



Update on: Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act (RMA)

Solid Waste Committee









April 18, 2024

August meeting, provided brief introduction to the Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act (RMA).

Today, I'd like to provide a reminder of this program, an update, and next steps for the City.

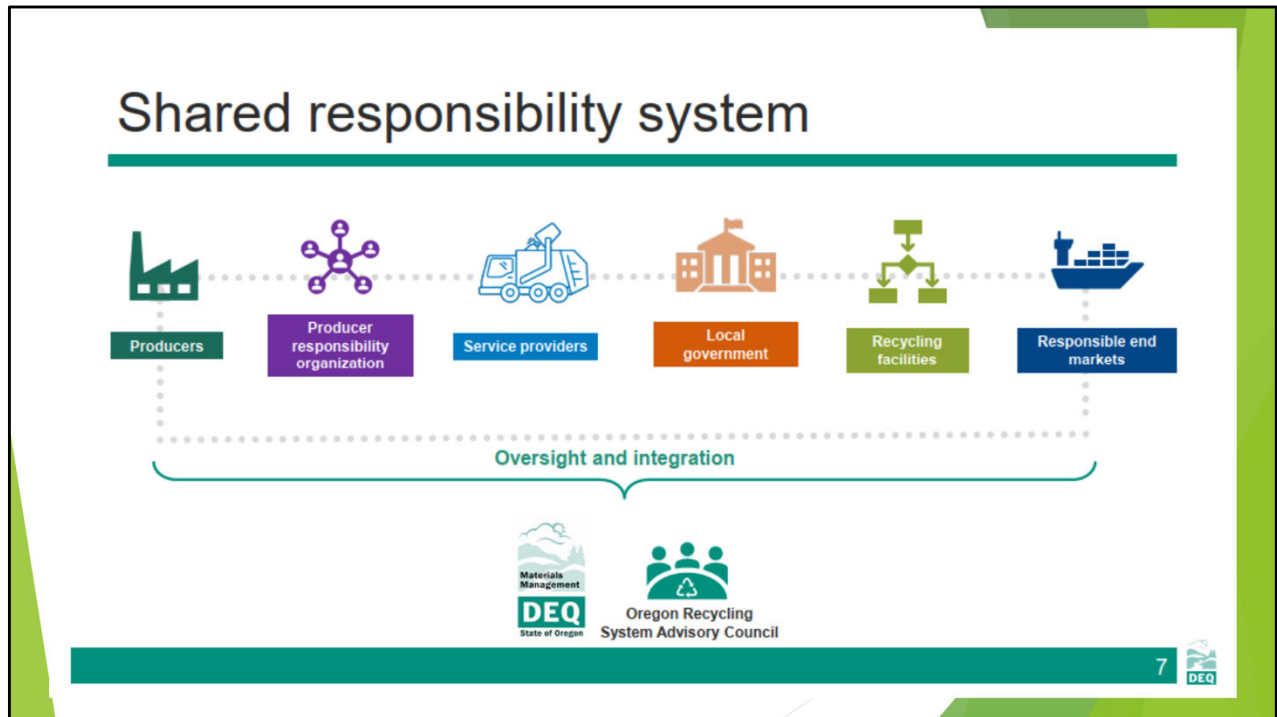
Appendix 8

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

Code	Task	GHG Reduction Potential	Cost	Lead Agency	Co-Benefits
MW05	Develop more comprehensive sustainable specifications for City bidding/RFP processes.	Low	\$	City	 
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	  
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	 
MW08	Implement and enforce a city-wide ban on non-essential single-use plastics and expanded polystyrene (EPS) products.	Low	\$	City	

As a reminder, the RMA directly ties in with the Climate Action Plan strategy MW07.

CAP Appendix 8, Materials and Waste, Objective 2, Strategy #07 (page 34)



RMA brought to Oregon a new Shared Responsibility Recycling System.

First, producers of covered materials will be required to join a producer responsibility organization (PRO) and pay fees based on the quality of material they are selling.

The PRO – a non-profit organization formed to administer and implement the elements of the law – will collect fees from producers and distribute funds to support and expand recycling services.

Local governments and service providers will be required to meet new standards and play a key role in reducing contamination.

Commingle recyclable processing facilities will be required to meet new performance standards including ensuring that they are sending recyclable materials to responsible end markets.

And finally, DEQ's role is to implement and oversee the RMA with the Oregon Recycling System Advisory Council advising DEQ.

