Curbside Recycling in Linn & Benton Counties

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History of Recycling

- **Oregon Bottle Bill** signed into law in July 1971 (1st in nation)

- Oregon retail stores pay the beverage distributor a 5-cent deposit for each container of bottled water, beer and soft drinks they purchase. Deposits on containers not returned for refund (unredeemed deposits) are kept by the distributors.

- The containers included in Oregon’s Bottle Bill are water/flavored water, beer/malt beverages, soda water/mineral water, and carbonated soft drinks. All redeemable containers are labeled with the OR 5¢ refund value on the label.

- Further, the bill provides the possibility of increasing the 5-cent refund value to 10 cents after the OLCC determines that, in each of two previous years, the number of containers returned was less than 80 percent of total number of beer, soft drinks, and water containers sold. OLCC cannot make this determination, under the law, prior to Jan. 1, 2016, so the earliest the refund value could rise to 10 cents would be Jan. 1, 2017. (2012-14)

  - Deposit to increase in April
History of Recycling

- September 1982 – Corvallis 1st curbside recycling program in OR; Albany 2nd
- 10 years later, state mandates curbside recycling for cities larger than 4,000
- 1st HHW – ‘91 Albany, ‘96 Corvallis
- 1998, curbside becomes commingled
- 2008, automated roll cart system
The Recycling Process

• Collecting recyclables varies from community to community, but there are four primary methods: curbside, drop-off centers, deposit/refund programs, and buy-back centers.

• Regardless of the method used to collect the recyclables, the next leg of their journey is usually the same. Recyclables are sent to a materials recovery facility to be sorted and prepared into marketable commodities for manufacturing.

• Recyclables are bought and sold just like any other commodity, and prices for the materials change and fluctuate with the market.
Collection

Through Republic Services, most recycling is collected at the curb, at depots or special collection events.
Source Recycling

Commingled material is sent to Source Recycling in Albany, where it is baled for transport.
Processing at the MRF (Materials Recovery Facility)

- After commingled material is baled, it is transported to a MRF, or materials recovery facility, to be sorted.
- At the MRF, commodities are sorted into like materials.
- In this system, only those materials that are accepted by the MRF will be recycled.
The MRF - Processing

• Materials are loaded onto a conveyor belt and are sorted.
• Some sorting is automated, with powerful magnets, series of screens and fans.
• The rest of the sorting is done by hand.
SP Recycling MRF sorting video
Recycling Commodities

• Materials for recycle are called commodities. Just like stock commodities, there must be a ready market for them to have value.

• Not all materials that can be recycled are recycled in our system, (or most curbside programs in Oregon.)

• The MRF determines what they will accept for recycling based on markets that are available to them to sell those materials.

• What’s recyclable depends on where you live
Commingled Recycling

• Commingled recycling began in 1998 in Linn & Benton Counties.
• Commingling or mixed recycling allows customers to mix most materials without sorting. (the exceptions are glass & motor oil)
• Statewide, recycling totals have gone up as communities move to commingled systems.
Preparing Items for the Curb

- Rinsing food residue from containers before recycling
  - prevents bacteria growth
  - reduces contamination of paper in the recycling.
  - helps to protect the health of people who handle it along the way.

- Materials should be loose in cart
Commingled Recycling

- Newspaper
- Magazines
- Paperboard
- Office Paper/Mail
- Corrugated Cardboard
- Aseptic Cartons/Gable-top Milk Cartons (plastic spout removed)
- Freezer Boxes which do not touch the food
- NO Metallic or Plastic Coated Paper
Think about recyclability before purchasing!
Commingled Recycling

Metals

- Aluminum Cans & Tins
- Aluminum Foil and pie trays (clean)
- Tinned (steel) Cans
- Metal Lids
- Aerosol cans
- Pots & Pans

Recycling aluminum takes 95% less energy than making aluminum from raw materials.
Commingled Recycling

Plastics

• Plastic **Bottles** (opening is smaller than rest)
• Plastic **Jugs** (bottle with a handle)
• Plastic **Tubs** (flip top/press-on)
• Plastic **Jars**
  • Remove screw-top lids
  • Leave in press-on lids
Commingled Recycling

Some Plastics Examples Include:

- Yogurt, dairy & margarine **tubs**
- Milk, juice, vinegar **jugs**
- Peanut butter, mayonnaise **jars**
- Shampoo & conditioner **bottles**
- Window, bathroom & kitchen cleaner **bottles**
- Detergent & fabric softener **bottles**
- Buckets smaller than 5 gallons Rigid nursery pots, 4” & larger- no dirt

bit.ly/206GWMN
Commingled Recycling

Glass

• Glass is the only commodity that must be separated, for now.
• Clear and colored glass containers go in a separate bin for curbside collection.
  • Corvallis area - 1x/month
  • Albany area - Every other week
BREAK TIME!!!
Saving Little Pieces of Our Earth
About Those Chasing Arrows...

Check the list, not the label! Just because an item says it is recyclable, doesn’t mean you can toss it into your curbside bin. Virtually everything we buy has the chasing arrows, indicating the item can be recycled. Some packages even state “please recycle.” However, something can only be recycled if there is someone willing to turn the item into something new. There has to be a market for these items.
Resin Identification Code

• This well-known symbol identifies the resin or polymers used in a plastic product.
• It is **not** intended to dictate whether or not a material will be recycled.
• Just because items have the same number doesn’t mean they have all the same “ingredients” to be combined.
• Republic Services does not go by this number when collecting recyclables.
Recycling in Oregon – How are We Doing?

In 2015, Oregonians recovered 2,383,118 tons, or 50.3%, of the municipal post-consumer waste generated in Oregon. This was a decrease from the 51.0% recovery rate reported for 2014, but the fifth straight year Oregon met its 50% recovery goal.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Total Recovered} & = 2,383,118 \text{ tons} \\
\text{Total Generated} & = (2,383,118 + 5,122,673) \text{ tons*} \\
& = 5,505,791 \text{ tons*} \\
\text{Recovery Rate} & = \frac{2,383,118}{5,505,791} \\
& = 50.3% 
\end{align*}
\]

*up 4.8 percent from 2014
Recycling in Oregon – How Are We Doing?

The following are the major categories of materials recovered and their percentages by weight of all material recovered in 2015.

Of the material recovered, 61% of the material recovered was recycled, 21% was composted and 18% was burned for energy.

Local Recycling – How Are We Doing?

**Linn County, 2004-2014**

**Benton County, 2004-2014**
2014 Recycling Rates

- United States: 34.6%
- Benton: 43.6%
- Linn: 48.2%
- Oregon: 51.0%

% Recovered
New Recycling and Recovery Goals from DEQ

**Senate Bill 263** passed in June 2015

Sets new recovery goals for high (environmental) impact materials:

- 25% of food by 2020 (13)
- 25% of plastics by 2020 (12)
- 25% of carpet by 2025 (3)
Questions?