



Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Elements for Equity

Checklist for Recycling Council Program Plan Review

Sub-committee members: Taylor Cass Talbott, Dylan de Thomas, Jill Hrycyk, Alando Simpson, and Liz Start

DEQ support person(s): Stephanie Caldera and Blaine Mershon

Focal plan section: Equity

	DEQ feedback	Council feedback
Overall Feedback on Plan Section:	<p>CAA appears well-aware of the requirements and oriented toward meeting them, but in several places more detail will be needed on CAA's plans in the second draft in order to definitively meet them.</p> <p>Examples of places where more detail is needed include plans on providing enhanced convenience to underserved populations, and how proposals for alternative compliance to convenience standards will ensure equitable access to recycling services.</p> <p>CAA signaled some intent but largely did not flesh out concrete plans for the non-statutory guidance elements and more details are welcomed in subsequent versions.</p>	

Plan Component	Statute or Rule Citation	Is the requirement met? (yes, no, conditionally)	DEQ feedback	Council feedback
<p>Overall goal for equity, within which equity measures undertaken across the program plan are nested.</p>		n/a	<p>On page 12, CAA sets a goal of incorporating principles of equity into deployment of recycling opportunities, education and other elements of the recycling system. The outcomes for this goal are worded as inputs rather than outputs. Metrics could benefit from tightening and quantifiable milestones for the first program plan period identified.</p>	
<p>Equity aspects of the operations plan for PRO Recycling Acceptance list materials, including:</p>				
<p>plans to contract with existing depots operated by Tribal nations;</p>	<p>OAR 340-090-0640(1)(a)(C)</p>		<p>On page 116, CAA pledges to identify tribal depots and then prioritize working with them to collect the PRO acceptance list materials.</p> <p>In an updated draft CAA ideally will be able to name depots operated by Tribal nations that have been engaged and intend to collaborate.</p>	
<p>plans for providing enhanced convenience to underserved populations</p>	<p>OAR 340-090-0640(2)(h)</p>		<p>CAA notes on page 42 that it will explore the potential of enhanced curbside/valet collection for residents that might not be able to access depot points.</p> <p>This is lacking detail, in that it describes options that CAA “could” undertake without committing CAA to actually implement any.</p>	

Plan Component	Statute or Rule Citation	Is the requirement met? (yes, no, conditionally)	DEQ feedback	Council feedback
			The approach could fulfill the requirement if firmer plans are represented in v2.	
taking impact on equitable access to recycling across regions and diverse populations into account in any proposal for alternative compliance with convenience standards.	OAR 340-090-0640(6)(c)(B)		<p>CAA signals on pages 38-39 the intent to request alternative compliance (use of curbside collection and/or collection events) in some locations “where barriers exist in establishing depots.”</p> <p>In Appendix F on pages 31-32, counties relevant to the prospective request are indicated with the symbols “@” and “©.” However, a concrete proposal fulfilling the three criteria of OAR 340-090-0640(6)(c), including the equitable access required by (6)(c)(B) is not included in the first draft plan; DEQ would expect such a proposal, informed by the ORSOP process, in CAA’s second draft submission.</p> <p>On page 39, CAA notes that curbside service for PRO materials would be provided at no cost to single family and multifamily properties, suggesting equitable access for these generators under an alternative compliance approach using curbside service. However, access for commercial generators is not addressed. And logistical and space challenges of offering on-route collection</p>	

Plan Component	Statute or Rule Citation	Is the requirement met? (yes, no, conditionally)	DEQ feedback	Council feedback
			for source-segregated materials at multifamily sites are not addressed.	
plans for engagement with local community-based organizations and women and minority-owned businesses to develop collection points;		n/a	<p>CAA lists nine prospective CBO/minority-owned or operated partner organizations on page 41 with respect to staffing and maintaining depots. Collection events are also a key part of CAA’s proposal to meet convenience standards; on page 39 the possibility of working with a partner CBO or local COBID- certified contractor to host or staff collection events is noted. DEQ welcomes more detail on these prospective collaborations in v2 of the plan.</p> <p>DEQ notes that interested parties are paying keen attention to CAA’s consultative process; and DEQ recommends CAA only name organizations in such lists if they have engaged with them very substantively.</p>	
principles and methods for compensation of collection point staff; and		n/a	CAA is vague regarding this, noting on page 47 that it proposes to contract with each location for wages and salaries for additional depot employees needed to monitor and maintain PRO materials. On page 116, CAA pledges to explore how compensation plans for collection point staff can be made fair and equitable.	

