DEQ considers amendment to plastic recycling

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Written public comments accepted through Monday, Feb. 12; public may also provide oral comments at Feb. 23 Environmental Quality Commission meeting

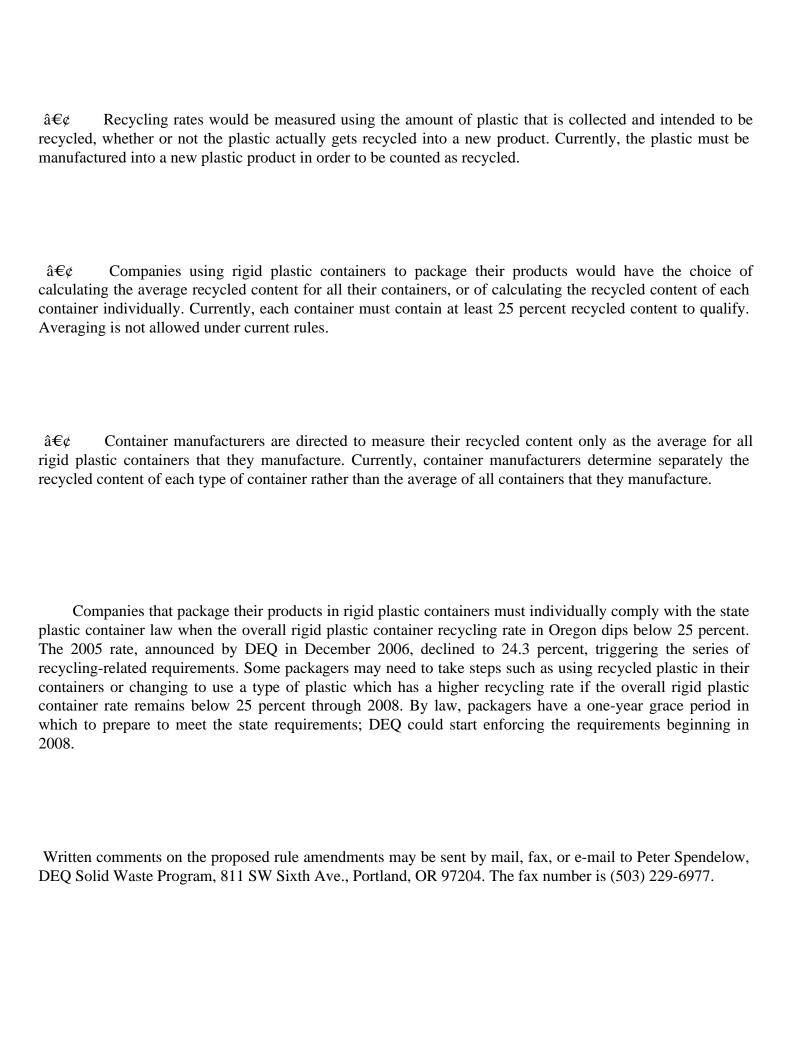
The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has received a petition from a group of 11 industry associations asking DEQ and the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) to amend Oregon's recycling and waste reduction rules, specifically regarding the recycling of rigid plastic containers.

DEQ is accepting written public comments on the amendments proposed in the petition through Monday, Feb. 12. It will issue a staff report with recommendations to the EQC, including a summary of written comments, at the next commission meeting, scheduled for Friday morning, Feb. 23 to be held at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Headquarters, at 3406 Cherry Ave. NE in Salem. The commission will discuss the proposed amendments and the public will have an opportunity to give oral comments at the Feb. 23 meeting.

A full copy of the rule amendment petition is available for review on the DEQ's Web site and a copy of the rulemaking notice is available by clicking here, or from Peter Spendelow of DEQ's Solid Waste Program, Portland, at (503) 229-5253, toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, x5253.

Lawyer and lobbyist Paul S. Cosgrove filed the petition Jan. 11 on behalf of 11 petitioners. They include: the Northwest Food Processors Association; Associated Oregon Industries; Plastic Shipping Container Institute; Rigid Plastic Container Group; Oregonians for Food and Shelter; Soap & Detergent Association; Adhesive and Sealant Council; American Chemistry Council; Consumer Specialty Products Association; Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association; and the Grocery Manufacturers Association.

Currently, as established by the 1991 Oregon Recycling Act, any rigid plastic container sold in Oregon must meet at least one of three requirements: contain at least 25 percent recycled content; be made of plastic that is recycled in Oregon at a rate of at least 25 percent; or be reusable (refillable for at least five times). The proposed amendments would make three changes:



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