



# Recycling Steering Committee

*Modernizing Oregon's recycling system with support from Oregon Consensus*

## Contamination Subcommittee Meeting Agenda and Summary

**Monday, April 15, 12 p.m.-2 p.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/2348602747>

Dial 669 900 6833 US

Meeting ID: 234 860 2747

### Agenda

1. 'Map' out the Contamination problem
2. Glean from that the big issues
3. Funnel the issues towards the near term Stakeholder group (or subgroups therein), the long view SC efforts via existing or upcoming sub-committee work, or determine if there is a further discreet piece for this Contamination Subcommittee to work on

### Meeting Summary

**Members Present:** Asami Tanimoto, Dylan De Thomas, Brian Stafki, Jeff Murray, Scott Keller, Vinod Singh, Laura Leebrick, Nicole Janssen and Jay Simmons.

The meeting was facilitated by Oregon Consensus (Robin Harkless and Amy Delahanty).

Dylan introduced Asami as a new local team member with Recycling Partners and who will be examining contamination issues nationally with an interest in what this group is working on.

Context: Since the kick off of this subcommittee at the January 17 Steering Committee meeting, the group met once in March to set some direction for itself and agreed that a first and primary task would be to 'map' the contamination issues across the system in order to assist the internal players (and perhaps later, external partners) in articulating and problem solving around this pervasive but complex concern. Since then, a survey was distributed which asked members of the SC to share perspective on which contaminants were of critical concern. In parallel, Laura, Scott and Jeff worked on a draft contamination visual to start to describe the issues, and different ways of seeing contamination, across the system.

Brian Stafki, DEQ, suggested the focus for today and moving forward on contamination should be to determine if an issue can be addressed in the current system, or if it would require a system change, in order to guide the discussions to the right forum/table.

**The Contamination Map:** Overall the group appreciated the work done on this and found it to be a very useful start. Some suggestions were made to reorganize it (e.g. add a distinct 'collector phase' column;

The Recycling Steering Committee is a collaborative of representation from the Assoc. of Oregon Counties, Assoc. of Oregon Recyclers, Assoc. of Plastics Recyclers/Denton Plastics, EFI, Far West Recycling, Lane County, League of Oregon Cities, Metro, NORPAC, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Refuse & Recycling Assoc., City of Portland, Recycling Partnership, Rogue Disposal & Recycling, Waste Connections, and Waste Management. **For more information, visit** <https://go.usa.gov/xmYYe>.

consider ways to visually show the cyclical nature of the process, etc.) and Scott agreed to make these revisions.

Over the course of the conversation, the group also fine tuned their goals with this task: Getting clearer on the ‘reason a contaminant is considered a contaminant’ so they can look at these barriers and determine what if any changes could be made to minimize or eliminate some of the barriers. They felt that getting a handle on the critical contaminants now could inform later long term discussions around legal/relational framework (financing/oversight and enforcement, shared responsibility, etc.), physical infrastructure (e.g. processing/sorting technologies), and public education (e.g. consistent statewide messaging); and in the short term, could inform how the players collectively would like to manage and/or message around ‘lists’ and respond to changes in metrics that are evolving through DEQ’s life cycle analysis work.

