



2020-2021 ENVIRONMENTAL PLATFORM

Science can quantify risks, but it cannot tell us whether they are acceptable or by whose values they should be judged. Governments are right to institute policies that manage the landscape of risk by weighing scientific evidence and accounting for the values of their citizens.

- *Chelsea Batavia (Oregon State University) et al, Science, 8/30/2019*

PREFACE

Oregon's reputation as a green state is not warranted by many of our state's environmental policies. Though progress has been made in the regulation of diesel engines and industrial polluters, Oregon's air quality is still among the worst in the United States due to high levels of particulate matter, a problem that has gotten worse and is expected to grow in coming years. The state has also gone steadily backwards in terms of recycling and recovery -- well below national averages, below Oregon recovery levels of 20 years ago, and below current and future state targets for materials used and the percentage of materials recovered (recycled).

Institutional barriers and our politics have made environmental issues harder to solve in Oregon.

Climate change and paying costs to address human impacts on the environment are more polarizing than any issue in the country, including immigration and terrorism¹. Both nationally and in Oregon, Democrats and independents lean towards environmental protection, while Republicans, especially older ones, generally oppose paying costs associated with climate change or the environment².

A recent survey of Oregon voters found that majorities or pluralities would like government to do more to protect the environment, and believe that the state should do more to address climate change. There is strong regional variation in this support. Public support erodes significantly at the prospect of paying more than nominal direct costs to address climate change³.

Oregon's strong regional differences in support for environmental policies have contributed to partisan polarization at the state legislature and a growing resentment among rural Oregonians that public policies do more to benefit Portland rather than smaller rural communities⁴.

¹ <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/02/05/republicans-and-democrats-have-grown-further-apart-on-what-the-nations-top-priorities-should-be/>

² <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/11/25/younger-republicans-differ-with-older-party-members-on-climate-change-and-energy-issues/>

³ https://www.oregonbusinessindustry.com/clientuploads/OBI_Information/PPT_-_OR_OBI_Oct_2019.pdf?t=1574373900

⁴ Oregon Public Broadcasting/DHM research Jan. 2016.

However, there is a strong consensus about the need for policymakers to do more to address several aspects of environmental policy, including addressing the impacts of rising heat on Oregon's air, water and habitat⁵. There is clear public support for forestry and agricultural practices that can help fight climate change and its impacts, reduce forest fires⁶, reduce water use conflicts and preserve and restore natural habitat for both conservation and economic benefit. There is also public support for policies like enhanced manufacturer responsibility for the disposal of products sold in Oregon and recycling, that are aimed at preserving our natural resources and reducing our climate impacts.

SUMMARY

- **Climate: Oregon is getting hotter.**⁷ Oregon temperatures have risen by 2°F in the last century and are expected to rise for the foreseeable future. This change is already having negative impacts on Oregon's air quality and has created conflicts for water resources. It has harmed commercial fishing and the diversity of ocean life on the Oregon coast. It has contributed to an increase in the number and intensity of forest fires in our region. These problems are all expected to worsen.
- **Air Quality: Oregon has among the worst air quality in the nation for toxic particulate matter.**⁸ This is largely due to two factors:
 - **Forest fires**, which are expected to get worse. EPA models predict a 160% increase in cancer-causing airborne particulate matter due to forest fires in Oregon as the state experiences hotter summers and less precipitation.⁹
 - **Lax regulation of emissions.** The framework for industrial and diesel emission regulation has improved since 2018, with the Legislature passing laws to restrict older diesel engines in the Portland metro area and passing new regulations and increased funding for air monitoring of industrial polluters.¹⁰
- **Solid Waste and Recycling: Oregon has gone backwards in terms of recycling and recovery.** A loss of domestic recycling capacity for pulp and paper; an increase in single use plastics, and the inclusion of large amounts of recoverable organic matter (food waste, etc) in our waste stream have heavily contributed to more materials going to landfills and a lower percentage of materials being recovered (recycled). Consumers are paying more for fewer materials recycled and recovered. DEQ's current policies have moved away from the recycling of materials that drive the biggest impacts of landfills on our climate and environment -- organic material, construction debris, pulp and paper, plastics -- and toward more landfilling of those materials.

⁵ <https://www.dhmresearch.com/blog/2019-09-09/oregonians-believe-heat-is-the-wave-of-the-future.html>

⁶ <https://dhmresearch.com/blog/2018-09-23/wheres-theres-heat-theres-fire.html>

⁷ http://www.occri.net/media/1052/2ocar3_final_climate.pdf?fbclid=IwAR08O8y_9P4wxUZuNji6Xhf6R-HJDZc3ISzPQfrzscu7ITzM9LH66qSQkRo

⁸ <https://www.koin.com/news/study-portland-air-among-worst-in-nation/>

⁹ 2018 EPA NW Climate Assessment. <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/24/> "Airborne particulate levels from wildfires are projected to increase 160% by mid-century under a lower scenario (RCP4.5),¹⁷⁷ creating a greater risk of smoke exposure through increasing frequency, length, and intensity of smoke events."