Plan Component	Statute or Rule Citation	Is the requirement met? (yes, no, conditionally)	DEQ feedback	Council feedback
			More detail here could be helpful. Will CAA provide a living wage, a minimum wage that matches the state’s current minimum wage structure?, etc.	
descriptions of any additional activities planned for the advancement of equity in recycling, e.g. collaborations with community groups that collect materials not on the uniform statewide collection list for recycling but do not meet the definition in rule of “depot” or “drop off center.”		n/a	On page 116, CAA indicates that it will explore partnerships with community groups that collect PRO depot materials but may not qualify for permits or meet the definition of “depot” or “drop off center.” DEQ welcomes more detail on these prospective collaborations in v2 of the plan, i.e., what types of organizations, geographic and thematic focus of their work, etc.	
Equity aspects of the operations plan for fulfillment of the responsible end market obligation, including:				
plans to incorporate community feedback into verifications of markets and other downstream entities; and		n/a	While not described in the plan, during the first subcommittee meeting on the responsible end markets topic, CAA indicated that it is considering including a channel for whistleblower feedback as part of the end market pre-verification process. DEQ welcomes details on this prospective approach in v2 of the plan.	

Plan Component	Statute or Rule Citation	Is the requirement met? (yes, no, conditionally)	DEQ feedback	Council feedback
			Could CAA engage communities in the development of its “responsible” verification standard and process?	
any equity approaches pertaining to practicable actions such as development of new markets		n/a	On page 116, CAA indicates that for materials that it owns, it will explore options to provide opportunities to small, veteran-owned, minority-owned, and B-corp businesses, as well as NGOs. DEQ welcomes more details in v2 of the plan.	
Equity aspects of the operations plan for education and outreach, including:				
a description of how the prospective PRO will ensure that educational materials and campaigns are culturally responsive to diverse audiences across this state.	ORS 459A.893(3)		<p>Overall, the Plan meets the requirements for this section. Comments below have previously been provided through the Education and Outreach subcommittee and are presented here in alignment.</p> <p>On page 116, CAA proposes to translate and transcreate materials into Spanish, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Korean, Arabic, Russian, Vietnamese and Ukrainian.</p> <p>There are some additional languages spoken by 1,000 or more people over the age of five in Oregon that CAA might consider adding to its list. DEQ looked into</p>	

Plan Component	Statute or Rule Citation	Is the requirement met? (yes, no, conditionally)	DEQ feedback	Council feedback
			<p>census data and suggests CAA translate material into Spanish; Vietnamese; Simplified Chinese; Russian; Ukrainian or other Slavic languages; Korean; Nepali, Marathi, or other Indic languages; Tagalog (incl. Filipino); Amharic, Somali, or other Afro-Asiatic languages; Arabic; and Japanese.</p> <p>These are the top 10 languages spoken by 1,000 or more people over the age of five in Oregon for whom English is not their primary language.</p> <p>CAA might also want to consider providing residents, local governments, and service providers an option to request materials in a language besides these ones (i.e., translation upon request).</p> <p>CAA also proposes to create educational materials following ADA compliance and best practices as well as the principles of universal design, where products, services or environments are designed so that anyone – no matter their age or ability – can use that design with minimal or no accommodations. DEQ supports these approaches and recommends that CAA take measures to ensure broad consultation with local governments and</p>	

Plan Component	Statute or Rule Citation	Is the requirement met? (yes, no, conditionally)	DEQ feedback	Council feedback
			<p>key community members across Oregon in the material development stage.</p> <p>CAA indicates plans to work with CBOs to develop and distribute materials but does not provide details on who it will work with, which would ideally be fleshed out in the second draft.</p>	
Equity aspects of the PRO's administration, including:				
<p>any internal requirements around engagement of "Certified Firms" when contracting work out to third parties ("Certified Firm" means a small business certified under ORS 200.055 by the Oregon Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity (COBID) as a minority-owned business, woman-owned business, business that service-disabled veterans own, or emerging small business).</p>		n/a	<p>On page 117, CAA indicates that it will develop an approach to provide opportunities to COBID-certified businesses. DEQ welcomes more details on this approach in v2 of the plan.</p> <p>DEQ encourages CAA to describe how it will support smaller producers to comply, and small service providers to meaningfully participate in Oregon's recycling system.</p> <p>DEQ encourages CAA to describe what jobs will be created and retained in Oregon through the PRO's long-term role.</p>	

Other notes, questions, and comments:

- DEQ supports the proposal to establish a single point of contact for accounting (and simplify reimbursement process as much as feasible).
- Does CAA plan to engage with DEQ and the Recycling Council on findings of the equity study? If so, would it make sense to note this in the plan?
- How can CAA help small local governments (i.e., under 4,000) that want to institute curbside collection but may need help in the proposal and planning stage? Could there be a technical assistance staffer that supports such local governments?
- Does CAA plan to engage with DEQ and the Recycling Council on findings of the marine litter study? If so, would it make sense to note this in the plan, and consider in advance equity implications? (i.e., smaller, coastal communities that are disproportionately impacted by marine litter).
- Has CAA considered providing technical assistance to smaller producers to help them to meet their obligations under the law, particularly the data reporting requirement?

Translation and other formats

[Español](#) | [한국어](#) | [繁體中文](#) | [Русский](#) | [Tiếng Việt](#) | [العربية](#)

800-452-4011 | TTY: 711 | deqinfo@deq.oregon.gov

Non-discrimination statement

DEQ does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in administration of its programs or activities. Visit DEQ's [Civil Rights and Environmental Justice page](#).