Scope of the RMA

Examples of items on the Uniform Statewide Collection List and the PRO Depot List



Examples of exempted products under the RMA



Examples of items covered by the Bottle Bill



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As mentioned in the previous slide, producers of “covered products” will be required to pay fees for the products they sell and covers packaging for most of the things you see in the grocery store, but not everything that is recycled is covered.

Under the law covered products include a broad range of packaging, printing and writing paper, and food service products. Examples are shown in the picture on the left.

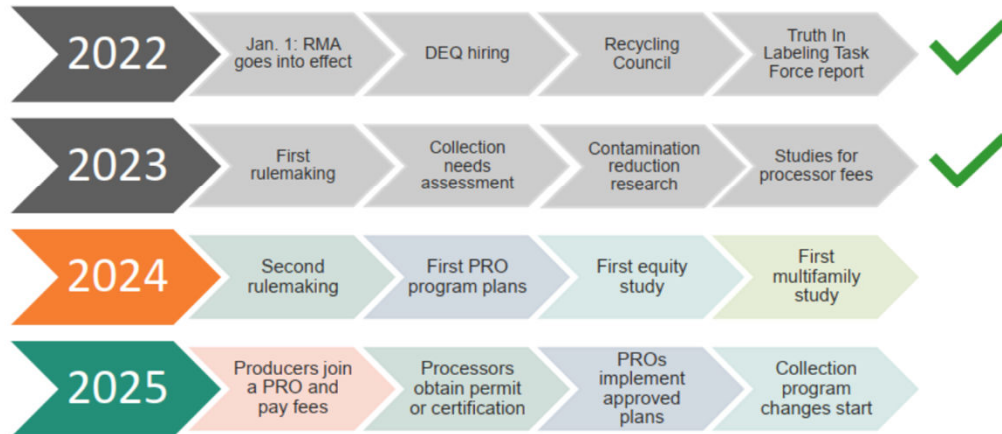
Several products are specifically exempted such as napkins and paper towels, products used by farms and nurseries, and drug packaging.

Beverage containers that are covered by the Oregon Bottle Bill are also not subject to this law.



- Expanded Recycling Services
- Statewide Collection List
- Recycling improvements for multi-tenant properties
- Material processing
- Education for contamination reduction
- Producer involvement

Implementation Progress



New statewide recycling lists

- Local Government Acceptance List
 - Uniform Statewide Collection List (materials that can be commingled)
 - A few other materials
- PRO Recycling Acceptance List
 - Materials PRO must collect
 - Harder to recycle materials



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•As part of the first rulemaking process, two new statewide recycling lists were developed. These are intended to be updated as recycling processes or end markets for recyclable materials change.

- The first list is the Local Government Acceptance List, which includes the Uniform Statewide Collection List (USCL) for items collected in commingled cart. Most of which are already accepted in Salem with a few additions.
- A few other materials would be collected at collection depots, such as large scrap metal.

- The PROs have their own Recycling Acceptance List, which include “recyclable” items not accepted in the commingle cart. This includes things like aerosol cans, aluminum foil, bulky plastic containers and buckets, plastic film, block white expanded polystyrene, shredded paper and more.
- Harder to recycle materials.

www.oregon.gov/deq/recycling/Documents/rmaMatAccept.pdf

Required for all local governments



Opportunity to Recycle depots – Jul. 2025

(Already mostly collected curbside in Salem)



Ensure that commingled materials go to approved processors – Jul. 2025



Only material on the USCL may be collected commingled – Jul. 2025



Purchase collection containers with recycled content – Jan. 2026

Required for cities $\geq 4,000$ areas inside their UGBs, cities in Metro Service District



Collect materials designated for recycling collection from on-route customers at least monthly – Jul. 2025



Implement new contamination reduction programs – Jul. 2025



Use USCL educational resources created by PRO – Jul. 2025



Offer service to multi-tenant properties; ensure adequate space for multifamily collection – Jul. 2026

PRO Funding

1. Recycling service expansion

2. Transportation

3. Contamination reduction programming

4. Contamination evaluation

5. Recycled content collection containers

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1. Recycling service expansion
 1. New and expanded collection services and depots:
 1. Start-up costs for on-route programs
 2. Start-up and operational costs for recycling depots
 2. Requests made through the 2023 needs assessment
2. Transportation (covered products only)
 1. Distances more than 50 miles
 2. From depot or reload to nearest processor or end market
 3. Receive, consolidate, load, transport
3. Contamination reduction programming
 1. Work with customers to reduce contamination using a DEQ approved list of programming elements
 2. Up to \$3 per capita per year
4. Contamination evaluation
 1. Required contamination evaluation
 2. Evaluation that does not occur at a recycling processor
5. Recycled content collection containers
 1. To the extent compliance with recycled content requirement is more expensive, the incremental cost is eligible. Begins January 1, 2026

Funding authorization (service provider designation)

- Local governments may choose to designate service providers or other entities to receive PRO funding directly
- May authorize some, all, or none of the funding
- Authorization can vary by type of funding
- Consider who will be incurring eligible costs

Who is Circular Action Alliance?

