

DEQ Snapshot

DEQ works with all Oregonians to provide a healthy, sustainable environment that supports a diverse economy. DEQ's work is guided by state and federal laws, as well as environmental needs and opportunities. The agency's activities reflect statewide priorities, community interests and economic conditions.

DEQ staff and offices

DEQ employs approximately 700 scientists, engineers, geologists, toxicologists, inspectors, legal and policy staff, technicians, managers and professional support staff. DEQ works in your neighborhood, with:

- 14 offices, distributed around the state
- Seven vehicle inspection stations serving over 500,000 urban customers per year, and
- An accredited environmental laboratory

Science is DEQ's cornerstone

Science and environmental information are the foundation of DEQ's work. DEQ staff monitors Oregon's air, water and land quality and use this data to identify actions necessary to protect public health and the environment. DEQ's scientific data helps set permit limits and inform citizens and policy makers about the best ways to provide a healthy environment and a sustainable economic future for Oregon.

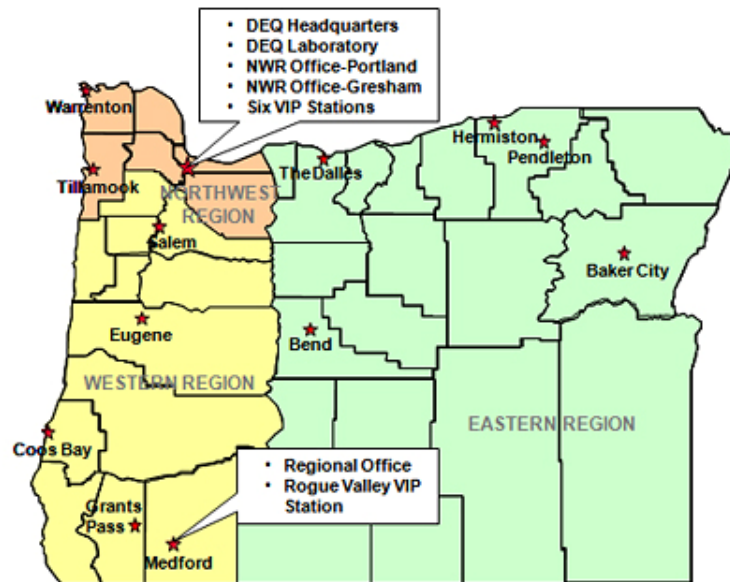
An overview of DEQ's work

DEQ implements state and federal environmental laws to protect the quality of Oregon's air, water and land. The Oregon Environmental Quality Commission, a five-member citizen panel appointed by Oregon's governor to serve as DEQ's policy and rulemaking board, provides direction. In addition, the governor, the Legislature and Oregon communities help shape DEQ's work and ensure that DEQ is responsive to changing environmental and economic needs.

DEQ provides environmental science and information, regulatory services and technical assistance to Oregon businesses, local governments, homeowners and community groups.

Monitoring and analysis

DEQ's laboratory monitors the quality of Oregon's air and water at over 1,500 locations, collects over 20,000 samples, and performs approximately 300,000 analyses each year. DEQ uses this information to determine sources of pollution, how much pollution is present,



whether or not it is increasing or decreasing and the appropriate strategies to address the pollution.

Permitting and licensing

Using monitoring information, science and laws, DEQ carefully designs permits and licenses for municipalities, service providers, businesses and industrial facilities to protect public health and the environment. DEQ develops and oversees many kinds of permits and licenses, including:

- 400 material recovery facilities, landfills and solid waste disposal facilities
- More than 2,600 federal and state air quality permits
- 10 household hazardous waste disposal facilities
- Over 700 onsite septic system installers and service providers
- Over 5,300 federal and state water quality permits
- 164 underground tank removal and cleanup companies
- About 1,500 tanker truck vapor certifications

Emergency response and cleanup

DEQ's emergency response team follows up on about 2,300 reports of spills, oil or hazardous materials. Program staff responds on-scene to about 20 significant spills and provides expertise for the cleanup of approximately 700 other environmental incidents across the state, biennially.

