**April 2020 Recycling Clips**

[Coronavirus devastates Portland economy -- especially for homeless people and those on the ...](https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=https://www.oregonlive.com/coronavirus/2020/04/coronavirus-devastates-portland-economy-especially-for-those-with-few-options-to-make-money.html&ct=ga&cd=CAEYACoUMTYzNTk2ODE5MTUyODg3ODMzNTcyGmMwYzI4ZmJhZmU5ZjY2YmU6Y29tOmVuOlVT&usg=AFQjCNEo8ujSTlk9eKxI597SZQtfz3phKw) oregonlive.com -- It gives the **Oregon** Beverage **Recycling** Cooperative, which runs the Bottle Drop, three weeks to meet the company's demands to hire more security to ...

[OLCC allows retailers to stop accepting cans and bottles during pandemic](https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=https://theworldlink.com/news/local/olcc-allows-retailers-to-stop-accepting-cans-and-bottles-during-pandemic/article_9b55005c-7547-11ea-9519-abe241f96d4d.html&ct=ga&cd=CAEYASoUMTYzNTk2ODE5MTUyODg3ODMzNTcyGmMwYzI4ZmJhZmU5ZjY2YmU6Y29tOmVuOlVT&usg=AFQjCNEIXoAqPlMPMTuhah4pLY_jSZg4Iw)   
Coos Bay World -- Bottle Drop Redemption Centers, operated by the **Oregon** Beverage **Recycling** Cooperative will remain open. However, OLCC suggests that ...

[Schnitzer Steel reports strong Q2 operating income](https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=https://www.recyclingtoday.com/schnitzer-steel-q2-2020-operating-income-high.aspx&ct=ga&cd=CAEYAioTMzk1NjkwNzQ5OTk2ODkyNjA2MjIaYzBjMjhmYmFmZTlmNjZiZTpjb206ZW46VVM&usg=AFQjCNEG3MTjvb2qS2Jcjzxp7hbR8G-ISA)   
Recycling Today -- Schnitzer Steel Industries Inc., Portland, **Oregon**, has announced that it ... Metals **Recycling** (AMR) division achieved operating income in the second ...

[BLUECHIP: Efforts to modernize the **recycling** system consider climate change, product life cycle ...](https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=https://www.registerguard.com/special/20200407/bluechip-efforts-to-modernize-recycling-system-consider-climate-change--product-life-cycle-and-producer-responsibility&ct=ga&cd=CAEYACoTMzgyNjEwMTA0NTg3MDgyNTU4MDIaOGJmZjkyOTQ1YTE4ODBmNjpjb206ZW46VVM&usg=AFQjCNFwzNNOAdKLbliuI_rGA4J2lDs8Aw) The Register-Guard -- That hierarchy, embedded in **Oregon's** Opportunity to **Recycle** Act, should be familiar to many Oregonians — reduce, reuse, **recycle**, followed by ...

['Plastic Wars' Documentary Omits Recent Innovations in **Recycling** Technology](https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=https://www.plasticstoday.com/recycling/plastic-wars-documentary-omits-recent-innovations-recycling-technology/188610504862753&ct=ga&cd=CAEYACoUMTQ4MzI1NTYzMjkzNjQwMDc1ODMyGjhiZmY5Mjk0NWExODgwZjY6Y29tOmVuOlVT&usg=AFQjCNHLflaLVtrYNBkfsiABWKZk0wHCMA)   
Plastics Today -- While most of the packaging contained the triangular **recycling** symbol, Allaway said that most was not **recyclable** at any facilities in **Oregon**. We've ...