Circular Action Alliance (CAA) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) established to support the successful implementation of EPR laws for paper and packaging in the U.S.

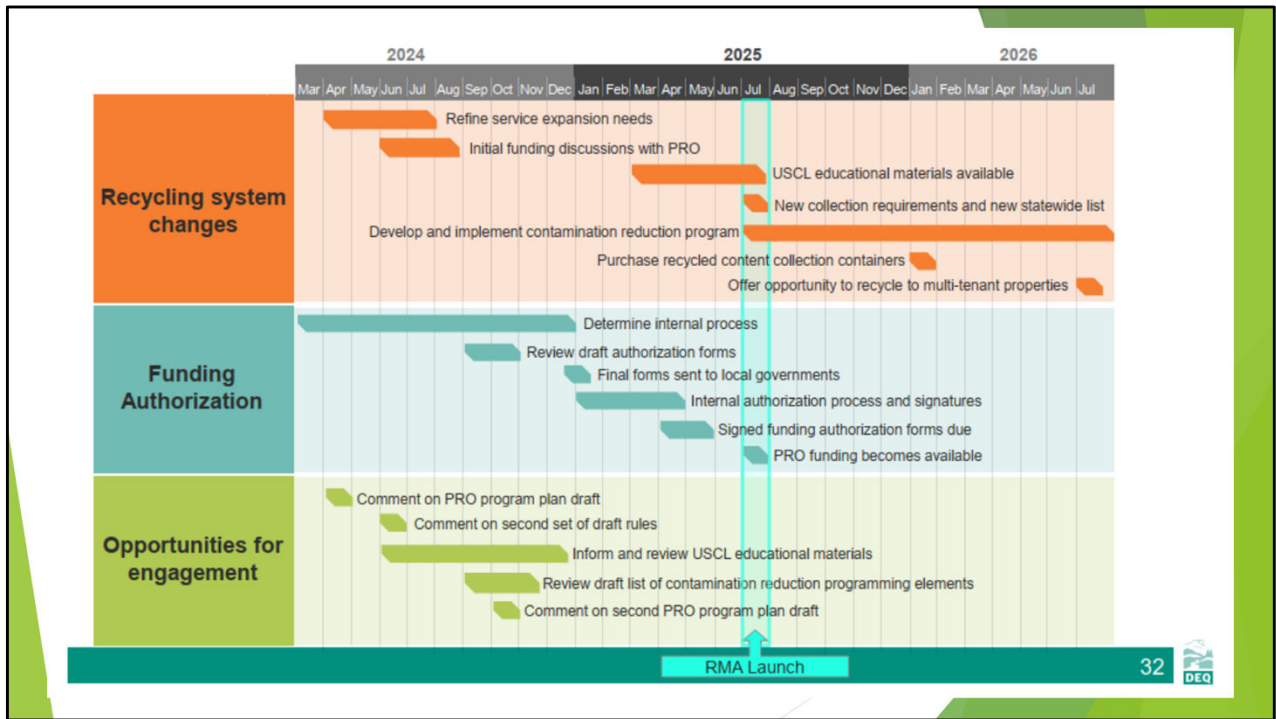
CAA was officially incorporated in December 2022 and 20 companies from the food, beverage, consumer goods, and retail industries serve as Founding Members.

CAA has been approved to be the PRO in California, Colorado and Maryland.

22 CIRCULAR ACTION ALLIANCE



- One prospective PRO, Circular Action Alliance (CAA), submitted a Program Plan Draft by the 3/31/2024 deadline.
- Open comment period on their submitted plan until May 10, 2024, at 5:00 pm PDT.
- City Staff will be reviewing this plan along with Marion County staff and Haulers to provide comments.



RMA Launch



Action steps

- 1 Talk with service providers and partners
- 2 Determine internal process for funding authorization
- 3 Complete the PRO contact survey

1.1 - Review program plan submitted by Circular Action Alliance (CAA) by May 10, 2024

RecyclingAct.Oregon.gov