¹⁰ <https://sos.oregon.gov/audits/Documents/2019-18.pdf>

These current state policies are at odds with state conservation, climate and recovery goals.

Neither landfills nor DEQ have an economic incentive to keep materials out of landfills. These problems have gotten worse and are likely to get worse under the state's current solid waste policies without a significant change in course.

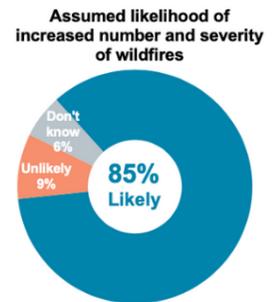
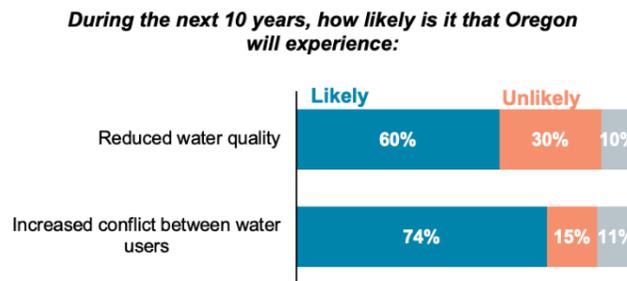
CLIMATE

PUBLIC ATTITUDES

There is a strong partisan split between Democrats and Republicans about whether climate change is an important issue. A recent Pew survey found that addressing climate change had the biggest split of any issue between Democrats and Republicans nationwide.¹¹

However, there is a broad consensus among Oregonians for addressing issues that are known to be **consequences** of climate change¹²: For example, large numbers of Oregonians believe that we will see hotter summers, more forest fires and increased water conflicts between agriculture, electricity and salmon restoration. Many of these beliefs are more prevalent in rural communities than in urban ones.

These common beliefs, in addition to shared values about resource preservation, should form the basis for discussion about, and development of, Oregon climate policy:



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This common-ground approach will allow policymakers to align the climate priorities of Democrats and Independents with the regional priorities of rural communities that are heavily affected by Oregon's changing climate, where there is a high degree of skepticism about the role of government and where many of the climate solutions will be found.

Most Oregonians agree with the need for government to protect our air, water and natural environment from the impacts of rising temperatures.¹⁴

Costs associated with climate programs must be tied to specific outcomes. Oregonians are right to be skeptical about vague promises of "green energy jobs," given the real impact that a carbon tax would have on the economic competitiveness of a variety of industries, including Oregon's pulp, plastics, paper, food and metals recycling industries.

¹¹<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/02/05/republicans-and-democrats-have-grown-further-apart-on-what-the-nations-top-priorities-should-be/>

¹² <https://dhmresearch.com/blog/2019-09-09/oregonians-believe-heat-is-the-wave-of-the-future.html>

¹³ Ibid, graphics from blog

¹⁴ https://www.oregonbusinessindustry.com/clientuploads/OBI_Information/PPT_-_OR_OBI_Oct_2019.pdf?t=1574373900, also DHM "Heat is the Wave of the Future", above.

CURRENT EXAMPLES OF HOW INCREASED HEAT IS AFFECTING OREGON

- 1. Death of Oregon sea life and commercial fisheries due to ocean acidification and hypoxia.**¹⁵ The first major report outlining the impact of ocean acidification and hypoxia on the Oregon coast was published by Oregon State University in 2004.¹⁶ During the last 15 years, an annual recurrence of a “dead zone”¹⁷ has devastated populations of Oregon sea life including crabs, mollusks, fish and other animals that depend on them. The first major commercial impact of this effect was documented in 2007, when the Whiskey Creek Oyster Hatchery lost 75% of its oyster stock and produced no commercially viable product¹⁸. This is one of the first examples recorded in the United States that clearly tied ocean acidification to impacts on commercial food production.¹⁹
- 2. Worsening air quality due to forest fires.** On August 21, 2018, Portland had the second- worst air quality of any major city in the world,²⁰ the result of 109 wildfires in the Mountain West, including 22 in the Pacific Northwest²¹. At that time, the prolonged air quality in the region was comparable to smoking 7-10 cigarettes per day.
- 3. Increased damage from beetle infestations that affect Oregon forests.** From 2000-2015, pine beetle infestations in the Mountain West impacted 46 million out of 850 million acres of federal forestland.²² In 2012, a USDA analysis predicted increased beetle infestations in Oregon as the state’s temperature increases.²³ Major economic losses due to beetle infestations include Klamath Falls “red zone,” which is now primed for a major fire.²⁴



