste to reduce GHG emissions

Code	Task	GHG Reduction Potential	Cost	Lead Agency	Co-Benefits	Suggested Timeframe
MW15	Implement an educational and outreach program for residents and businesses that raises awareness about how to reduce food waste at home and at work. Work with Marion County Environmental Services to develop and share information.	Low	\$\$	Marion County Environmental Services		M
MW16	Work with Marion Polk Foodshare and Salem Harvest to build on existing food recovery efforts/ programs to establish a comprehensive food bank/donation/recovery system throughout all of Salem. Bring catering companies, restaurants, and food services providers together with community services organizations so everyone can learn from each other about how to best serve the residents of Salem and reduce food waste.	Low	\$\$	Marion Polk Foodshare	 	M
MW17	Implement a convenient, city-wide composting program for residents, including both multi- and single-family residential properties. Identify existing multi-family food waste collection programs that are working and expand existing programs to service multi-family residences.	Medium	\$\$	City		L
MW18	Educate residents how to do backyard composting, and incentivize with coupons or gift certificates to local businesses. Work with Marion County Environmental Services to develop and share information.	Low	\$	City		M
MW19	Work with local restaurants to identify their barriers to reducing food waste and composting. Work with Marion County Environmental Services to develop an educational program with incentives for implementing strategies for reducing food waste and diverting organic waste from the landfill.	Low	\$\$	City		M
MW20	Provide incentives to farms, food producers, retailers, and restaurants to divert excess food to organizations that can distribute the food to members of the community who are experiencing food insecurity.	Low	\$	City	   	L



OBJECTIVE 5: Support sustainable material management through financial incentives

Code	Task	GHG Reduction Potential	Cost	Lead Agency	Co-Benefits	Suggested Timeframe
MW21	Explore incentives for residences and businesses that reduce food waste, including the use of a pay structure for municipal waste disposal services based on lower overall costs for lower rates of contamination.	Medium	\$	City		L

OBJECTIVE 6: Reduce air pollution from waste

Code	Task	GHG Reduction Potential	Cost	Lead Agency	Co-Benefits	Suggested Timeframe
MW22	Explore how to send waste to landfill rather than Covanta plant.	Medium	\$\$	City	 	M

OBJECTIVE 7: Accelerate capture of all wastewater emissions

Code	Task	GHG Reduction Potential	Cost	Lead Agency	Co-Benefits	Suggested Timeframe
MW23	Enhance the capture of wastewater emissions for renewable natural gas (RNG) to be used for energy.	High	\$\$\$\$	City		L
MW24	Adopt improved water treatment methods that reduce the production of methane as they become available.	Low	\$\$	City		L



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Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act

Opportunities for local governments

Under the new law, DEQ will assess local interest in expanding collection options and recycling depots. Look for a needs assessment survey from DEQ contractor, Euromia Research & Consulting, in early 2023 asking how your community would like to expand recycling services.

Those who complete the needs assessment survey and express interest in expanding recycling services will be eligible to receive funding under this new system beginning in 2025.

Expansion of services will begin in 2025 after the PROs work with participating local governments and service providers to determine what service expansions will be funded.

Examples of services expansion include but are not limited to:

- **new or expanded curbside collection** of covered recyclable materials including roll carts, educational materials and collection trucks;
- **new or expanded depots** for covered recyclable products including containers, equipment, and new staff;
- **new recycling reload facilities** if needed. For example, compactors, containers, or other equipment; and
- **other system improvements** to be determined

There are BIG changes coming to recycling in Oregon!

What local governments and service providers need to know:

There are changes coming to Oregon's recycling system relevant to the communities you serve. This mailer contains information and resources about how these changes will impact your community.

The Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act updates Oregon's recycling system by building on local community programs and leveraging resources from producers, creating a system where everyone in Oregon has the same opportunities to recycle. The law requires producers of packaging, printing and writing paper and food serviceware to share responsibility for the effective, responsible handling of their products after use.

The new law became effective Jan. 1, 2022, and program implementation begins in July 2025. RMA builds on existing standards and requirements from Oregon's Opportunity to Recycle Act, or OTR. The new law creates:

- **Many benefits for local governments**, including funding to expand recycling opportunities and to help reduce contamination in the recycling system.
- **Some new requirements for cities with populations over 4,000**, the areas within their urban growth boundaries and all cities in the Metro Regional Service District.
- **Many benefits and opportunities to expand recycling with very few requirements for cities with populations under 4,000.**

HOW IT WILL WORK



Producers

Will join a Producer Responsibility Organization and pay fees based on the products they sell in Oregon

Producer Responsibility Organizations

Will use the fees to fund and reimburse various local recycling service expenses



Recycling Processing Facilities

Will establish new permit and certification requirements

Uniform Statewide Collection List

Will establish a uniform list of materials that are recyclable across Oregon



Local Governments

Will receive financial support to expand recycling services and address contamination

RecyclingAct.Oregon.gov

Producers and Producer Responsibility Organizations

Producers:

Companies identified as 'Producers' are required to join and pay fees to a Producer Responsibility Organization, or PRO.

Producer Responsibility Organization:

A PRO is a non-profit organization and will be established to administer the statewide program for the management of the covered products. The PRO will use the fees to fund recycling system improvements in communities across Oregon.

