

## RECYCLING SURVEY

State Name: Oregon

Agency Name: Department of Environmental Quality

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**1. Please indicate whether recycling of household or residential recyclables is mandatory, voluntary or perhaps both (mandatory for some materials and voluntary for others) in your state.**

*In Oregon, recycling is generally voluntary on the part of the generators of waste, but in many cases it is mandatory that recycling services be provided to those generators. Thus, a resident in Portland who has garbage service must also be provided with recycling collection service, but the resident does not have to use the recycling collection service if they do not want to. The only mandatory recycling I am aware of includes the following:*

*a) We have landfill bans on used motor oil, discarded or abandoned vehicles, discarded large home or industrial appliances, and lead-acid batteries. Since disposal of these items is banned, this practically mandates recycling. See Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 459.247. <http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/459.html>*

*There is also a landfill ban on tires, but overriding this is a provision elsewhere that allows tires to be landfilled if they have been chopped up to meet certain maximum size requirements.*

*b) The City of Portland requires businesses to do a certain amount of recycling.*

**2. Is there a State Law(s) that mandates, encourages, or otherwise facilitates the recycling system or programs in your state and what is the reference for that section of your state code?**

*We have a number of provisions including our Recycling Opportunity Act, our bottle bill, and many other programs in statute. Most of these can be found in ORS Chapter 459A.*

*<http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/459a.html>*

**3. Does your state law (or other directive) mandate, encourage or otherwise specify a state goal for the rate of recycling or diversion (e.g. percentage of overall waste stream, etc.) If so, what is the statutory reference?**

*State goals are 45% recovery by 2005 and 50% by 2009. There are a number of quirks in how these recovery rates are to be calculated, including certain "credits" for things like home*

*composting programs and reuse programs. We also have waste generation goals that state that by 2005 there should be no increase in per capita waste generation, and by 2009 there should be no increase in total tons of waste generation. See ORS 459A.010 (1), with other parts of that same law stating how the numbers are to be calculated.*

**4. Please indicate how your state measures recycling rates? (Are there reporting requirements? who reports and how frequently?) What wastes are captured in the measurement of your recycling/diversion rate? (e.g. residential garbage? yard waste? commercial and industrial wastes? waste tires? white goods? automobiles? etc?).**

*Oregon requires all persons who collect or handle recyclable materials to report their collections annually and also report what they did with the material collected. We use this latter information to eliminate double-counting material as it goes from collector to processor to end-user/exporter. We cover all municipal and construction wastes, except inert materials such as rock and concrete. Industrial/agricultural wastes are not counted toward disposal or recovery rates. Energy recovery from materials used as fuels is counted (wood waste, used oil, etc.). Burning of mixed solid waste generally is not counted towards recovery, although a specific portion of our law directs us to count certain materials such as wood when burned in a mixed waste energy recovery facility.*

*There are specific directives not to include metal from vehicles or from major demolition. Scrap metal dealers are not required to report most of their post-consumer tons, although reporting is mandatory for everyone else. See ORS 459A.010 and 459A.050 for more information on these reporting requirements. Here is a link to the report on the 2002 Oregon Material Recovery Survey:*

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/solwaste/documents/2002MRSReport.pdf>

**5. What association does commercial, institutional, and industrial recycling have with the household or residential recycling in your state? Are recycling activities from these sectors factored into your overall state recycling rate?**

*We exclude industrial process waste from disposal, and exclude pre-consumer recycling from recovery. Generally all other residential, commercial, and institutional recycling and waste generation are included in our survey and in the disposal numbers, as outlined in the previous question.*

**6. What is your most recently measured rate of recycling or diversion for your state? (Please indicate the time frame for this measurement. e.g. calendar year, fiscal year, etc.)**

*We have not yet completed 2003 recovery rate numbers. For calendar year 2002, our rate (excluding the "credits" mentioned in answer to question #3) was 42.9%. Including the credits, this rates climbs to 46.6%, exceeding our 2005 goal.*

**7. What are the most commonly employed systems in your state for collecting residential recyclables. Are different sized communities required or encouraged to meet a certain standard of recycling services?**

*Oregon generally has franchised garbage collection systems. Governments give one or more hauler the exclusive right to pick up garbage either in the entire city or within a portion of that city. In return, the franchised hauler is required to provide recycling services as required by state law. Most now pick up recyclables commingled (but keeping glass separate), and then take them to one of the private recycling processors who sorts the individual materials out for recycling. All cities of 4,000 or more population, and all cities in the greater Portland area, must provide curbside collection, or rarely, some alternative program designed to be as effective at collecting recyclables. Cities 10,000 or more population or within the Portland Metro region must also implement either 4 or 5 specific programs from a list of 9 possible programs (options such as composting, providing recycling containers to everyone, setting garbage rates to be directly proportional to the amount of garbage produced, etc.), and cities of 4,000-10,000 must implement three items from this list. The list is found in ORS 459A.010.*

**8. Do you have rural communities in your state that have developed and are maintaining successful residential recycling programs? What type of "system" are these successful communities employing?**

*A few of our Eastern Oregon rural communities have adopted "alternatives methods" for providing the "opportunity to recycle" as required by state law, but other rural cities provide the same sort of program as is provided elsewhere. We have not yet succeeded in setting up organized cooperative marketing agreements for the rural recyclers.*

**9. What incentives (grants, loans, tax incentives, etc.) are offered in your state for recycling and to whom are these incentives available? (state government, local governments, private companies, universities and institutions, etc.) How are these grants or loans funded?**

*We have a grant programs for local governments, on the order of \$250,000/year. Private companies can work with local governments to submit grant requests. We also have certain tax credits for capital equipment used to reduce waste. The Oregon Energy Office also has tax credits for recycling capital equipment.*

**10. Does your agency or state have a "recycling program," In what agency is the program housed and how many full time employees are dedicated to recycling program activities?**

*Oregon does not have a separate administrative group referred to as the "recycling program", but the functions of overseeing state recycling programs and providing technical assistance is housed in our solid waste sections both in Department of Environmental Quality headquarters (Land Quality Division) and in our regional divisions. "Recycling" staff work on a variety of issues including recycling, waste prevention, composting, and household hazardous waste. It is hard to put a precise number on the number of FTE because many people have multiple duties (i.e. providing recycling technical assistance, inspecting transfer stations, and responding to citizen solid waste complaints), but we probably have 10-15 FTE doing recycling, composting, waste prevention, and household hazardous waste activities.*