

State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Modernizing Oregon E-Cycles: Overview of Legislative Concept 477

The Oregon E-Cycles Program is one of the nation's first product stewardship programs for electronics recycling. Since operations began in 2009, the Program has collected over 268 million pounds of electronic devices, preventing toxins from entering Oregon landfills and recovering precious and rare earth metals for new electronics.

A lot has changed since 2009. This includes changes with technology, electronic recycling, and best practices for product stewardship programs. LC 477 will update Oregon E-Cycles by incorporating new devices and administrative efficiencies while keeping what has made the Program a success.

What's working with Oregon E-Cycles:

- Oregon residents and other covered entities can drop off covered electronic devices at convenient collection sites for recycling;
- Recycling services include free recycling for residents and other covered entities, with costs covered by electronics manufacturers;

What changes are needed with Oregon E-Cycles:

- **Increase scope of electronics covered.** The pace of change in the consumer electronics industry is blistering, as are the changes in the recycling of electronics. Updating and expanding the list of covered electronics devices can help divert more electronics from Oregon landfills for proper recycling.
- **Establish more robust statutory requirements for a collection network.** The current E-Cycles network of collection sites is based in part on the existence of multiple E-Cycles programs. More robust statutory requirements can ensure Oregon residents will have access to a similar level of service regardless of the number of E-Cycles programs operating.
- **Shift DEQ's primary role to oversight instead of program operations.** DEQ's current duties under the E-Cycles law include registering manufacturers, determining the amount of devices to be collected by the E-Cycles programs, and managing a state contractor program. These duties can be resource-intensive and administratively inefficient for DEQ to perform. Removing these duties can help streamline Oregon E-Cycles and allow DEQ to focus more on program oversight and compliance monitoring. This would put Oregon E-Cycles in line with more modern product stewardship programs, including programs in Oregon for architectural paint and household medicines.

With LC 477, Oregon E-Cycles will accept more covered electronic devices. The state contractor program will be phased out. Manufacturers of covered electronic devices that sell 50 or more covered devices will register with a producer responsibility organization that will implement an electronics producer responsibility program on its manufacturers' behalf. Regardless of how many electronics producer responsibility programs there are, LC 477 can help Oregon E-Cycles maintain a level of service similar to current service levels.