

# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



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### Work Session: Glass Recycling

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Meeting Date: June 11, 2014  
Department: Planning and Development  
[www.eugene-or.gov](http://www.eugene-or.gov)

Agenda Item Number: A  
Staff Contact: Ethan Nelson  
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#### **ISSUE STATEMENT**

This Council work session provides an overview of the glass recycling system that serves Eugene.

#### **BACKGROUND**

In Oregon, the two laws which influence the glass recycling system are the landmark 1971 Oregon Bottle Bill and the 1983 Opportunity to Recycle Act. The Bottle Bill established the mandatory deposit fee and funds the related collection and processing systems. The Opportunity to Recycle Act established the solid waste management hierarchy of reduce, reuse, and recycle before landfilling.

In Oregon, the Department of Environmental Quality regulates the permitting and operations of solid waste disposal and recycling facilities. The Oregon Liquor Control Commission has authority over the state-wide bottle bill programs. Locally, the Eugene Code guides the regulation and standards, including customer rates of solid waste and recycling collection and disposal services, by way of administrative rules under the authority of the City Manager.

Eugene recovers roughly 6,300 tons of glass annually through bottle bill redemption and curbside recovery. The majority of collected curbside glass is delivered to EcoSort in Glenwood for storage. From EcoSort, glass is sent to Portland for processing on the path to eventually being incorporated into new glass products.

Last fall, the *Register Guard* published an article on the local glass recycling system. At that time, glass that was presumed by many to be separated for recycling was instead being used as base material for roadways at a landfill. Since that time, a glass-to-glass recycling processor has come on-line in Portland providing a new market and another option for Eugene's diverted glass waste. With this additional market, glass is no longer being used as roadbed material at the landfills.

Staff is investigating rule changes intended to maximize environmental benefit and achieve the highest reuse or recyclable value from the waste glass stream. New rules to address this point should be ready for public comment in late summer.

A staff report with more detail is provided on the state-wide and local system as Attachment A.

**RELATED CITY POLICIES**

Eugene Code Section 3.245-3.270: Solid Waste, Yard Debris, and Recycling

Administrative Rule R 3.250: Solid Waste, Yard Debris, and Recycling Collection (53-13-01-F)

**COUNCIL OPTIONS**

Informational session only.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION**

Informational only, no recommendation

**SUGGESTED MOTION**

Informational only, no recommendation.

**ATTACHMENTS**

A. Staff Memo on Glass Recycling

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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