

2009-11 Land Quality, Information Technology Budget Proposals



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

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Background

DEQ protects and enhances Oregon's water, air and land. To accomplish the agency's goals and objectives, DEQ needs to enhance hazardous waste management and improve its information technology services. To help achieve these improvements, the 2009-11 Governor's Request Budget for DEQ includes the following budget policy packages:

Product stewardship for waste products

The changing nature of Oregon's solid waste stream – more products containing toxics or made of multiple materials – makes it more difficult and expensive for local governments to manage waste. Increasingly, product stewardship programs are being introduced, both nationally and internationally, to shift the costs of dealing with these products from local governments and their rate payers to the products' producers. Under product stewardship programs, producers take responsibility for financing the collection and recycling of their products so that consumers can return unwanted items to convenient locations. Such programs can reduce the impact of climate change by providing incentives for producers to improve product design and manufacturing as well as ensuring that products are reused and recycled, rather than thrown away. In 2007, Oregon adopted legislation requiring producers to be responsible for the collection, transportation and environmentally sound management of computers, computer monitors and televisions.

DEQ plans to develop and propose a basic framework to set up product stewardship programs for other products that contain toxics or are difficult to manage. Providing a common framework avoids creating different systems for each product and provides more certainty for producers required to address end-of-life management of their products. DEQ is requesting additional staff, initially funded by existing fees, to allow DEQ to research and evaluate product stewardship policy and products and to work with stakeholders to draft legislation for the 2011 session. Once a product stewardship framework is adopted, administrative fees paid by producers of the products are expected to provide the revenue to

support the new positions.

(Request: \$277,890 from existing fees)

Information management infrastructure

This package would add an information services position to DEQ's Management Services Division. The position would: help DEQ establish a framework for online permitting and e-commerce; facilitate better public access to environmental information for decision making; accelerate data integration across environmental programs; and maintain current systems and keep up with constantly evolving technologies. The new position will also be important to help control costs and provide efficiency initiatives, since future cost control lies in electronic solutions and automation. Finally, the position will improve the staff-to-management ratio, currently 22 staff to one manager.

(Request: \$ 210,305 in Other Funds)

Environmental Information Exchange Network

This package would continue three federally funded positions for the National Environmental Information Exchange Network, which makes environmental data easily accessible to the public, local governments and the regulated community. These requested resources would support efforts to streamline federal reporting requirements for air, water and hazardous waste programs administered by DEQ.

(Request: \$564,895 in Federal Funds)

Alternative formats

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