EPA Requests Comments on Designations and Recommendations for Recycled-Content Products  
<https://www.epa.gov/smm/comprehensive-procurement-guideline-cpg-program>

Efforts to Modernize the Recycling System Consider Climate Change, Product Life Cycle, and Producer Responsibility  
<https://www.registerguard.com/special/20200407/bluechip-efforts-to-modernize-recycling-system-consider-climate-change--product-life-cycle-and-producer-responsibility>

[Processors react as household collections collapse](https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=https://resource-recycling.com/e-scrap/2020/04/09/processors-react-as-household-collections-collapse/&ct=ga&cd=CAEYACoUMTI5NjcxNjk2MDA2MzM5MTg5MzIyGmMwYzI4ZmJhZmU5ZjY2YmU6Y29tOmVuOlVT&usg=AFQjCNGj1wuCBwXi_0dEe5goOy7n_Pad1w)   
E-Scrap News ... for Electronics **Recycling** (NCER), a nonprofit group that oversees networks of e-scrap collectors and processors under the **Oregon** State Contractor ...

[Emergency container drop-off site opens in Northwest Portland](https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=http://katu.com/news/local/emergency-container-drop-off-site-opens-in-northwest-portland&ct=ga&cd=CAEYACoUMTI3MDU5Mjc5MTQwNzg2NzQyNzUyGmMwYzI4ZmJhZmU5ZjY2YmU6Y29tOmVuOlVT&usg=AFQjCNE_UCPakdVo2xA29RcupU3dFqjT1A)

KATU -- The **Oregon** Beverage **Recycling** Cooperative opened an emergency drop site this week. The Northwest Portland location is open from 9-5, seven ...

[Halt to curbside glass collection in Bend](https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=https://www.mycentraloregon.com/2020/04/10/halt-to-curbside-glass-collection-in-bend/&ct=ga&cd=CAEYASoTNTYxMzU4MDIyODMzNjA3MzI5NzIaMDY3NjFjNDVlYjM2Y2QwNTpjb206ZW46VVM&usg=AFQjCNEB09ibrormfgadl5J9M32Toiqi_w)

myCentralOregon.com -- Bend **Garbage**/Republic Services and Cascade Disposal/**Waste** ... April 6, 2020 – Last week, United Way in Central **Oregon** launched a new ...

Ways to recycle, stay green during coronavirus pandemic  
*…The city’s curbside waste collection is continuing as scheduled, but everything — including the contents of blue recycling bins — is being taken to the landfill. Despite this change, the city is encouraging residents to continue sorting recyclables as usual….“Hopefully, when things return to normal, we’ll just go back to sorting them and recycling them in the same way, and you won’t have to change anything”…*  
<https://thesheridanpress.com/123335/ways-to-recycle-stay-green-during-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Action News Investigation Update: State of Philadelphia's Recycling Program  
<https://6abc.com/eco-friendly-philadelphia-recycling-program-repurposing-waste-action-news-investigation/6093126/>

COVID-19 turns some recycled fiber market dynamics on their head   
*Surges in consumer toilet paper and e-commerce purchases are causing a boom in demand for certain types of recycled fiber, but supply is falling short.*<https://www.wastedive.com/news/covid19-fiber-recycling-tissue-ecommerce-occ/575824/>

Yet Another Consequence of the Pandemic: More Plastic Waste --- This new normal means mountains of single-use plastic—and few places to put it but the dump.  
*First, given that plastic is oil, when oil prices fall—as they have in recent years—plastic gets cheaper to make. This corrupts the economics of recycling. To be financially feasible, a recycling operation has to make more money than what it costs to gather the waste and process it. If oil, and therefore plastic, is cheap to begin with—and the coronavirus crisis has thoroughly cratered the price of oil—it doesn’t make economic sense for a company to process and sell recycled materials if they end up being more expensive than the virgin plastic another company is making*.  
<https://www.wired.com/story/coronavirus-pandemic-recycling-crisis/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Issue:%202020-04-13%20Waste%20Dive%20Newsletter%20%5Bissue:26736%5D&utm_term=Waste%20Dive>

How coronavirus is disrupting US waste and recycling  
<https://www.wastedive.com/news/coronavirus-us-waste-recycling-disruption-tracker/574324/>

As some MRFs close during the pandemic, more adapt and carry on  
<https://www.wastedive.com/news/mrf-operations-closure-coronavirus-waste-management-republic-services/575629/>