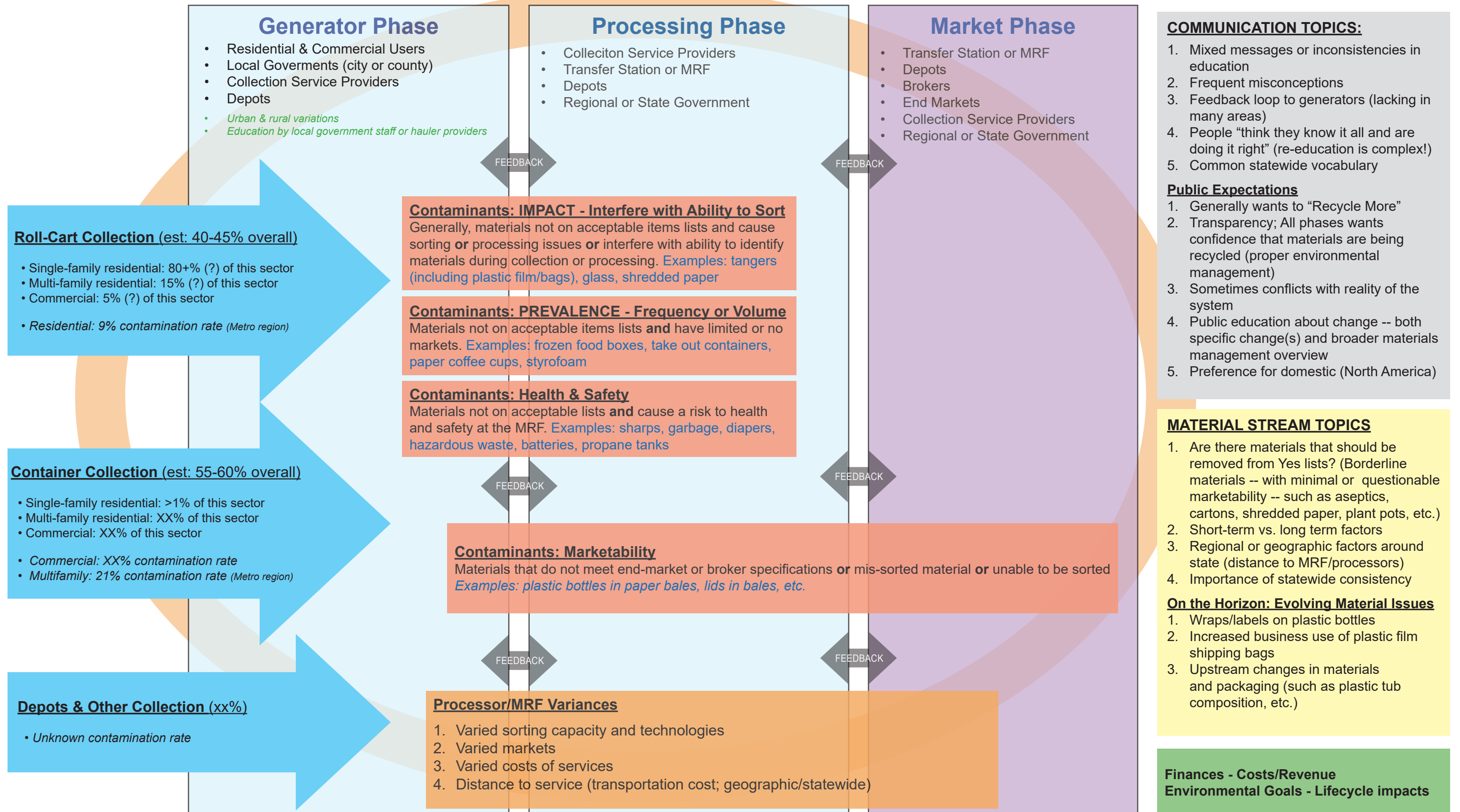
### **Next Steps:**

- The group will review the following documents to inform next steps:
  - The survey results (Dylan shared them during the meeting);
  - Appendix to the January 17 SC notes which captures the SC discussion about definition, stressors, and interventions from each system player; and
  - The work that Washington Dept. of Ecology is doing to define contaminants (Jay shared the document following today’s meeting)
- Nicole will host a subset of the subcommittee (Nicole, Dylan, Vinodh, Laura) to identify the critical contaminants within each contaminant ‘box’ on the contamination map and answer ‘why’ - what are the barriers? Brian suggested this feedback could be very useful to this process and also cautioned the group against doing the task just to formulate a ‘list’. Others agreed but suggested a goal could be to look at a potential system change that sets up a process for adding/removing/managing lists based on what is learned from this work.
- Scott will update the contamination map for this group to review and approve for sharing at the May 10 SC meeting.
- The group will meet again before May 10 to determine what to share with the SC and specifically what if any questions to frame up for the SC.

# Contamination

Updated 4/4/2019

Different phases: different perspectives, definitions, realities



	Orange = Limited/Mixed																
	Yellow = If Separated																
	Red = No																
	Green = Yes																
	Generator Phase											Processing Phase		Regulators		Market Phase	
	Residents/Businesses		Regulators: Local Governments		Collectors/Haulers				(Regional/State)								
Paper																	
Cardboard/OCC																	
Brown Paper Bags																	
Newspaper																	
Magazines																	
Miscellaneous Paper																	
Office Paper																	
Junk Mail																	
Milk Cartons	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Difficult to sort from paper		Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Separated	Mixed					
Juice/Soup Cartons (Aseptics)	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Difficult to sort from paper		Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Separated	Mixed					
Shredded Paper	If bagged	Loose	If bagged	Loose	Collection issues (if not bagged)		Difficult to sort		Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Limited Markets						
Frozen Food Boxes																	
Paper Take Out Containers																	
Paper Coffee Cups																	
Pizza Boxes																	
Plastic																	
Bottles & Jugs (#1 & #2)	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Bottle wraps causing sorting/ID problems										
Tubs (#5)	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Difficult to sort		Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Limited Markets						
Nursery Pots	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Difficult to sort		Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Limited Markets						
Buckets	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Difficult to sort		Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Limited Markets						
Styrofoam											ONLY If Source Separated (Limited!)						
Plastic Beverage Cups																	
Plastic Clamshells																	
Plastic Film/Bags																	
Plastic Lids																	
Plastics #3																	
Plastics #4																	
Plastics #6																	
Plastics #7																	
Metal																	
Aluminum Cans																	
Tin Cans																	
Metal Paint Cans																	
Scrap Metal (30", 30#)																	
Propane Tanks																	
Glass																	
Glass bottles & jars -- Separated																	
Glass bottles & jars -- Commingled																	
Glass -- Other (Non bottles/jars)																	
Other/Miscellaneous																	
Sharps/Needles																	
Garbage																	
Diapers																	
Batteries																	
Hazardous Waste/Misc																	
Textiles																	
Food																	