



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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# BENTON COUNTY

## Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC)

### February 23, 2022 Minutes

Members Present: Ken Eklund, John McEvoy, Deborah Gile, Marge Popp & Joel Geier

Republic Services Present: Broc Keinholz, Ian McNab, Julie Jackson

Staff Present: Greg Verret (Benton County Community Development), Daniel Redick (Benton County Solid Waste and Water Quality Coordinator), Linda Ray (Benton County Community Development)

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**Call to Order/Introductions.** Ken Eklund, Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. Joel Geier & Marge Popp were given an opportunity to introduce themselves as the newest members of SWAC.

#### **Approval of Minutes.**

Deborah asked for an addition to the January minutes that captured the request made by a community member regarding an audit of waste and SWAC's response to add this topic to the next agenda for further discussion. With that addition, Debi made a **MOTION** to approve the January 22, 2022 minutes. Seconded by Ken, the **MOTION** was approved 2-0, 2 abstained.

#### **Community Member Comments**

- Request to ensure there is a thorough and independent audit of waste being disposed of at the landfill. The community member does not feel it is appropriate that Republic Services does their own audit and it should be done twice a year by an independent auditor. He also suggested the county use funds to have this happen.
- Need more accountability on the fate of recycled materials. He is curious what process is available to understand what happens to the recyclables once they are collected and if sent to the MRF. He thinks the best way to get people to recycle/reuse is to have a rate structure that rewards and encourages that behavior.
- A community member would like to see more action taken on some of the issues that were discussed in the near future. He also commented on having to sign up for public comment during these meetings. He would like to know when the future meeting agendas are available.

Ken recommended that the public send in written questions/comments ahead of time so that staff and council members can answer during the meetings. Greg responded stating that agenda items need priority during these meetings. Discussion is important and we want to get answers but the focus also needs to be on the agenda and accomplishing the items listed each month.

### **Recycling Market: Updates from Franchisee**

Julie Jackson presented an update in Recycling (see Exhibit A attached) as there are a lot of changes happening.

Julie also provided several links to videos on the topic:

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/recycling/Pages/Modernizing-Oregons-Recycling-System.aspx>

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/recycling/Documents/recModORflyer.pdf>

America has a Recycling Problem: <https://youtu.be/ukD1BUxmH4>

(PBS Frontline) Plastic Wars: <https://youtu.be/-dk3NOEgX7o>

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/recycling/Pages/Survey.aspx>

### **DEQ Opportunity to Recycle Report: Staff Update**

Daniel has been working on a report to send in to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that is based on the City of Corvallis & City of Philomath and their actions that have been taken in the past year to meet the requirements for the state's "opportunity to recycle". The county's job is to compile those materials and report on outreach done on a county wide perspective. This report will be sent to DEQ on February 28<sup>th</sup>, along with collector surveys (like Republic Services and the landfill). DEQ takes the information and sends out a Waste Generation Summary in the next year. Staff expects to receive the 2020 summary in April. Daniel will bring those results back to the April meeting.

### **SWAC Overview: Reviewing SWAC's Roles**

Daniel presented Exhibit B (see attached) that highlighted the roles for SWAC members. He suggested an orientation or work session be scheduled in the coming weeks to cover this topic further. Daniel will contact the members to schedule a work session to plan a date before the next monthly scheduled meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Member Requests**

- Deborah asked that the next agenda includes the public request for an audit on waste being brought to the landfill and the toxic (ash) cover being used at the landfill. Republic Services will provide a report at the next DSAC meeting in April.
- Ken asked to recall the previous recommendation made by SWAC during the Planning Commission hearing regarding LU-21-047; CUP; Valley Landfills LLC. Greg explained that since the recommendation was part of the public record, it is in the record and is going to the BOC as the appeal proceeds and it cannot be recalled. He did recommend that SWAC submit additional feedback during the appeal. Ken amended his request and asked Daniel to look into what SWAC's options are in regards to that legal document and if or what can be added to the document.