¹⁵ Image source: Los Angeles Times: <https://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-deadzone15feb15-story.html>

¹⁶ <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2004/08/040810091946.htm>

¹⁷ <https://www.opb.org/news/article/oregon-coast-pacific-ocean-hypoxia-season/>

¹⁸ https://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2018/09_september/091418.asp

¹⁹ https://e360.yale.edu/features/northwest_oyster_die-offs_show_ocean_acidification_has_arrived
Offs_show_ocean_acidification_has_arrived

²⁰ <https://www.kgw.com/article/weather/air-quality/portlands-air-quality-ranks-second-worst-in-major-cities-worldwide/283-586223379>

²¹ <https://www.wweek.com/news/2018/08/23/portland-wakes-up-to-the-worst-air-quality-of-any-major-north-american-city/>

²² <https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2015/03/bark-pine-beetles-climate-change-diana-six/>

²³ https://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/preisler/psw_2012_preisler001.pdf

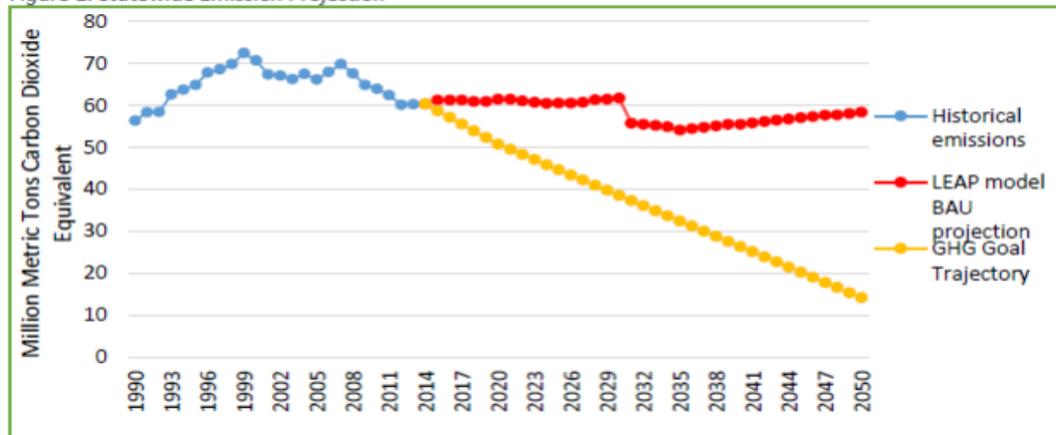
²⁴ https://www.oregonlive.com/environment/2011/10/post_32.html

OREGON'S CLIMATE GOALS & PARTISAN APPROACHES TO POLICY

Oregon's current climate goals were set in 2007 by HB 3545, which passed on bipartisan votes in both Oregon houses and was supported by Ben Westlund and Avel Goidly, both of whom served as independents.²⁵

The chart below shows Oregon's progress in hitting the statewide emissions goals it established in 2007. The state has fallen well behind in achieving these goals.²⁶

Figure 1: Statewide Emission Projection



DEMOCRATIC APPROACH: HB 2020 (2019) was the Governor and the Office of Climate Policy proposal to meet and slightly strengthen the greenhouse gas emissions goals established by HB 3545. It was modeled after California's cap-and-trade program, which caps carbon emissions and sells carbon allowances at periodic auctions.

According to Oregon's Legislative Revenue Office, the proposed cap-and-trade system considered in 2019 would have raised \$550 million per year in revenue, with most of the funds being captured from industrial and auto emissions but with exemptions for the direct activities of agriculture, timber, landfiling and some commercial fuels.²⁷

California's cap-and-trade system, and the Oregon system modeled after it, places a cap on some emissions and establishes a market for trading offsets to carbon emissions. HB 2020 does not appear to utilize existing legislative authority to establish a market for carbon trading for afforestation and reforestation on private timberlands, a more incremental approach that was imagined in 1993 when Oregon first authorized the implementation of a carbon trading system.²⁸

²⁵ <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2007R1/Measures/Overview/HB3543>

²⁶

https://www.phnw.org/assets/2019Conference/Presentations/PHnw2019_Accelerating%20Energy%20Efficiency%20in%20the%20Built%20Environment_Oregon%20Department%20of%20Energy.pdf

²⁷ <https://www.registerguard.com/news/20190420/untangling-complexities-of-cap-and-trade-as-oregon-lawmakers-craft-economy-shifting-law>

²⁸ <https://www.oregonlaws.org/ors/526.725>

IPO Concerns about HB 2020

The concerns raised below are intended as good faith points for consideration and discussion among policymakers. Each concern raised is addressed through a corresponding policy suggestion.

