



# 2021 Legislative Agenda

Each year, Environment Oregon sets out goals for the legislative session and beyond. In addition to helping us measure our progress, the legislative agenda lets decision-makers know which high-priority environmental items our members want us to tackle.

## Wildlife over Waste

Nothing we use for a few minutes should pollute the environment and harm wildlife for hundreds of years. Plastic pollution is creating an environmental disaster for ocean wildlife: plastic and other marine debris kills millions of sea turtles, seabirds and marine mammals every year. Plastic also contributes to climate change at every step of its lifecycle, from production to pollution. It's time to move beyond single-use plastic by getting rid of the most harmful waste, and stopping the use of things we truly don't need.

That's why Environment Oregon supports:

- **Producer responsibility and preventing plastic pollution.** Making producers responsible for waste is an important step toward a circular economy, reducing waste and preventing litter. A proposed bill seeks to incentivize producers to reduce their use of packaging and build products that are less hazardous, built to last, and are easy to recycle or reuse by requiring that producers are responsible for all waste costs associated with their products, including waste collection, transportation and management, and litter clean-up costs.
- **A comprehensive foodware policy.** We need to shift away from single-use products and towards reusables rather than other types of single-use products. A proposed bill would require reusable foodware for dine-in meals, with some exceptions.

- **A statewide ban on polystyrene takeout containers and cups.** One of the most egregious single-use plastics is polystyrene, more commonly known as Styrofoam. A proposed bill would ban polystyrene takeout containers and cups across the state.
- **Preventing the permitting of new or expanded "chemical recycling" facilities in Oregon.** So-called "chemical recycling" is a false solution to our plastics problem, which exacerbates the climate crisis and distracts from real solutions like reducing plastic production and transitioning to a zero waste system. We support a bill to restrict the expansion of these facilities in Oregon.
- **Truth in labeling.** We support a bill to prohibit the sale of products in Oregon that make misleading or deceptive claims about recyclability.

## Right to repair

We generate way too much waste, and companies use their power in the marketplace to make things harder to repair. This only adds to the amount of waste going to landfills. We support legislation that gives every Oregonian and every small business access to the parts, tools, and service information they need to repair products.



## 100% Renewable Energy

We have no time to waste when it comes to tackling the climate crisis and protecting our planet for future generations. We need to leave fossil fuels in the past and power our society with energy that is clean, renewable, and sustainable. Environment Oregon supports transitioning Oregon to 100% renewable electricity by 2035.

## The cleanest energy: efficiency and conservation

Reducing energy use creates big savings—for our planet, our climate and our health. Better efficiency will clean up our air and help combat climate change and its pervasive threat to our future. Environment Oregon supports proposed bills that will increase energy efficiency and weatherization in homes for low income families, authorize local jurisdictions to require that new buildings have high energy efficiency standards, and strengthen Oregon's existing appliance efficiency standard.

## Destination: Zero Carbon

Transportation is Oregon's number one source of global warming pollution, with greenhouse emissions from cars, trucks, buses and other vehicles surpassing every other source. We simply can't solve global warming without changing how Oregonians get around. Environment Oregon supports policies that encourage the shift to zero emission vehicles and reduce the need to drive by making it easier, cheaper and more enjoyable to travel on foot, bike or public transit.

## No Bees, No Food

Millions of bees are dying off, with alarming consequences for our environment and our food supply. Bees pollinate 71 of the 100 plants that provide 90% of our food, including apples, avocados, strawberries, and watermelons. It's urgent we protect our bees and prevent the use of bee-killing pesticides called neonicotinoids. We support bills that decrease the use of these pesticides either by requiring a permit for their use or through an outright ban.

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