Waste Management and others pause California MRF operations over COVID-19 concerns  
<https://www.wastedive.com/news/waste-management-california-mrf-covid-19-coronavirus-force-majeure/575483/>

Scientists create mutant enzyme that recycles plastic bottles in hours  -- Bacterial enzyme originally found in compost can be used to make high-quality new bottles

*…The company behind the breakthrough, Carbios, said it was aiming for industrial-scale recycling within five years. It has partnered with major companies including Pepsi and L’Oréal to accelerate development…*<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/apr/08/scientists-create-mutant-enzyme-that-recycles-plastic-bottles-in-hours>

Recycling in the Age of a Pandemic

*…With a surge in demand, producers of paper towels, toilet paper, and other paper goods, as well as those who make cardboard boxes used in home delivery and packaging need more post-consumer material, like that processed at ecomaine, to create the supply for grocery stores, essential businesses, hospitals, and more.  And residential recycling is one way manufacturers can create that supply….“Not only are we an essential service during this time,” said Kevin Roche, CEO of ecomaine, “but it’s also critical that facilities such as ours stay operational to help meet the needs of the mills that need our fiber material, who, in turn, fulfill the needs of American consumers….*<https://www.ecomaine.org/pandemic-recycling>

[COVID-19 damages supply chain for deposit materials](https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2020/04/14/covid-19-damages-supply-chain-for-deposit-materials/&ct=ga&cd=CAEYACoUMTQwNzA4NDI1NjMyNDU2ODkxNzkyGmMwYzI4ZmJhZmU5ZjY2YmU6Y29tOmVuOlVT&usg=AFQjCNGZpzv0CwQSnJ5cHi2EtyY2N1zMQg)   
Resource Recycling The fallout for **recycled** material processors has been expansive. ... distributor-managed **Oregon** Beverage **Recycling** Cooperative (OBRC) runs the ...

[Agilyx collaborates with Japanese recycler](https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=http://www.recyclingtoday.com/agilyx-collaborates-toyo-styrene-recycling-technology.aspx&ct=ga&cd=CAEYASoUMTQwNzA4NDI1NjMyNDU2ODkxNzkyGmMwYzI4ZmJhZmU5ZjY2YmU6Y29tOmVuOlVT&usg=AFQjCNHwvmnQScbtH9SgMc4srdXZoNbjwg)   
Recycling Today Portland, **Oregon**-based Agilyx Corp., a company focused on chemically **recycling** postuse plastics back into polymers, chemicals and low carbon ...

[Breakthrough in Plastic **Recycling** Technology](https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=https://wildhunt.org/2020/04/breakthrough-in-plastic-recycling-technology.html&ct=ga&cd=CAEYAioUMTQwNzA4NDI1NjMyNDU2ODkxNzkyGmMwYzI4ZmJhZmU5ZjY2YmU6Y29tOmVuOlVT&usg=AFQjCNFSkbxQZYED4NQpcy0sEntM4GCYgQ)   
The Wild Hunt ... State Fair 'Eco Experience' Building – Image credit: Tony Webster – Portland, **Oregon**. ... Current plastic **recycling** technology produces low-grade plastic materials. ... About 70% of plastic bottles fail to enter the **recycling** process.

**Pandemic, Plastics And The Continuing Quest For Sustainability**  
*At least 50*[*curbside recycling programs across the U.S. have been cut or suspended*](https://www.wastedive.com/news/coronavirus-us-waste-recycling-disruption-tracker/574324/)*due to a combination of safety, processing, and/or end market issues while over half of the states with container redemption programs suspending enforcement. In an industry already overwhelmed with challenges, materials that would normally find its way to recyclers are being channeled directly as solid waste to landfills and incinerators out of an abundance of caution....*<https://www.forbes.com/sites/thebakersinstitute/2020/04/14/pandemic-plastics-and-the-continuing-quest-for-sustainability/#2b886d2b77b4>

