



City of Tualatin

CITY OF TUALATIN Staff Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
THROUGH: Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager
FROM: Lindsay Marshall, Management Analyst II, Public Works
DATE: February 26, 2024

SUBJECT:

Recycling Modernization Act - Informational Overview

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Travis Comfort, one of the City of Tualatin's key partners at Republic Services (the City's franchised solid waste hauler), will present an informational overview of the Recycling Modernization Act and what this state-level legislation will mean for Tualatin over the next several years.

Existing Law: Local governments' key role in recycling falls under the Recycling Opportunity Act (ORS 459A), which states that cities with over 4,000 people, cities in the Metro Service District and areas inside associated urban growth boundaries must provide recycling services. Cities and counties determine how recycling is provided for in their communities, and how other education and waste prevention and reuse programs are provided. Local governments report annually to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Washington County prepares and submits annual reports for the City of Tualatin.

New/Upcoming Law: The Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act (Senate Bill 582) updates Oregon's recycling system by building on local community programs and leveraging the resources of producers to make the system work for everyone. The Recycling Modernization Act (RMA) was passed by the Oregon Legislature and signed in 2021. It became effective January 2022, and new programs will start July 2025 or later.

The RMA creates new requirements for cities with over 4,000 people, as well as cities in the Metro Service District and associated urban growth boundaries. These additional requirements will be funded by producers through their Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO).

The RMA also creates new voluntary opportunities for communities not currently required to offer recycling programs to receive funding to improve or create recycling services. The new law obligates producers of packaging, food service ware items, and paper products to pay to stabilize and improve the recycling system. PROs will fund some transportation of recyclables to processing facilities, expand collection services, and ensure that collected materials are recycled responsibly. PROs will also compensate commingled recycling processors for a portion of their costs. These changes will protect ratepayers from increased costs, reduce confusion about what can and can't be recycled, and keep plastic out of our rivers and oceans.

In Tualatin: Local governments, including Tualatin, completed a DEQ survey in the spring of 2023 that gauged interest in optional expansion of recycling services in communities to collect the Uniform Statewide Collection List of materials. By completing this survey, local governments will be

eligible to receive first round funding for recycling services from a Producer Responsibility Organization. Specific programmatic impacts to the City and Tualatin's ratepayers are yet to be determined, as the RMA is still in legislative rulemaking sessions. As the program is refined and rolls out over the next several years, City staff and Republic Services will return to Council to provide updates.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Presentation - Recycling Modernization Act - Informational Overview
- RMA DEQ City and County Responsibilities and Benefits
- RMA DEQ Summary of Producer Obligations and Definitions
- RMA DEQ Oregon Adopted Recycling Acceptance Lists Dec 2023
- RMA DEQ Frequently Asked Questions