1. **Policymakers have not done enough to make the case that the \$550 million per year in new revenues created through this policy will be used effectively by the state to offset the policy's economic costs.**
2. **Doesn't the state already have the authority to engage in carbon trading?** The Oregon legislature has already granted the Department of Forestry authority to establish and market a carbon trading program. That authority has existed for nearly 25 years and was expanded in 2001.²⁹ Given the importance of this issue, why has it never been effectively utilized?
3. **HB 2020 would not hold landfills, which are among Oregon's largest greenhouse gas emitters, accountable for their emissions.**³⁰ In so doing, it creates an economic advantage for landfilling rather than recycling and recovery that will result in more landfilling and less recovery. We anticipate this will reduce Oregon recycling jobs and infrastructure. It does not align with Oregon's values or legislatively adopted policies for sustainability³¹ or environmental protection.
4. **HB 2020 does not adequately account for the net carbon impact related to manufacturing of goods from outside of Oregon relative to Oregon-based industries, such as recycling.** The state should do more to ensure that manufacturers outside of Oregon are responsible for paying some of the carbon costs of the manufacturing process as part of a broader policy of extended producer responsibility similar to what other jurisdictions like Ottawa and the City of Toronto have adopted.

REPUBLICAN APPROACH:



RECALL TIFFINY MITCHELL
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LET TIFFINY MITCHELL TAKE ONE MORE VOTE IN SALEM!

RECALL
TIFFINY MITCHELL
She FAILED Working Families!

LEARN MORE

²⁹ <https://www.oregonlaws.org/ors/526.725>

³⁰ HB 2020 B-Eng, SECTION 17. Exemptions and exclusions:
<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2020/B-Engrossed>

³¹ <https://www.oregonlaws.org/ors/184.421>

The main strategy of Oregon Republicans and their allies has been to block climate proposals at the legislature and to generate opposition by raising public awareness about the economic cost of these proposals relative to the perceived benefits through recall efforts and other methods that cater to public resentment and skepticism about the problem and the ability of government to solve it.

The public statements of Republican activists and officials have tended to raise valid economic concerns but have also promoted the ideas that:

- Climate change is not happening; or
- If climate change is happening, it is solely a natural phenomenon unrelated to human activity.

We disagree with these statements and call on Republican policymakers to review the data:

- **A 2017 report by OSU researchers found that Oregon’s temperature has risen by 2°F since 1900 and is expected to continue to rise for the foreseeable future.**³²
- **The best evidence from researchers aligns CO2 increases to human industrial activity.**³³

The chart below shows growth in the US population from 106 million to 290 million during the 20th century overlaid against resource utilization in the United States, which increased 17x during the same period

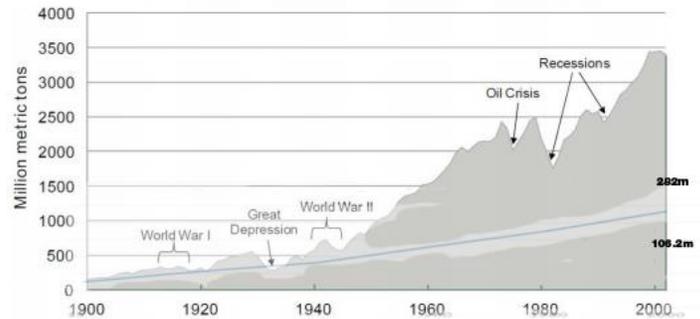
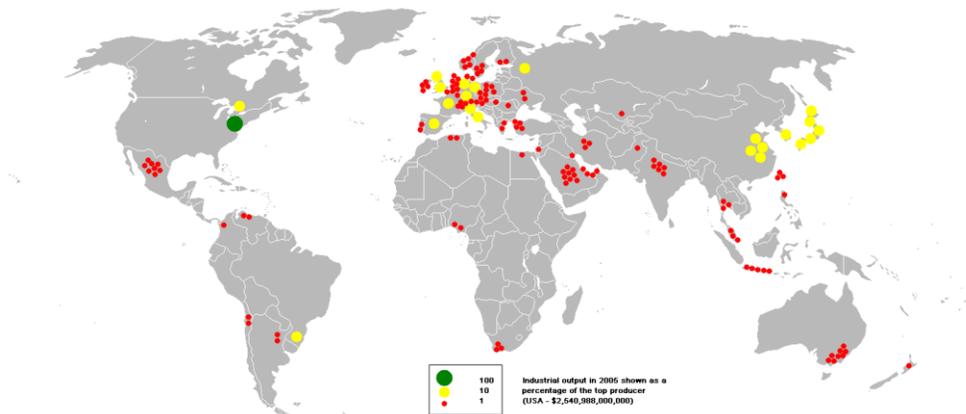


Figure 3. Use of Materials in the United States, 1900-2002.
 Modified from Center for Sustainable Systems, University of Michigan (2011),
 based on Matos and Wagner, 1998, and Wagner, 2002.⁴

