

Fact Sheet



Oregon E-Cycles: Why Modernization is Needed

What is the Oregon E-Cycles Program?

Created in 2007 by Oregon's Electronics Recycling Law, Oregon E-Cycles is a statewide program that requires electronics manufacturers to provide responsible recycling for computers, monitors, TVs, printers, keyboards and mice. The program is an example of a producer responsibility program, a waste management strategy that requires producers to share in the responsibility for the end-of-life management of their products and materials.

Oregon E-Cycles launched in 2009 and the legislature added printers, keyboards and mice to the program in 2011. Since its inception, Oregon E-Cycles has significantly expanded opportunities for Oregon residents to recycle electronic wastes, preventing toxins from entering Oregon's landfills and recovering precious and rare earth metals for new electronics, which can reduce the need for mining more resources from the earth. In 2022 alone, the program collected 12.4 million pounds of devices for recycling and 39,131 devices for reuse.

Why does Oregon E-Cycles need to be modernized?

Oregon E-Cycles is one of Oregon's first producer responsibility programs and one of the oldest statewide producer-funded electronics recycling programs in the nation. Despite the program's success, in 2022, sites providing collection services faced instability because of how the program is structured under Oregon's Electronics Recycling Law.

HB 3220A will remove the source for the potential instability, include additional protections and make other changes to ensure the program's success for years to come. These changes include expanding the list of covered devices that residents can bring in for recycling and ensuring the program provides equitable service and allows for reuse.

How does the current Program work?

Oregon's Electronics Recycling Law requires electronics manufacturers to provide free, convenient and statewide recycling for covered devices that are sold in or into Oregon. Manufacturers must register their brands with DEQ and join either the state contractor recycling program or a private manufacturer-run recycling program, referred to as a Producer Responsibility Organization, or PRO. Anyone can take seven or fewer devices at a time to participating collection sites for free recycling. These programs are funded by manufacturers of devices covered under the Law.

PROs must provide at least one collection site in every county and in every city with a population of at least 10,000. PROs provide additional collection sites to meet annual collection goals [set by DEQ](#). Each year, DEQ consults with interested parties to determine the total weight of devices to be collected among participating

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manufacturers. However, if collection goals are met, a PRO can remove such additional sites, leading to potential instability.

What caused the potential instability in services in 2022?

For several years, the program's two PROs exceeded the set collection goal. In late 2021, one PRO announced plans to remove several collection sites to align the volume it collects with its collection requirements under the program. Impacted collection site operators expressed concern. Through collaborative discussions and legislation in 2022, an agreement was reached to maintain collection at many sites initially slated to be removed. An agreement was also made to seek a more permanent solution.

How was HB 3220A developed?

From July 2022 to January 2023, DEQ engaged interested parties to develop options for modernizing Oregon E-Cycles. Working with the Product Stewardship Institute, a national non-profit specializing in product stewardship and producer responsibility policy in the US, DEQ held five public workshops and received input from the electronics industry, PROs, local governments, recyclers and current and past collection site operators about how to improve the program. HB 3220A reflects agreements reached in the process.

How will HB 3220A stabilize program services?

HB 3220A helps stabilize the E-Cycles collection network in several ways. The bill will eliminate DEQ's annual process to set collection goals, which was a source of the instability, and increase the minimum number of collection sites required. Specifically, HB 3220A will:

- Require a PRO to ensure that 95% of residents are within 15 miles of a collection site;
- Increase the number of sites required in cities with a population of 10,000 or more, with more sites required based on population density; and
- Ensure that any willing permitted transfer station, landfill or material recovery facility can participate as a collection site.

How else will HB 3220A improve Oregon E-Cycles?

- Increase the list of covered devices to include DVD players, gaming consoles and other electronics;
- Streamline administration by eliminating the state contractor program, while allowing multiple PROs to operate in Oregon with DEQ oversight;
- Require a PRO to provide equitable service throughout Oregon; and
- To support reuse, require a PRO to coordinate activities with recycling and reuse programs and allow collection sites to recover devices for reuse.

How will HB 3220A impact the public?

Oregon E-Cycles will continue to be free and easy to use. The public will be able to recycle more types of electronics at a collection site, with more stability in the number of collection sites available throughout the year. DEQ will continue the necessary agency oversight to ensure PROs comply with applicable laws and manages collected electronics responsibly.

Need more information?

To find your nearest site, visit oregonecycles.org or call the Oregon E-Cycles Hotline at 1-888-532-9253. For questions about HB 3220A, please contact Abby Boudouris (Abby.BOUDDOURIS@deq.oregon.gov).

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