### **Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

Due to time limits, two of the items on tonight's agenda were not discussed. So they will be first on the agenda for March 23<sup>rd</sup>; Solid Waste Program Grant Initiative & Sustainable Materials Management Plan.

Members also requested:

- Members would like an update on the status of the Coffin Butte Landfill expansion (CUP application) that was denied by the Planning Commission and is in the appeal
-

process with the Board of Commissioner's office. They would also like to discuss the options in regards to the previous public hearing that is now part of that record.

- Overview discussion on updating the county's SWAC website

Joel made a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Deborah, the meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

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# Recycling Update

February, 2022



# Markets

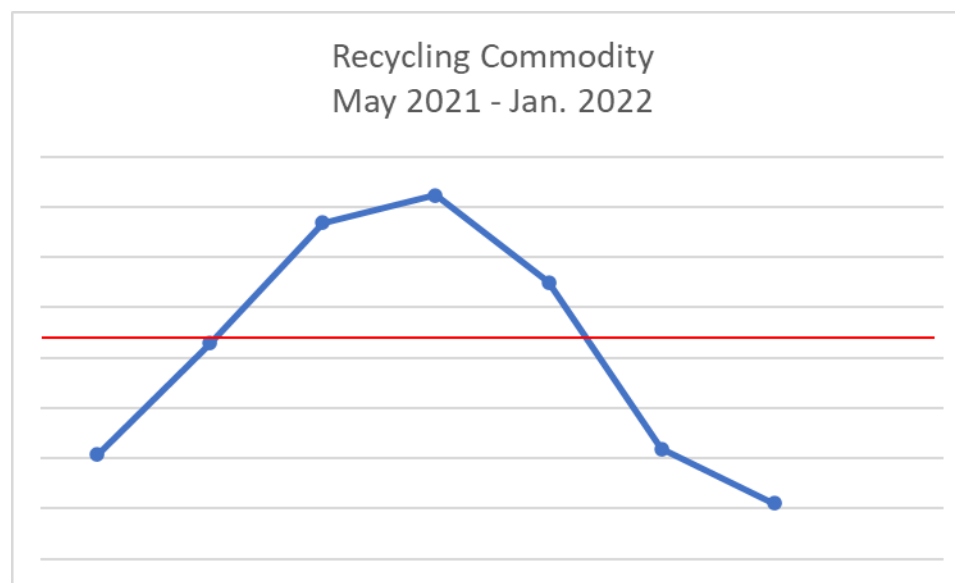


## China's National Sword Initiative

- Prior to National Sword, China was the world's largest importer of mixed recycling, consuming over 70%.
- In December 2017, China announced their environmental initiative, National Sword, to reduce pollution.
- China reduced the contamination level of imported materials from **3% to 0.5%**.
- China banned **all** mixed paper from import, regardless of contamination levels.

Why are commodity markets important? For a product to be recycled, there must be desire to use the raw material created. Some market incentives include:

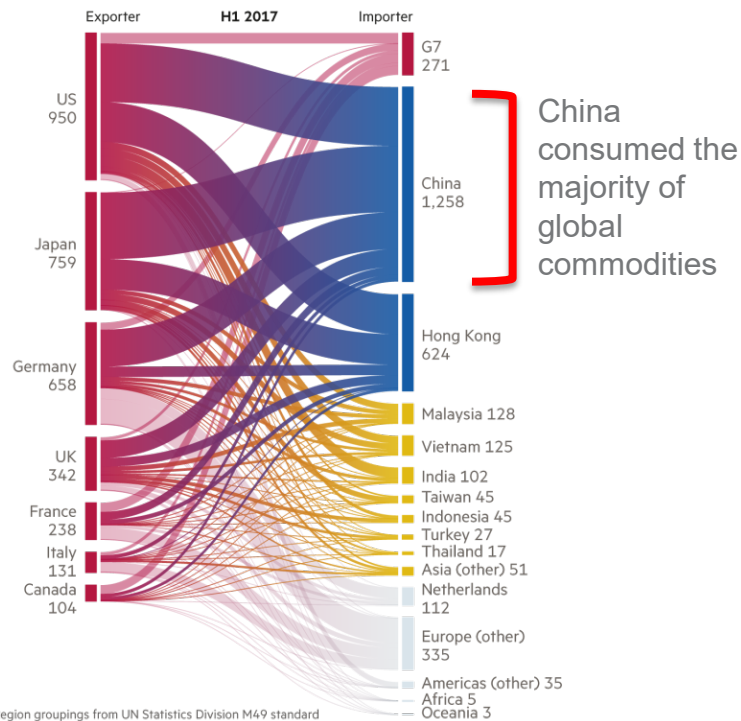
- Quality of the material
- Cost of material vs virgin products
- Consumer desire for products with post consumer content
- Regulations requiring recycling
- Regulations requiring post consumer content use