In 1900, most industrialization was localized in the United States and Europe, Today it is far more globalized as shown in the map below, while the human population has grown from 1.6 billion in 1900 to 7.7 billion in 2019.³⁴

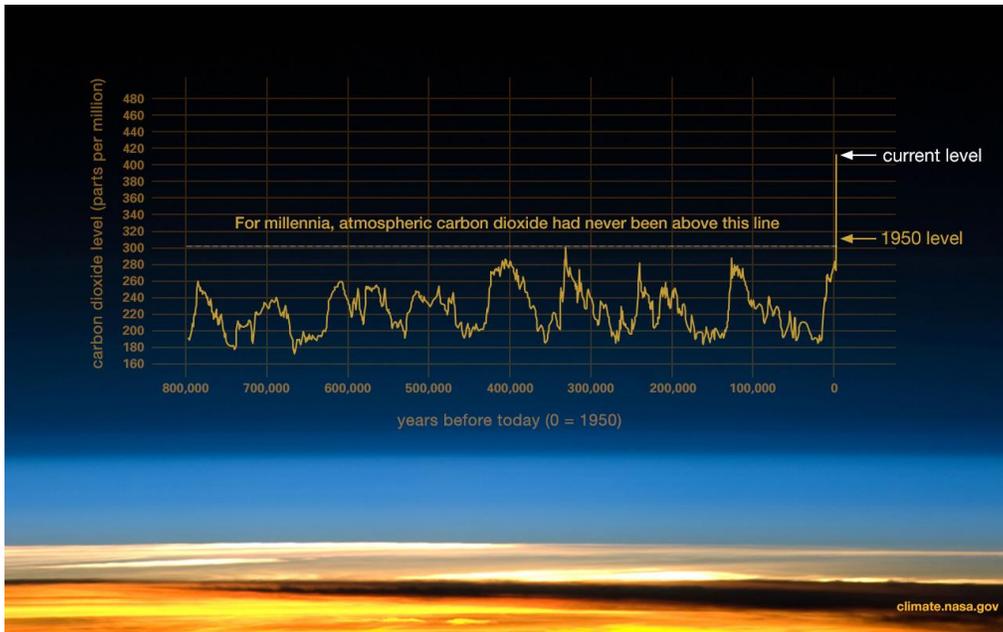


³² http://www.occri.net/media/1052/2ocar3_final_climate.pdf

³³ <https://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/>

³⁴ <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/06/17/worlds-population-is-projected-to-nearly-stop-growing-by-the-end-of-the-century/>

³⁵ The net effect of this activity is reflected in an increase in atmospheric CO₂ and other greenhouse gases, as shown in this NOAA chart published on NASA's climate web site.³⁶



A better conservative alternative to the current approach of Oregon Republicans has been proposed by the Young Conservatives for Carbon Dividends, which is promoting a tax on carbon with the monies being distributed as a dividend back to the public rather than retained by government. Versions of this strategy, which has been endorsed by former Republican Secretaries of State, James Baker and George Schultz, have been implemented in British Columbia and Switzerland, with some or all of the taxes in those countries being used to reduce business taxes rather than being paid back to the public as a dividend.

Which brings us back to the guiding principle of our party's approach to environmental policy:

Science can quantify risks but cannot tell us whether they are acceptable or by whose values they should be judged. Governments are right to institute policies that manage the landscape of risk by weighing scientific evidence and accounting for the values of their citizens.

As we have argued, there are good reasons to consider alternatives or modifications to the Democrats' proposed cap-and-trade program, but Republican denialism is not a solution.³⁷ Neither approach to addressing climate impacts has a clear majority of public support, though there is more public support for doing something meaningful rather than nothing, so long as the costs are not overly prohibitive.

³⁵ CIA World factbook, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/index.html>

³⁶ <https://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/>

³⁷ <https://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/2019/08/opinion-after-cap-and-trade-failure-look-to-oregons-forests-waterways-to-help-address-climate-change.html>

CLIMATE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Pursue policies such as afforestation and reforestation in Oregon’s temperate rainforests³⁸.** The state should fully and immediately utilize authority that already exists within the Department of Forestry to engage in carbon trading for forestry projects to improve and restore forested habitat.³⁹
2. **A future bill like HB 2020 should not hold landfills harmless for their climate impacts while imposing costs on Oregon recyclers.** Consideration should be given to the carbon benefits of recycling and recovery operations in Oregon relative to landfilling and the extraction of new materials, especially for those operations that can demonstrate a net carbon or conservation benefit and efficiencies relative to their industry.
3. **Bills like HB2020 only capture industrial and commercial activity within the state of Oregon.** They do not address the impact of goods manufactured outside of the state and sold in Oregon markets. The state should also consider models that hold manufacturers of products sold in Oregon accountable for their packaging and other costs of disposal.