**Six Million Mattresses Recycled in Five Years: Mattress Recycling Council Celebrates Milestone Across Program States**  
*The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) announced it has recycled more than six million mattresses in less than five years through its Bye Bye Mattress program. Laid end to end, these mattresses would span over 7,000 miles from coast to coast between program states ...*  
<https://wasteadvantagemag.com/six-million-mattresses-recycled-in-five-years-mattress-recycling-council-celebrates-milestone-across-program-states/>

**The Best 9 Books on Recycling** <https://wasteadvantagemag.com/the-best-9-books-on-recycling/>

**COVID-19 damages supply chain for deposit materials**

*…In Oregon, where the beverage distributor-managed Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative (OBRC) runs the state’s container redemption system, returns are down but have not vanished. Retailers have largely suspended acceptance of containers for redemption in line with the state’s emergency regulations, but OBRC operates a number of standalone redemption centers that remain open with social distancing policies in place. In the first week of April, OBRC’s returns were at about 45% of the total returned during the same time last year, said Jules Bailey, chief stewardship officer for OBRC…*

<https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2020/04/14/covid-19-damages-supply-chain-for-deposit-materials/>

**Coronavirus risks a return of the throwaway culture** -- ‘People don’t have faith anymore in these products without the packaging,’ says an industry lobbyist.*…While garbage grows, the packaging industry sees an opening. The European lobby group for plastic manufacturers* [*wants the European Commission*](https://fd0ea2e2-fecf-4f82-8b1b-9e5e1ebec6a0.filesusr.com/ugd/2eb778_9d8ec284e39b4c7d84e774f0da14f2e8.pdf) *and member countries to delay upcoming regulations and to lift all bans on some single-use plastic items…*<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/04/14/coronavirus-risks-a-return-of-the-throwaway-culture-187464>

**When did Americans start recycling?***In the 1800s, there were no blue recycling bins, no sorting, no recycling trucks rumbling down the alley. Recycling as we know it didn’t exist. But people were way better at it.* <https://www.history.com/news/recycling-history-america>

**The pandemic is changing the dialogue about reusable packaging**

*…In a letter to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the Plastics Industry Association called for the institution to declare single-use bans a health threat during a pandemic. NGOs including Greenpeace and UPSTREAM have been quick to respond, debunking the supporting studies as irrelevant or misrepresented, the most commonly cited of which was funded by industry trade association the American Chemistry Council in 2011…*

<https://www.greenbiz.com/article/pandemic-changing-dialogue-about-reusable-packaging?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=2020-04-16&utm_campaign=circular&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWVdZNFpUTXpObUZtTjJNNCIsInQiOiJIM2VoaDB1OFlkVjlaMFwvMzR6R3BQUDFTQnBzYUc0Tm1PRUdjaEtrSGg4d1NKYUZXVWFtbFpxSzBpdndPZkd6S3lTbVRrRzgzYXJ5TXRlUXFkNFwvZGliV1JYT2dLaVBmeFNMcGtTc0w2cFJGUkljTkRpVWlRcWRudFlTeituSmNxIn0%3D>

**FROM WASTE DIVE** [Note: The service changes noted are similar to what is reported in the metro area, except most haulers are saying the tonnage overall is about the same, just migrated from commercial to residential].

*The COVID-19 pandemic has shocked the global economy and brought sweeping changes to the United States. The waste and recycling industry’s essential public health role means it must continue service, even as some workers become ill with the virus. Worker safety resources are available from* [*OSHA*](https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/controlprevention.html#solidwaste)*,* [*SWANA*](https://swana.org/initiatives/guidance-on-coronavirus-(covid-19))*,* [*NWRA*](https://wasterecycling.org/page/covid19workpractices) *and* [*ISRI*](https://www.isri.org/covid-19-guidance-to-help-recyclers-operate-safely)*.*