Environmental cleanup

DEQ is actively involved in overseeing the cleanup of more than 440 contaminated sites



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DEQ is a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water.

across Oregon. In addition to working at industrial or commercial cleanup sites, DEQ works with homeowners to decommission unused heating oil tanks. DEQ also oversees the decommissioning and destruction of chemical weapons and munitions at the Umatilla Chemical Depot. The facility has destroyed or disposed of approximately 70 percent of weapons and munitions, and is expected to complete operations in late 2011.

Inspections, compliance and enforcement

DEQ offers compliance assistance and evaluates compliance through inspections and responding to complaints. Most violations are corrected through informal non-enforcement means, but DEQ issues penalties for the most significant violations and chronic violators. DEQ issues approximately 200 penalties per year derived from over 2,000 inspections and many more monitoring-report reviews. DEQ is using more expedited enforcement offers, which offer lower penalties for a streamlined settlement process that stimulates faster compliance.

Technical assistance

DEQ helps Oregonians comply with federal, state and local environmental regulations through public education, training and technical assistance. Technical assistance, offered through the Small Business Assistance Program, Hazardous Waste Technical Assistance Program, and Toxic Use Reduction Programs, is given without the risk of enforcement. By accessing these programs, workshops and one-on-one assistance from technical staff, businesses and organizations can correct small environmental issues that could otherwise lead to non-compliance and environmental damage.

Pollution reduction

DEQ helps reduce pollution through innovative, non-permit-based programs. Program staff interacts with local communities and the public to solve everyday pollution problems by:

- Assisting over 700 Portland-area employers meet commute trip reduction goals
- Monitoring an average of 2,500 asbestos abatement projects each year
- Tracking statewide greenhouse gas emissions
- Implementing the Heat Smart program that requires the removal of uncertified woodstoves at the time of a home's sale
- Working on water quality pollution control plans in 33 watershed sub-basins
- Since 1991, providing more than \$6.1 million dollars in grants to local governments for solid and household hazard waste projects and programs
- Since 2009, implementing product stewardship through Oregon E-Cycles, which provides free recycling of certain

electronics for Oregonians, and has kept over 33 million tons of electronic waste out of the landfill and diverted over 51,000 products for reuse.

- Providing tax incentives and grants to retrofit school bus and trucking fleet diesel engines to reduce air pollution

Other ways DEQ helps Oregon business

DEQ conducts activities that help grow, sustain, and protect Oregon's economy. DEQ does this by:

- **Promoting community and economic development** through Oregon's Regional Solutions Team. DEQ is one of 10 state agencies that, with direction from the governor's office, collaborate to find local solutions to community and economic issues across Oregon.
- **Protecting Oregon's natural resources** by ensuring that ships, barges and other vessels have oil spill contingency plans and properly manage ballast water to prevent costly spills and introduction of invasive species during 2,500 vessel trips per year.
- **Restoring valuable property** by promoting redevelopment of "brownfield" sites. An average of 10 prospective purchaser agreements are signed each year by developers seeking to revitalize previously contaminated and often abandoned property.
- **Supporting communities** by issuing state revolving fund loans that provide roughly \$55 million per year for water quality improvement projects.

Service support and infrastructure

The efficient and effective delivery of our diverse set of services requires support and infrastructure. DEQ maintains critical support services in:

- **Information Services** to provide technology and systems to support efficient internal processes, improve Oregonians' access to environmental information and modernize the public's interaction with DEQ.
- **Financial Management** to ensure proper fiscal controls, manage funding and provide operational data to support budget planning and management of DEQ's programs.
- **Employee and organization advancement** to provide human resources support, conduct training, improve recruitment and retention and provide strategic and operational planning, including process improvement activities.

Alternative formats of this document are available. Contact DEQ's Office of Communications and Outreach by phone at 503-229-5696 for more information.