# Sustainable Oregon 2027 – Call for Proposals Guide

Association of Oregon Recyclers

**Proposals are due** Jan 29, 2027 **by 11:59 pm.** **Submit your proposal here.**

## Key dates

| Date | Milestone |
|---|---|
| Jan 29, 2027 | Proposals due by 11:59 pm. Complete proposals are given priority. |
| By Feb 26, 2027 | Notification of acceptance or regret |
| Apr 2, 2027 | Speaker materials due: Speaker Form, headshot and bio |
| Jun 4, 2027 | Final slides and/or multimedia due |
| June 21, 22 or 23, 2027 | Presentation date |

## About the conference

Sustainable Oregon 2027 will be held June 21–23, 2027 at the Riverhouse Lodge in Bend, Oregon, and celebrates AOR's 50th anniversary. AOR is seeking passionate and effective storytellers to share their innovations, solutions and stories of change.

The annual AOR conference brings together new and longtime colleagues in the recycling, organics/composting and reuse industries to connect about ideas, learn what's on the horizon, and be inspired. We want sessions that are interactive, informative and memorable. A few questions to spark ideas:

- Do you have a story that will motivate others who work or volunteer in this field?

- What challenges lie ahead for all of us, or how have you adapted to recent challenges?
- How have you advanced equity and inclusion in this sector?

**Topics we'd love to hear about** (not a theme, and proposals aren't limited to these):

- Rural and frontier access: depots, small-community collection and long hauls
- Contamination and education, including multilingual and culturally specific outreach
- Organics: food waste prevention, compost markets and quality, PFAS in compost
- Reuse, refill and repair programs
- Textiles: collection, sorting and end markets
- Technology and data: AI sorting, route optimization, better tonnage data
- Disaster and wildfire debris: planning and recovery

Please review this guide, then submit your proposal.

## Session formats and lengths

The most important thing we look for is a session that is dynamic and engaging. The more it involves the audience, the better.

| Format | Length | What it looks like |
|---|---|---|
| Typical session | 75 min (60 min presentations + 15 min Q&A) | Shorter 20–30 minute presentations are also accepted. The conference committee combines proposals on similar topics into a full 75-minute session. Some sessions may run shorter or longer. |
| 20/20 RE-Slam (PechaKucha style) | 6 min 40 sec | 20 slides, 20 seconds each, advancing automatically. Image-focused with limited text. |
| Breakout session | Varies | Introduce an important industry issue and tee up discussion questions for smaller breakout groups. |

| Format | Length | What it looks like |
|---|---|---|
| "What didn't work" | Varies | Candid lessons from a pilot or program that fell short or changed course: what you tried, what happened, and what you'd do differently. |
| Roundtables | Varies | Hosted tables, each on one topic. Attendees choose a table or rotate between them for focused, peer-to-peer conversation. |
| Hands-on demo | Varies | A live, interactive activity such as a repair café, contamination sort or bin audit. |
| Workshop | 90 min – 2 hours | Action-oriented deep dive that generates concrete answers to current problems and teaches new skills. Must be adaptable to in-person or virtual. |
| Other styles | Varies | Audience polls, short videos, a film screening with discussion, a debate on a "controversial" topic. Get creative! |

## What we're looking for

**Presentations should:**

- Focus on key insights, so the audience walks away with a memorable tidbit, fact or feeling to share with others.
- Highlight tangible results where relevant. Use real-world examples and tell us why you care.
- Offer a takeaway solution other attendees can apply.
- Use compelling visuals. Multimedia presentations are highly encouraged.
- Include a diversity, equity and inclusion perspective.

**Presentations should not:**

- Present detailed case studies without discussing how others could replicate or implement them.
- Describe ongoing activities, unless a recent change, adaptation or innovation makes them relevant in 2027.
- Promote a business, organization, product or service.
- Rely on many text-heavy slides.

## Evaluation criteria

Proposals are evaluated on how well they offer new, innovative content to attendees. The committee will also ask:

1. Does the session or speaker apply an equity lens to the topic and their work?
2. Does the proposal include relevant, interesting information for an hour-long presentation to recycling and solid waste professionals?
3. Are there opportunities for discussion and interaction among participants?
4. Are the presenters knowledgeable in the topic area?
5. Will the presentation deliver tangible learning takeaways in a compelling format?
6. Does the presenter avoid self-promotion, negative portrayals of specific industry members, and selling products?
7. Does the session include an equity, diversity and inclusion perspective?

## Presenter benefits and responsibilities

**Benefits**

- Selected speakers receive complimentary admission to the conference.
- AOR does not cover speaker travel, accommodation or other costs of attending.

**Responsibilities**

- Submit final slides by June 4, 2027. We can't accept file uploads during the conference, so late slides or media may not be available for your presentation.
- If you can't attend after confirming, notify AOR as early as possible and help find a replacement with similar skills and qualifications.

## Slide guidelines

Slides must be **16:9 (widescreen)**. There is no required template, so use your own organization's design or a clean, simple layout. All decks in a session are combined into one PDF, so animations, transitions and embedded video won't carry over.

**Best practices**

- **One idea per slide.** Keep text to a short headline and a few words; say the rest out loud.
- **Make it readable from the back row.** Use 24 pt or larger body text, high-contrast colors, and simple fonts.
- **Let visuals do the work.** Use high-resolution photos, simple charts and real-world images. Credit images and data sources.
- **Pace yourself.** Plan roughly one slide per minute, and rehearse to stay within your time. RE-Slam decks must be exactly 20 slides.
- **Design for everyone.** Don't rely on color alone (avoid red/green coding), and briefly describe key charts and images as you present. See Microsoft's tips for accessible color and contrast, and test your colors with the free WebAIM Contrast Checker.
- **Bookend your talk.** Open with your name, title and organization; close with your contact info and one key takeaway.
- **Planning to show video?** Let your session champion know by the slide deadline and send the video file separately so it can be tested in advance.
- **Name your file** with your session title and last name (for example, *Rural Access – Lopez.pptx*).

## Questions?

| Name | Role | Email |
|---|---|---|
| Amy Roth | AOR Director | amy@oregonrecyclers.org |
| Lexi Howell | Co-Conference Chair | LHowell@northlincolnsanitary.com |
| Sarah Steen | Co-Conference Chair | SSteen2@republicservices.com |