*Many companies are also experiencing financial pressures, and some have already furloughed or laid off employees. Private and public sector service providers are temporarily changing practices throughout the country, often with new requests to make collection more efficient and reduce strain on the workforce. These factors – along with broader social distancing guidelines – have led to* [*suspensions of curbside recycling*](https://d12v9rtnomnebu.cloudfront.net/diveimages/COVID-19_Recycling_Suspensions_New.pdf)*, yard waste and bulk item collection in many states. Policies around container redemption programs have also been affected in many states with bottle bills* [*according to the Container Recycling Institute*](http://www.bottlebill.org/index.php/covid-19-bottle-redemption-update)*.*

*We’ll be tracking the key developments as this pandemic unfolds for as long as it takes. Click on the dropdown menu below the latest entry to view information from prior weeks. Please send any feedback or tips to waste.dive.editors@industrydive.com.*

***TODAY’S TOP NEWS***

***April 17, 2020***

* *Republic Services announces a* [*$20 million “Committed to Serve” initiative*](https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/republic-services-launches-20-million-committed-to-serve-initiative-to-help-employees-customers-and-communities-301042374.html) *for frontline employees that will run over the next two months. This includes a weekly meal for those employees, weekly dinners for them and their families and up to $400 in gift cards – all purchased from local businesses. The company will also donate $3 million to the Republic Services Charitable Foundation for nonprofit organizations.*
* *New York’s Department of Sanitation* [*reports the death of another employee related to COVID-19*](https://twitter.com/NYCSanitation/status/1250839881301004288?s=20) *– an auto mechanic from Queens. The agency has been the hardest hit of any service provider in the country by far, based on reported figures.*
* *California service providers continue to raise concerns about financial strain. Recology estimates 10-20% of commercial accounts have been canceled or “significantly reduced” in the state and one Teamsters local reports there have been layoffs at certain companies. (*[*KQED*](https://www.kqed.org/news/11812519/even-garbage-is-under-threat-from-the-coronavirus-impact-on-the-economy)*)*
* *Tampa, Florida has been sending all of its collected recyclables to an incinerator in Pinellas County to limit worker exposure and staffing at the city’s transfer station. The city also reports a range of changes to other staffing and safety procedures. (*[*Tampa Bay Times*](https://www.tampabay.com/news/health/2020/04/16/garbage-doesnt-stop-in-a-shutdown-how-sanitation-workers-are-dealing/)*)*
* *While it’s too early to know specific data on the residential volume uptick industrywide, an average 30% increase is being seen in many areas.* [*Columbus, Ohio*](https://www.10tv.com/article/sanitation-workers-picking-tons-more-trash-amid-stay-home-order-2020-apr) *and parts of* [*Pennsylvania*](https://www.wpxi.com/news/top-stories/new-rules-effect-curbside-trash-pickups-during-covid-19-pandemic/VWAASZ5POJEHRNDL4QIPYFCDPM/) *are among the latest to report the trend.*

**From singing birthday cards to baby food pouches, a growing trend of mixing materials is making recycling even harder**

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/apr/20/plastic-products-recyclers-single-use?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Issue:%202020-04-21%20Waste%20Dive%20Newsletter%20%5Bissue:26893%5D&utm_term=Waste%20Dive>

**How coronavirus is disrupting US waste and recycling**

*Many companies are also experiencing financial pressures, and some have already furloughed or laid off employees. Private and public sector service providers are temporarily changing practices throughout the country, often with new requests to make collection more efficient and reduce strain on the workforce. These factors – along with broader social distancing guidelines – have led to suspensions of curbside recycling, yard waste and bulk item collection in many states. Policies around container redemption programs have also been affected in many states with bottle bills according to the Container Recycling Institute.*

*We’ll be tracking the key developments as this pandemic unfolds…*

<https://www.wastedive.com/news/coronavirus-us-waste-recycling-disruption-tracker/574324/>

# Bottle return agency turns headquarters into additional return center to help with coronavirus closures

*The Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative is turning its headquarters in industrial Northwest Portland into a sixth Portland-area bottle return center, after* [*grocery stores closed their return stations*](https://www.oregonlive.com/coronavirus/2020/03/oregon-grocers-close-bottle-drop-service-due-to-coronavirus-staffing-issues.html) *so they could put all hands on deck restocking grocery aisles.*