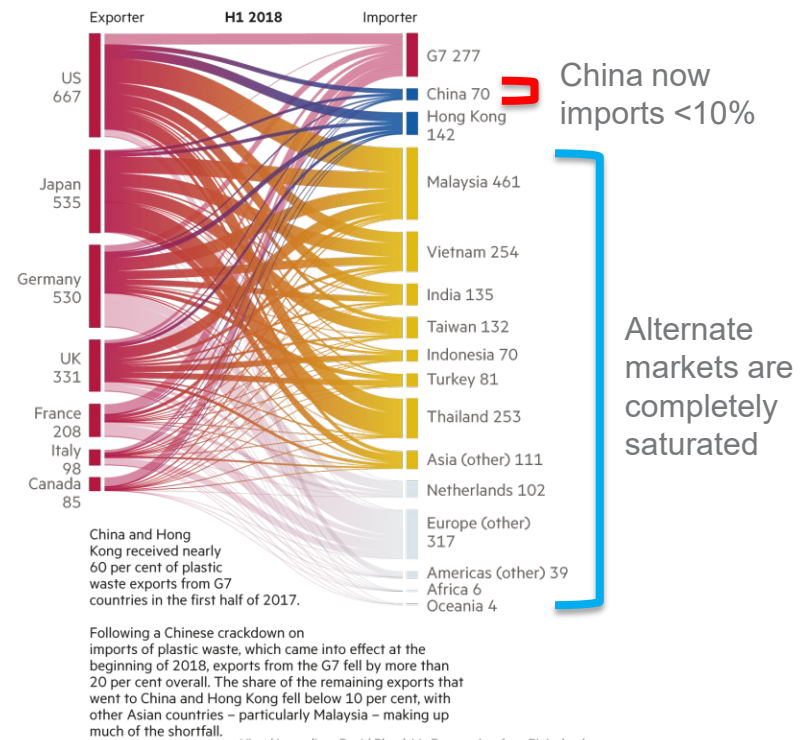
# Shift in Commodity Markets

Exports of plastic waste, pairings and scrap from G7 countries ('000 tons)

## Before China Sword



## After China Sword



Region groupings from UN Statistics Division M49 standard  
Data accessed Sep 19-Oct 1, 2018  
Sources: US Census Bureau; Japan e-Stat; Eurostat; Statistics Canada  
© FT

Source: Financial Times, Oct 24, 2018

# The Oregon Solution:




- Stakeholders in Oregon began meeting in 2017 to work out a response to global recycling issues. A steering committee met for 2 years, working on this issue.
- Their work culminated in legislation supported by industry, local governments, environmental groups and government.
- SB 582 was adopted during the 2021 legislative session and was signed into law in August, 2021 as the **Plastics Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act**.



## Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act

The Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act updates Oregon's recycling system by building on local community programs and leveraging the resources of producers to create an innovative system that works for everyone. The law requires packaging producers to share responsibility for effective management of their products after use. **The new law goes into effect January 1, 2022 and program changes will start in July 2025.**

### KEY BENEFITS

-  **Shares and scales responsibility across the recycling system.** Producers will be brought into the recycling system to fund improvements and expand recycling services. Cost to producers will be based on what materials they use and how much they sell into Oregon.
-  **Creates one statewide list of what can be recycled.** The uniform collection list will provide clarity to households and businesses about what can be recycled, and create efficiencies in recycling operations across the state.
-  **Increases access to recycling.** The new law will provide recycling services to people who didn't previously have it, such as those who live in apartments and rural areas.
-  **Incentivizes sustainable products.** Producer fees will be higher for non-recyclable products and those creating more environmental pollution.
-  **Prevents plastic pollution.** Ensures collected materials are recycled responsibly and keeps plastic and other trash out of our waterways and communities — both domestically and overseas.
-  **Creates accountability to outcomes.** DEQ will permit and audit recycling processors, and a Governor-appointed advisory council will review producer program plans, the statewide collection list and educational resources.

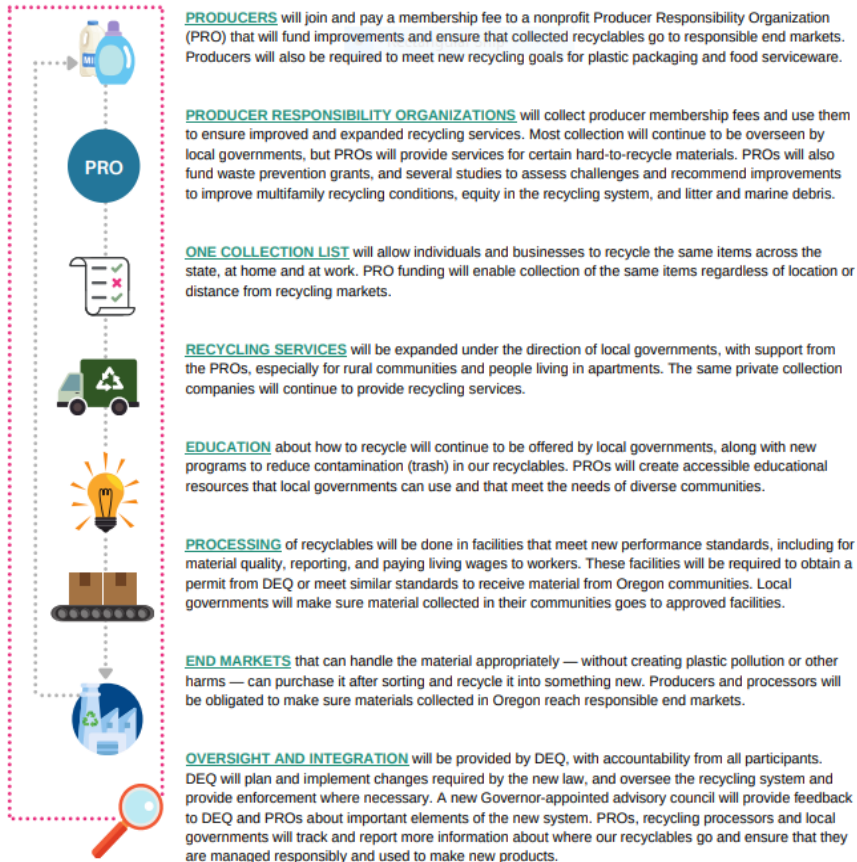
### WHAT'S NEXT?

Below are key dates through 2025. Stakeholder engagement, project planning and research extend throughout implementation.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DEQ implementation planning</li> </ul>	2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law effective Jan. 1</li> <li>DEQ staff hiring</li> <li>Oregon Recycling System Advisory Council begins meeting</li> <li>Truth in Labeling Task Force submits report to Legislature by June</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rulemaking</li> <li>Needs assessment for collection expansion due July 1</li> <li>Pilot projects for contamination reduction</li> <li>Studies for processor fees</li> </ul>	2022	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By July 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Producers join a PRO</li> <li>PROs begin implementation</li> <li>Local governments implement program changes, including statewide collection list</li> <li>Processors obtain permit or</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2023	
	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rulemaking</li> <li>First PRO program plans due</li> <li>Public procurement assessment due May 15</li> <li>First equity study due Sept. 15</li> <li>First needs assessment for multifamily services due Sept. 15</li> </ul>
	2025	

# How the Recycling Modernization Act Works

The Recycling Modernization Act requires producers of packaging, paper products and food serviceware to share responsibility for effective management of their products after use. These producers will finance improvements to the recycling system and perform specific functions to make Oregon's recycling programs convenient, accessible and responsible. Local governments will maintain their role overseeing collection and education in their communities.