We urge consideration of “Extended Producer Responsibility” (EPR), which has a long track record of implementation in Oregon, and a review of more robust policies in jurisdictions like Ottawa, Canada, which has had an EPR law in the books since 2001.⁴⁰ This issue is discussed at greater length in the section on recycling (below).

4. **Consider a carbon dividend as an alternative to a carbon tax.** A carbon dividend is a fee on carbon emissions that is paid back to citizens as a dividend. Some variations of this approach are used to reduce business taxes.
5. **Identify sustainable methods of reducing materials that contribute to forest fires,** such as timely logging of disease or beetle-stricken timber to help reduce the risk of fire, and invest in technologies to determine economically viable models can be found to help reduce materials that contribute to such fires. (**Note:** This is also an air quality recommendation.)

³⁸ <https://www.pnas.org/content/115/14/3663>

³⁹ Law: <https://www.oregonlaws.org/ors/526.700>; Description: http://www.uvm.edu/~cfc/casestudies/FRT_website_022713.pdf

⁴⁰ <https://rco.on.ca/overhauling-extended-producer-responsibility-laws-in-ontario/>

AIR QUALITY

Our 2018 platform outlined numerous problems with respect to air quality and how it is regulated in Oregon. We noted that Portland has among the worst air quality of any metropolitan region. That platform highlighted two key areas as needed for reform:

- The regulation of “dirty diesel engines.”
- Better regulation of Oregon industrial polluters.



In January 2018 Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson released an audit confirming that Oregon DEQ was indeed underfunded and not succeeding in its mission to regulate industrial polluters. The report found that more than 40% of facilities regulated by the agency did not have current air quality permits, some of them missing for decades. This report came after 2016 reporting in the Oregonian, Portland Mercury and Oregon Public Broadcasting revealed that the agency had sought to keep the Oregon Department of Forestry from releasing information about the presence of cadmium and other toxins in Portland’s air.

In 2018, in response to the audit, the Oregon Legislature passed its first major overhaul of industrial polluters in 40 years and in 2019 strengthened regulation of diesel emissions from trucks in the Portland metro area, although the new law exempted large categories of vehicles and provided no funds for the least-polluting urban cargo-moving alternative: human-electric powered tricycles. Also in 2019 a follow-up to the Secretary of State’s 2018 audit found that DEQ had implemented 5 of the audit’s 10 recommendations and that “substantial progress” had been made in implementing the remainder of audit recommendations.

Unfortunately, these improvements to the regulatory framework for industrial emissions remain overshadowed by the impact of regional forest fires on Oregon’s air quality.

A 2016 report by the Environmental Protection Agency predicted a 160% increase in toxic airborne particulate matter due to forest fires in the Pacific Northwest. That prediction has been a growing reality. A 2012 report by the Natural Resources Defense Council concluded that in 2012 alone, “wildfire smoke in Oregon caused 226 premature deaths, 1,986 emergency room visits, 92 hospital admissions for lung and heart ailments, and \$2.1 billion in total health costs”⁴¹

AIR QUALITY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Continue monitoring DEQ’s rollout of air quality improvements.** A public report at the November EQC hearing suggested that the Boardman energy facility may be trying to circumvent state law, which does not cover starting and stopping the facility, by stopping and starting the facility hundreds of times per year.
- **Identify sustainable methods of reducing materials that contribute to forest fires, such as timely logging of disease or beetle-stricken timber to help reduce the risk of fire.**

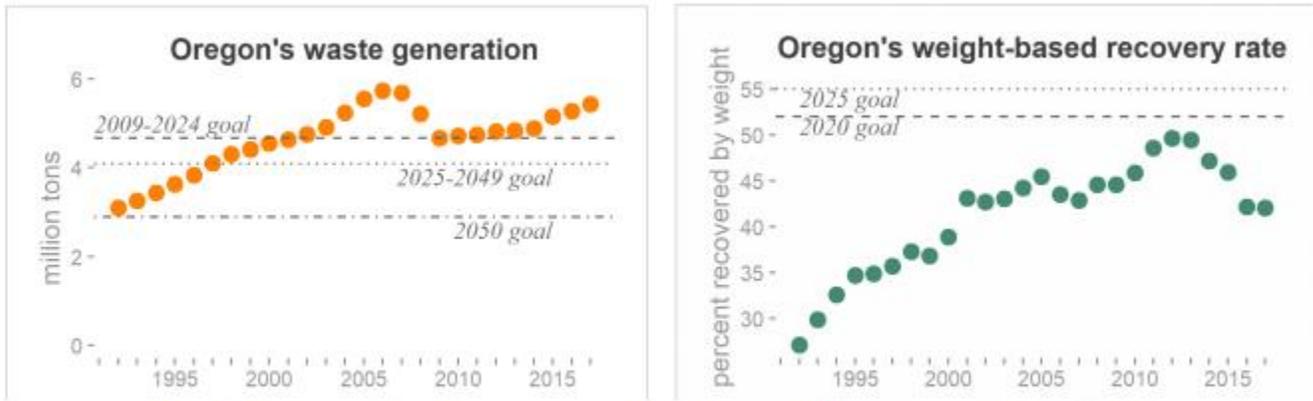
⁴¹ <https://www.wweek.com/news/2019/11/04/a-new-study-warns-of-increased-health-costs-from-oregon-wildfires-as-the-climate-crisis-progresses/>

SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING

Oregonians produce more solid waste and recycle a lower percentage of that waste than we did as a state 20 years ago, and Oregon is well behind national averages for recovery and recycling. The state is falling well behind goals established in 2012. The full extent of this is not well-understood by policy makers or the general public.

State policies have contributed to more landfilling and less recovery.

In 2012 the state adopted a “2050 framework” for recycling policy in the state, but Oregon has moved significantly backwards in terms of recycling due to a variety of factors, including a loss of recycling capacity for pulp and paper materials within the state.⁴²



These charts show trends in waste generation and recovery in relation to the Oregon's long-term goals for reducing generation and increasing recovery (Oregon Revised Statute 459A.010).

In 2018, the state's recycling took another blow, when China, previously the world's largest market for recyclable mixed paper, stopped accepting most mixed paper from the United States.

- The policy of shipping mixed paper to China hollowed out Oregon's pulp and paper industry and significantly weakened Oregon's domestic recycling capacity despite the economic viability of paper recycling and pulp cogeneration.
- Oregon's problem with recycling predates the 2018 disruption in international recycling markets.

The state's recycling levels in 2017, prior to the drop off in international recycling, were lower than they were in 2001.

Oregon State Recovered Tons and Recovery Rates

Year	Tons Recovered	Tons Disposed	Calculated Rate ⁹
1992	839,679	2,263,099	27.1
1993	974,685	2,280,513	29.9
1994	1,118,912	2,312,669	32.6
1995	1,257,204	2,362,146	34.7
1996	1,338,259	2,497,170	34.9
1997	1,462,114	2,633,017	35.7
1998	1,604,985	2,695,903	37.3
1999	1,626,271	2,788,699	36.8
2000	1,765,817	2,778,463	38.9
2001	1,999,085	2,635,072	43.1
2002	2,029,261	2,723,365	42.7
2003	2,116,880	2,796,787	43.1
2004	2,317,064	2,923,462	44.2
2005	2,523,367	3,026,457	45.5
2006	2,494,050	3,235,828	43.5
2007	2,437,569	3,248,126	42.9
2008	2,326,146	2,890,503	44.6
2009	2,082,631	2,586,721	44.6
2010	2,163,957	2,523,808	46.2
2011	2,306,124	2,437,767	48.6
2012	2,391,490	2,424,833	49.7
2013	2,390,859 ¹	2,513,404 ¹	48.8 ¹
2014	2,307,269 ¹	2,634,653 ¹	46.7 ¹
2015	2,369,080 ¹	2,784,467 ¹	46.0 ¹
2016	2,225,943 ¹	3,050,432	42.2 ¹
2017	2,327,428 ¹	3,207,448 ¹	42.1 ¹

¹ These tonnage figures are corrected from earlier published values.

⁴² <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/2017mrwgrates.pdf>

⁴³ Ibid

Recycling, recovery and keeping materials out of landfills is an area of public policy where the reality is out of step with the priorities of Oregon voters.

Recent polling by DHM shows that a majority of Oregonians believe that manufacturers should be more responsible for the disposal of the products they produce and that government regulation is necessary to protect the environment.⁴⁴



Oregonians are paying more for less recycling and recovery

According to a recent staff report to the House Energy and environment committee,⁴⁵ Oregon communities are charging higher rates and accepting fewer materials curbside as recyclable. There is significant confusion among consumer ratepayers about what is currently recyclable and what is landfilled.

Current and potential state policies contribute to more landfilling and less recovery