*The site will function similar to Bottle Drop redemption centers, with machines that accept bulk returns. Usually, the headquarters’ equipment is used for retail stores to quickly process loads of bottles and cans. But now that most grocery stores have stopped accepting returns, the high-speed machines will be available to anyone. People can return up to 350 beverage containers a day. An on-site cash machine allows bottle collectors to get paid for their containers immediately...*<https://www.oregonlive.com/washingtoncounty/2020/04/bottle-return-agency-turns-headquarters-into-additional-return-center-to-help-with-coronavirus-closures.html>

**Industry groups push for inclusion of recycling infrastructure in next federal coronavirus aid package**<https://www.wastedive.com/news/covid-19-coronavirus-infrastructure-phase-4-stimulus-congress-recycling/576116/>

**UC Berkeley and City of Berkeley Commits to Reducing Single Use Plastics by 2030**<https://www.dailycal.org/2020/04/21/uc-berkeley-city-of-berkeley-commit-to-reducing-single-use-plastics-by-2030/>

**CPG Industry Calls for Standardized Recycling System**

*Fixing Broken Recycling System Necessary to Meet Consumer Demand, Capitalize on Industry Innovation…* *the Consumer Brands Association released its* [*policy platform*](https://consumerbrandsassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Recycling-Policy-Platform.pdf) *with recommendations to achieve the country’s optimal recycling system.* Achieving America’s Recycling Future*is the first policy platform released by the association, representing the views of the consumer packaged goods (CPG) industry, and focuses on finding scalable solutions to address the underlying issues in the recycling and recovery system….*

<https://consumerbrandsassociation.org/press-releases/cpg-industry-calls-for-standardized-recycling-system/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Issue:%202020-04-22%20Waste%20Dive:%20Recycling%20%5Bissue:26927%5D&utm_term=Waste%20Dive:%20Recycling>

**Recycling More Important than Ever this Earth Day to Provide Feedstock for New Products and Keep Recycling Supply Chain Healthy** *“First and foremost, we are thankful to all in the industry who are working hard to help keep the recycling supply chain operating during these challenging times,” said Jason Pelz, Vice President of Recycling Projects for the Carton Council of North America. “We’ve heard from numerous people about the increase in demand for feedstock, especially fiber, and want to encourage mills to consider materials like food and beverage cartons that can be recycled to make many of these paper products.”*

<https://wasteadvantagemag.com/recycling-more-important-than-ever-this-earth-day-to-provide-feedstock-for-new-products-and-keep-recycling-supply-chain-healthy/>

**State Awards Business Development Grants to North Carolina Recycling Businesses**<https://wasteadvantagemag.com/state-awards-business-development-grants-to-north-carolina-recycling-businesses/>

**On the road to high-value recycling, storage is ahead of solar**<https://pv-magazine-usa.com/2020/04/16/on-the-road-to-high-value-recycling-storage-is-ahead-of-solar/>

**Local companies now recycling plastic bottles and jugs***Rogue Valley, Ore. — Republic Services, Rogue Disposal & Recycling, and Southern Oregon Sanitation announced today that the will begin recycling number one and two plastic bottles and jugs. The three local waste management companies will now be accepting the items in curbside recycling carts and at local recycle depots*…<https://ktvl.com/news/local/local-companies-now-recycling-plastic-bottles-and-jugs> and <https://mailtribune.com/news/top-stories/plastic-bottles-and-jugs-return-to-curbside-recycling-in-jackson-josephine-county>

**Lane County leads Oregon in recycling as statewide rate falls to lowest level since 2000**[Includes Link to DEQ’s Material Recovery Report for 2018 dated April 2020]<https://kval.com/news/local/lane-county-leads-oregon-in-recycling-as-statewide-rate-falls-to-lowest-level-since-2000>