# How will Recycling Change?




We don't all know the details, but here is what we do know:

- Local governments will continue to oversee recycling at the curb.
- There will be one statewide list of materials collected.
- New plastics will be added to the list.
- Producers of material sold in Oregon will be responsible for end of life for their products.
- A part of the process will include Truth in Labeling.



# Truth in Labeling

			
<b>PET</b> POLYETHYLENE TEREPHTHALATE Cosmetic containers Bottle caps Mouthwash bottles Prepared food trays	<b>HDPE</b> HIGH DENSITY POLYETHYLENE Detergent bottles Grocery Bags Milk Bottles Shampoo bottles	<b>PVC</b> POLYVINYL CHLORIDE Garden hose Window frames Blood bags Blister packs	<b>LDPE</b> LOW DENSITY POLYETHYLENE 6 pack rings Cling film Bread bags Squeezable bottles


		
<b>PP</b> POLYPROPYLENE Bottle caps Packaging tape Cereal liners Straws	<b>PS</b> POLYSTYRENE Disposable coffee cups Styrofoam Plastic cutlery Foam packaging	<b>OTHER</b> POLYCARBONATE Baby bottles Water cooler bottles Fiberglass Tupperware



## Cool Comes Naturally.

Introducing ClimaCell™, our proprietary insulating material that performs as well as EPS foam and is certified curbside recyclable.

[LEARN MORE](#)



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**RECYCLABLE**  
K-CUP® PODS

PEEL, EMPTY, RECYCLE.  
\*NOT RECYCLED IN ALL COMMUNITIES.





# What can I do?



## Pre Cycle

Be an educated recycler NOT a wishful recycler

Buy Products Made with Post Consumer Content

Advocate for Products Made with Recycled Content

# REDUCE

# WASTE

- Watch for details on a virtual class being offered by OSU and Republic Services on the basics of Recycling, scheduled for May 23, 2022

# Exhibit B

# SWAC Overview: Reviewing SWAC's Roles

Solid Waste Advisory Council

Daniel Redick

Benton County Community Development Department

2/23/22



# Overview

- **SWAC Purpose (Bylaws)**
- **SWAC Actions**
- **Feedback to the BOC**
- **Staff's Roles**

# SWAC Purpose

Bylaws

- The purpose of the Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) is to assist the Board of Commissioners (Board) in Planning and implementation of solid waste management, pursuant to BCC Chapter 23, the Benton County Solid Waste Management Ordinance.

## Common SWAC Actions

### Types of actions asked of SWAC:

- Annual calendar items
- Key advisors to drafting of the Sustainable Materials Management Plan
- Provide feedback about initiatives

# Feedback to the Board of Commissioners

- **What the Board of Commissioners expects:**
  - An advisory council attuned to the County's 2040 Thriving Communities Core Values and Focus Areas, helping move initiatives forward and providing reasoned recommendations on appropriate topics.
  - The Board expects committees to work cooperatively, be responsive to the public while also making progress on Board priorities. (For example, SMMP)

# Staff's Roles

- Organize SWAC/DSAC meetings, agendas, annual calendar
- Provide SWAC with relevant information to inform recommendations and feedback
- Other roles:
  - Operate the County's solid waste/materials management program
  - Implement Chapter 23
  - Develop and oversee budget
  - Make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners
  - Compile reports required by state DEQ
  - Develop Sustainable Materials Management Plan (with SWAC and public input)



# SWAC/DSAC Orientation

Staff recommends that SWAC have a work session dedicated to a complete SWAC/DSAC orientation, led by staff, prior to the March 23 meeting.

# Questions or Feedback?

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*every day.*



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