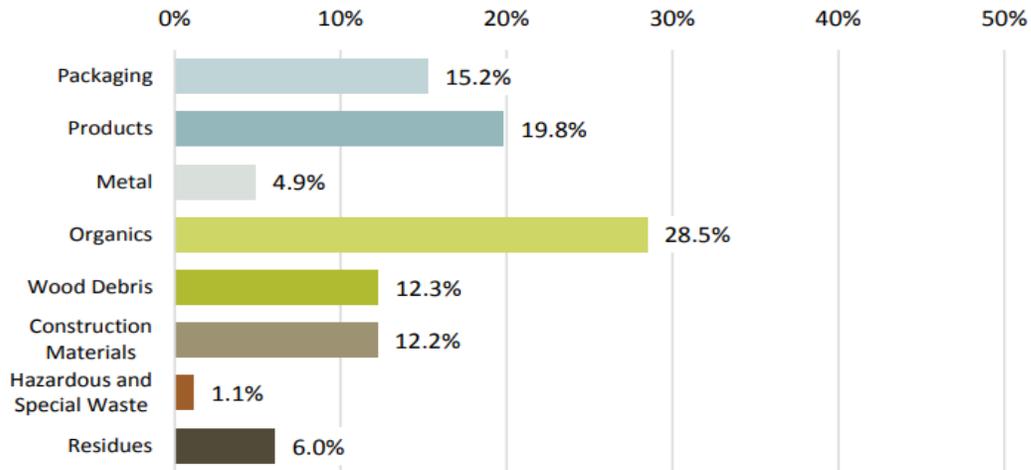
- DEQ policies have reduced recycling target guidelines for counties and reduced the types of materials that are considered to be recyclable.
- **DEQ's solid waste program budget is based on tipping fees at Oregon landfills.** This creates a conflict for the agency, since reducing solid waste going to landfills hurts the agency's budget. That impact is felt strongly with respect to policies like HB 2020 which, if applied to landfills, would significantly reduce the amount of landfilling in the state. Other jurisdictions have adopted models of agency funding that do not encourage greater landfilling of materials and do more to ensure that manufacturers take greater responsibility for the disposal of the products they sell.
- By holding landfills, but not pulp and paper, plastic, and metal recyclers harmless for the cost of emissions, HB 2020, or bills like it, would create an economic incentive for landfilling and disincentive for recovery.
- In addition to packaging and products, organic material, pulp and construction debris account for more than half of the materials going into Oregon landfills and account for most of the greenhouse gas emissions from those facilities, yet these factors have seldom been addressed legislatively.

⁴⁴ <https://dhmresearch.com/blog/2019-04-16/waste-not-want-not--oregonians-push-back-against-throwaway-culture.html>

⁴⁵ DEQ Presentation by Abby Boudaris http://oregon.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?clip_id=27414

The three worst categories of waste from a climate perspective -- wood waste, organics and construction debris -- account for more than half of materials going to Oregon landfills. Current policies do not discourage landfilling of food waste or most of these materials. The policy direction for the last several years has moved away from the recovery of these less valuable materials.

Figure 9: Overall Statewide Disposed Waste Stream Packaging, Products, and Other Material Groups, 2015-2016



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In the past, DEQ has reported on the negative impacts of organics, especially food waste, on a range of measures, including climate. Literally, the worst approach to dealing with food waste is to landfill it. The two best methods are anaerobic digestion and aerobic composting.⁴⁷ No action has been taken by the Legislature to address the accumulation of that waste and other organic material at Oregon landfills.

Figure 1. Impact Rankings for Food Waste Treatments

Treatment	Potential Soil Productivity Benefits					
	Climate Impact	Energy Impact	Soil Carbon	Fertilizer Replacement	Water Conservation	Yield Increase
Aerobic composting	2	4	1	2	1	1 (tie)
Anaerobic digestion	1	2	2	1	2	1 (tie)
In-sink grinding	3	1	3	3	3	3
Landfill	4	3	4	4	4	4

Impacts are reported on a relative scale, with 1 = best, and 4 = worst

⁴⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Plans-policies/Washington-state-waste-plan/Progress-report/Solid-waste-composition>

⁴⁷ <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/AnnualMatManReport2015.pdf>

RECYCLING & RECOVERY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Rebalance the responsibility between consumers and manufacturers for costs associated with the disposal of waste by adopting policies that place greater responsibility on manufacturers for the disposal of products they sell in Oregon.
- Diversify the sources of DEQ's solid waste program budget to make it less dependent on landfill tipping fees to better align the agency's funding model with the state's conservation goals and the agency's regulatory function.
- The Secretary of State should audit DEQ to determine if the agency's solid waste funding model is consistent with best practices and the agency's mission.
- Strengthen the auditing function of the Secretary of State's office to ensure agency compliance with recommendations. (see Government Accountability platform)
- Adopt policies that reduce food waste, such as strengthening regulations on "sell by" dates on product packaging.
- Seek to establish new markets for wood pulp, food waste and other organic material through the use of biochar or other emerging technologies.

LOCAL DETERMINATION

The Independent Party of Oregon supports the right of local communities to make their own decisions with respect to activities that have a significant impact on local communities. IPO supported 2018 local ballot measures regulating the aerial spraying of pesticides and worked to protect the rights of local community activists to use the initiative process to make public policy and to hold public officials accountable for their decisions.

A recent Lincoln County Circuit Court decision has local regulation of aerial spraying of pesticides on hold. IPO opposes that decision.

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