Local governments

The RMA creates new funding mechanisms for local governments, who will continue overseeing collection and will receive financial support to expand recycling services and address contamination. The law includes funding to support the creation of:

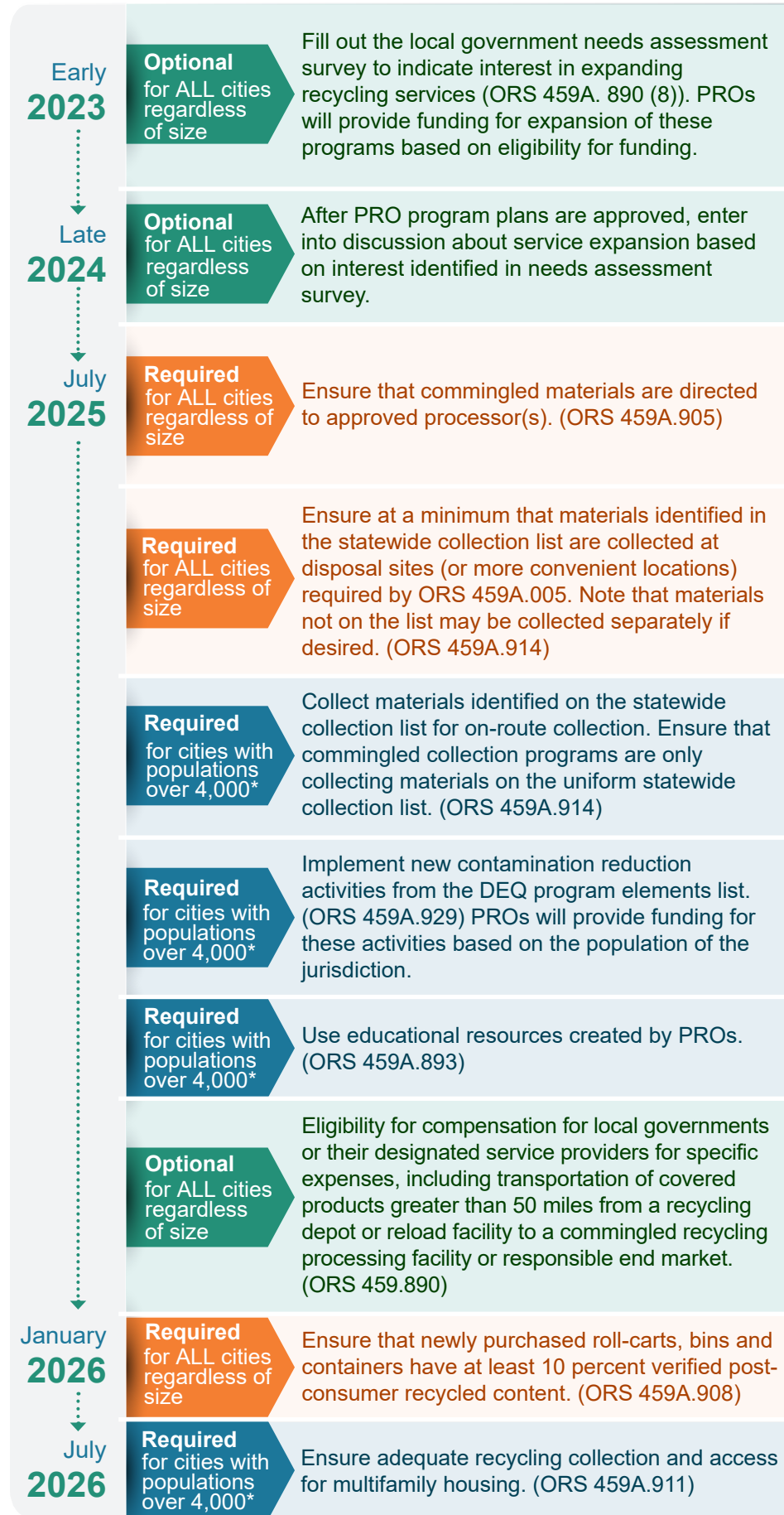
- New resources to reduce contamination found in the commingled recycling stream.
- New educational resources about the uniform statewide collection list that are culturally responsive and available in multiple languages
- Opportunities to improve and expand existing recycling services and to implement recycling services for communities that do not currently have on-route collection or depot collection.

Collection and processing

Under the new law:

- **DEQ** will publish a uniform statewide collection list for commingled recyclable material, allowing residents and businesses to recycle the same material, regardless of location.
- **PRO** funding will cover the costs of transporting collected recyclables from communities currently 50+ miles from the nearest commingled recycling processing facility or responsible end market.
- **Commingled recycling processing facilities** will meet new performance standards for material quality, reporting, and providing a living wage and supportive benefits to workers, among other things.

Local government requirements



*Including areas within the urban growth boundary of those cities, cities in the Metro Regional Service District.

How you can learn more

RecyclingAct.Oregon.gov



Scan the QR code to sign up for email updates and view DEQ's presentation on local government requirements and opportunities for recycling service expansion.

For general questions, email RethinkRecycling@deq.oregon.gov or reach out to one of the DEQ specialists in your area:

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Stay tuned!

In fall 2022, DEQ hosted informational sessions with local governments, service providers and other interested parties across Oregon. The presentation recording and slides can be viewed at RecyclingAct.Oregon.gov. Below is the roadmap for the service expansion needs assessment:

