

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
2025-2027 Budget Hearing
Response to Member Questions

Day 2 - April 8 2025

Can you share more information about DEQ's work to communicate with the public during emergency events?

In Oregon, DEQ is designated as a lead agency in response to oil and hazardous material spills. Nationally, the National Contingency Plan establishes general responsibilities for responding agencies, including federal and state On-Scene Coordinators and establishes National and Regional Response Teams (RRTs). RRTs coordinate preparedness, planning, and response at the regional level.

Roles and response practice are further details in the [Region 10 RRT NW Area Contingency Plan](#). Protocols for public and media outreach are detailed in the plan, including when multiple responding agencies establish a Joint Information Center. A JIC means responding agencies have one, unified and coordinated public information system, ensuring comprehensive, timely and clear public communications.

When responding to spills and releases, DEQ uses a wide variety of communication and outreach tools based on the needs of the incident. This includes:

- Issuing press releases and holding press conferences to deliver key information to news media.
- Establishing incident specific webpages or blogs where the public can access up-to-date information about the incident and protecting their health.
- Communicating key information to community-based organizations and other trusted sources of information in the community.
- Using social media to communicate directly with the public.
- Holding community meetings to provide updates to impacted communities.
- Developing signage that can be placed near the impacted area and point people to resources.
- Coordinating with and sending information to 211 where people can call to get answers to common questions.
- Providing regular updates to local elected officials to ensure they know where to point constituents with questions.

DEQ also partners with other responding agencies to use communications specifically designed to alert the public of imminent danger. This includes coordinating with the fire department and local emergency management who can use reverse 911 or other emergency alert systems. DEQ also provides information to 211 so community members can call and get answers to common questions.

What is the 2050 vision for materials management? What are the specific outcomes under the vision and how does the POP 133 support achieving those outcomes?

Adopted by the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission in 2012, the [2050 Vision for Materials Management](#) serves as the state's statutorily required solid waste management plan and is the guiding framework for DEQ's Materials Management program, and the state's approach to reducing environmental, social and human health impacts from the production, use and disposal of materials and products. The vision promotes waste prevention, reuse and repair, sustainable production, and the use of materials, and proper waste management.

Slide 44 of the agency presentation described Policy Option Package 133 (described in detail on pages 371-372 of [DEQ's Governor's Budget Book](#)), which focuses on staff resources to conduct existing work that is currently under-resourced to achieve the outcomes described in the 2050 Vision. The package proposes to establish two new positions, and transfer two Limited Duration positions to permanent status. The positions would be funded by Solid Waste Tipping Fees, the same primary revenue source for all Materials management work.

The slide noted that if the package was not approved, key outcomes would not be achieved. That bullet point refers to the work proposed to be performed by the four positions in the package. Specifically:

- One Natural Resource Specialist 4 (Limited Duration to Permanent) will develop and implement program strategies, goals, and action plans to reduce the environmental, social, and public health impacts of materials used in the design, construction, remodeling, and demolition of the built environment including, but not limited to, buildings and infrastructure.
- One Natural Resource Specialist 3 (Limited Duration to Permanent) will plan and implement inclusive engagement, outreach and project coordination related to the built environment and community grant-making programs. Both work areas are based on foundations of equity, inclusion and environmental justice, and this position provides critical expertise and capacity in these areas.
- One Operations and Policy Analyst 2 (new position) will provide program analysis, operational research and evaluation, and project management for existing extended producer responsibility programs related to electronics, paint, waste medicines, and mattresses. The person in this position will also provide policy analysis for proposed product stewardship programs.
- One Operations and Policy Analyst 3 (new position) will provide policy analysis, legislative coordination, operational research and evaluation, and project management for complex projects related to mining and energy facilities that require coordination among DEQ regulatory programs, other state agencies, local governments, federal agencies, Tribal nations, and regional bodies/organizations. The position, located in the Eastern Regional office, will coordinate complex materials management projects, especially those that intersect with other DEQ programs as well as state and federal agencies. In particular, the position considers regulatory overlap and environmental impacts from upstream acquisition of materials from mining, generation of wastes from large-scale energy projects, and the end-of-life management of wastes from these facilities such as mine tailings, wind turbines, solar facilities, and batteries.