

PRODUCTS & PACKAGING SUBCOMMITTEE: MEETING #1

Meeting date/time: Wednesday, February 18, 2025, 1:00pm-3:00pm

Meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85166991811>

Attendees

Subcommittee Members

John Deuel, Oregon State University (Retired)

Kathryn Duvall, Oregon Legislature Environmental Caucus

Carly Mick, University of Oregon

Staff

Facilitator: Lisa LeDoux, Start Consulting Group

Subject Matter Expert: Joel Schoening, RRS

Notes

- Refine focus areas for the Products & Packaging Subcommittee and discuss strategies for waste reduction.
- Agreed to focus on top 5 material categories: paper, plastic, textile, wood, metal
- RRS will research and present 2 actionable ideas per category at next meeting
- Will explore concept of a research institute/data hub as a non-material specific strategy
- Emphasis on upstream solutions and actions counties can realistically implement

Ideas

Future State Discussion

- Desired outcomes include reducing product/packaging waste in landfills by 10% by 2040
- Success metrics should include baseline data and track progress over time
- Need to consider lifecycle impacts and ensure waste isn't just shifted elsewhere
- Importance of collaboration between regional partners (haulers, cities, producers, etc.)

Waste Composition Data Review

- Reviewed waste composition charts for Oregon
- Challenges in categorizing materials (e.g. wood could be packaging, organics, or C&D)
- Paper/packaging is large portion, much covered by Recycling Modernization Act
- Plastics broken down by type (rigid, film, etc.)
- Metals include white goods (appliances) which have recovery potential

Potential Focus Areas & Strategies

- Community initiatives (e.g. tool libraries, repair cafes)
- Private sector innovation (e.g. Ridwell collection model)
- Policy tools (EPR, bans, education campaigns)
- Upstream design changes to improve durability, repairability
- Improving data collection and collaboration across stakeholders
- Targeting high-impact materials counties can influence

Considerations

- Discussed need for centralized data hub on waste streams, case studies, metrics. Potential for university or nonprofit to host, with guidance from DEQ. Could help businesses, policymakers, and researchers access information
- Funding challenges - may need creative solutions or start small

Action: Research and Analysis

- RRS to research top 5 material categories and present 2 actionable ideas for each at next meeting
- Explore concept of research institute/data hub as non-material strategy
- Kathryn to share relevant current legislation
- Continue sharing resources in shared folder