

Recycling Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 18, 2020



Recycling Steering Committee

Modernizing Oregon's recycling system with support from Oregon Consensus

Input from Underrepresented Stakeholders

Sanne Stienstra (DEQ)

Stakeholder Engagement Subcommittee co-chair



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Follow along with the report:

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



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Purpose

- Engage community members with less representation on RSC
- Provide feedback for RSC to consider in decision-making
- Begin building trust and long-term relationships within underrepresented communities



Image: wastedive.com



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Audiences

- *This report:* System users with access barriers
 - Rural communities distant from the Portland Metro area
 - Low income people
 - Houseless populations
 - Communities of color
 - English language learners
- *Next phase:* Workforce interests
 - MRF workers



Image: www.ashevillenc.gov



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Teamwork makes the dream work!

Consultant fees:

- DEQ

Participant stipends:

- Metro
- The Recycling Partnership

Meals:

- ORRA



Consultants



Libby Bakke

Barney & Worth

Meeting design and facilitation



Nicki Pozos

The Formation Lab

Meeting design and report



Carlos Banks

BanksCuesta Translations

Spanish translation and interpretation

The combined team brought experience integrating underrepresented voices into public infrastructure decisions, creating equity-focused outreach efforts, and facilitating groups from diverse backgrounds.



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Approach

- Initial workshop with Trash for Peace (Portland)
- Listening sessions
 - Session 1: Medford (hosted by ACCESS)
 - Session 2: Portland (Environmental Promoters)
 - Session 3: La Grande (hosted by Northeast Oregon Network)
- Online survey
 - English and Spanish
 - Distributed by partners in Clackamas, Deschutes, Jackson, Marion, Multnomah, Union, and Washington Counties



La Grande listening session, 3/9/2020



Listening Session Results



Medford listening session, 2/24/2020

- People should be able to recycle the same things, no matter where they live or work.
- Recycling should be accessible in all parts of the state.
- Stakeholders support producer responsibility for system costs—with strong oversight.



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Listening Session Results

- Local control is preferred by those outside the Portland Metro area.
 - Within Portland, stakeholders were largely indifferent.
- Recycling should be affordable for all.
- Underrepresented stakeholders appreciate the opportunity to learn more and provide their input.



Environmental Promoters listening session, 2/29/2020



Additional Results

- Ideas for economic opportunities
 - Litter clean-up programs
 - Education and outreach jobs
 - Pre-sorting jobs
 - Bottle collection and return
 - Exchange programs – recyclable materials for other needed items
- Outside Portland Metro, participants preferred dual-stream recycling to commingled



Survey Results

- 72 responses
 - 65 English-language
 - 7 Spanish-language
- High level of interest in recycling
- 75% have curbside recycling
- 54% live in an apartment/condo they rent
- 65% white, 25% Hispanic/Latino, 11% Black/African American, 6% Asian



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3 Minute Survey on the Future of Oregon's Recycling System

ENTER YOUR NAME IN THE DRAWING FOR A PRIZE!

Complete this survey and your name will be included in a drawing for a \$50 gift card!

Oregon is evaluating how to modernize the state's recycling system, looking at how the system is managed, who pays for it, which items can be recycled, and more. The Recycling Steering Committee, a collaborative of businesses, governments and nonprofits, is leading the process and is interested in hearing what's important to you!

1. How would you rate your level of interest in recycling?

- ☐ a. Recycling is my passion!
- ☐ b. I work hard to recycle things properly
- ☐ c. I do my best, but don't know much about it
- ☐ d. It's not important to me

2. When you think of our future recycling system, what would you most like it to do?
(Pick your top three.)

- ☐ a. Everyone can recycle the same materials regardless of where they live
- ☐ b. Bills for customers are kept as low as possible
- ☐ c. Local communities (i.e. city or county government) control their own recycling programs
- ☐ d. Recycled materials are put to their best environmental use
- ☐ e. We recycle as many materials as possible, even if it costs more
- ☐ f. Health and safety of workers is protected
- ☐ g. Businesses that make and sell products are responsible for making sure they are recycled or disposed of safely
- ☐ h. Underrepresented communities have greater economic opportunities

3. Do you have curbside recycling where you live?

- ☐ a. Yes
- ☐ b. No
- ☐ c. I'm not sure



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“When you think of our future recycling system, what would you most like it to do?” (*Select top three*)

Recycled materials are put to their best environmental use

Everyone can recycle the same materials regardless of where they live

Businesses that make and sell products are responsible for making sure they are recycled or disposed of safely

Health and safety of workers is protected



Conclusions

- Support producer responsibility but are wary of full producer control
- Strongly support local government control (if they live outside Portland Metro area)
- Support high level of government oversight and transparency
- Support high level of consistency across the state and across housing types, homes and businesses
- Interest in having a voice in the recycling system



Questions?

Contact:

sanne.stienstra@state.or.us

Report:

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