



Sustainable Oregon 2023 Request for Presentation Proposals

Proposals are due June 2nd, 2023 by 11:59 pm, and may be submitted [here](#).

About the Conference

AOR is pleased to announce that Sustainable Oregon 2023 will be held at the Salishan Resort in Gleneden Beach, Oregon October 9-11th, 2023. We are seeking passionate and effective storytellers who would like to share their innovations, solutions, and stories of change. The annual AOR conference is an opportunity for new and old colleagues in the recycling, waste prevention and sustainable materials management industries to connect about ideas, learn what's on the horizon, and be inspired.

We have prepared a guide that provides helpful information about what we're seeking this year. We invite you to review the guide and then complete the proposal form below by June 2nd. We anticipate notifying selected presenters in July, 2023. Thank you for your interest in participating in Sustainable Oregon 2023!

Session Specifics

We are seeking passionate and effective storytellers who would like to share their innovations, solutions, and stories of change. The annual AOR conference is an opportunity for new and old colleagues in the recycling, waste prevention and sustainable materials management industries to connect about ideas, learn what's on the horizon, and be inspired. Do you have a story that will motivate others that 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? We are seeking conference sessions that are interactive, informative, and memorable.

Session Details and Lengths:

- **Typical Session:** 60 minutes of presentations, 15 minutes of Q&A/Discussion time. Shorter presentations 20-30 minutes in length are also accepted. The AOR conference committee will combine proposals that address similar areas and topics to form a full 75-minute session. Depending on proposals, some sessions may be shorter or longer.
- **20/20 RE-Slam Style (PechaKucha Style):** Presentations are 20 slides, 20 seconds per slide for a total of 6 minutes and 40 seconds with slides advancing automatically. Presentations will be image focused with limited text.

- **Breakout Session:** Are you able to lead a deep-dive conversation on an important industry issue? We are looking for speakers who can introduce an interesting topic and tee up discussion questions that lead into smaller breakout group discussions.
- **Other Presentation Styles:** Have another presentation style or format you'd like to propose? We'd love to hear it! The most important thing we are looking for in a session is that it is dynamic and engaging, and the more that it can involve the audience, the better. We encourage audience polls/surveys, short videos, and other audience interactions. Maybe you have a short film you'd like to show, and host a conversation after? Perhaps you have a compelling or "controversial" topic that would lend itself to a debate type format. Get creative and let us know! We want to feature your interesting ideas!
- **Workshops:** Workshops have a specific, action-oriented purpose, and aim to generate some concrete answers to current problems in the field. Workshops should deliver a deep-dive into the subject matter and provide attendees the opportunity to learn new skills and to familiarize them with a new topic. We are looking for workshops that are anywhere from 90 minutes to 2 hours in length and are adaptable to either an in-person or virtual setting.

Suggested Session Topics and Concepts:

AOR is interested in presentations that feature or focus on these topics that are high priorities in our industry and focus areas for our organization and its members. We welcome proposals on topics of all kinds but are most interested in sessions that incorporate these issues that are critical in 2023. We also encourage proposals to include a diversity, equity and inclusion perspective.

- **EPR:** Extended Producer Responsibility programs are gaining traction across the U.S. Oregon has several EPR programs in place, and will be one of four states to implement an EPR for packaging program in 2025. We'd like to hear about successes and challenges in EPR programs for various materials, as well as policy insights.
- **Waste Reduction:** Waste Reduction is at the top of the waste hierarchy and at the heart of circularity. We want to hear from businesses and companies that are making waste reduction the top of their priorities to meet their sustainability goals, to lessen their carbon footprint, or improve their bottom line. Show us what you got!
- **Reuse/Repair:** From national legislation with the [Fair Repair Act](#), in addition to state actions to mandate the right to repair, reuse and repair is being recognized as a catalyst and is key to reducing materials impacts. We are looking for sessions that speak to these

efforts either legislatively, programmatically, or otherwise to increase reuse and repair.

- **Organics/Composting:** As organic materials in landfills decompose, methane gas is released which is a huge contributor to climate change. We're looking to hear about innovative ways to improve and expand composting and challenges we may face as more product companies seek to make their packaging compostable.
- **Behavior Change:** As the Recycling Modernization Act takes effect in 2025, Oregon will be looking at massive campaigns to influence behavior change. What new or innovative programs have been successful in changing behaviors? What doesn't work? Share your metrics and stories!
- **Plastics Recycling:** Everyone is talking about our plastics waste crisis from managing ocean plastics, to advanced recycling. We are looking for sessions that speak to any plastics management issues relevant in 2023 and beyond.
- **Technological Advancements or Policies Changing Materials Management:** There is no denying there are some big shifts happening in the materials management landscape. From AI to advanced recycling, EPR and Circularity, all of these are changing the way we think about, and manage materials. We are looking for thoughtful discussions and presentations showcasing technologies and policies that are the driving forces behind these changes.
- **Hauler Issues:** Oregon's Haulers are as unique as the communities they serve. Because a one-size-fits all approach doesn't always work, we want to hear about programs and challenges you face in the sustainable materials management sphere.
- **Rural Communities and Programs:** Of all the 241 incorporated cities in Oregon, only 12 have more than 50,000 residents, and 67% have less than 5,000. It's fair to say rural communities make up a tremendous proportion of Oregon. Rural communities are doing some incredible things within the realm of sustainable materials management and we want to showcase those successes, and learn about the unique challenges of serving rural communities.

Presentations should:

- Focus on key insights. The goal is for your audience to walk away with a memorable tid-bit, factoid or feeling they want to share with others.
- Highlight tangible results, if relevant. Use real-world examples. Tell us why you care.
- Provide a take-away solution that could be applied by other attendees.
- Compelling visuals are a must and multimedia presentations are highly encouraged.

Presentations should not:

- Present detailed case studies without discussing how they could be replicated or implemented by others.
- Describe ongoing activities, unless there is a recent change, adaptation or innovation that makes the activities relevant in 2023.
- Promote a business, organization, product, or service.
- Use a lot of PowerPoint slides with heavy text.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on their overall alignment with this year's conference theme(s) and provide new and innovative content to attendees. In addition, proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Does the session/speaker apply an equity lens to the topic and their work?
- Does the proposal include relevant and interesting information for an hour-long presentation to an audience of recycling and solid waste industry professionals?
- Are there opportunities for discussion and interactivity among participants?
- Are the presenters knowledgeable in the topic area?
- Will the presentation deliver tangible learning takeaways to participants in a compelling format?
- Does the presenter avoid self-promotion, negatively portraying specific members of the industry, and selling of products?
- Does the session include an equity, diversity, and inclusion perspective?

Presenter Benefits

- If selected to present at the conference, speakers will receive complimentary admission to the conference.
- AOR is not responsible for speaker travel and accommodation costs, or other associated expenses of attending the conference.

Presenter Responsibilities

- Presenters must provide their final slides prior to the conference. Failure to provide the presentations by date below may result in slides/media not being available for your presentation as we will not be able to accommodate file uploads during the conference.
- If a confirmed presenter is unable to attend the conference, they must notify AOR at the earliest opportunity and help find a replacement with similar skills and qualifications.

Timeline

Proposal deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Complete proposals will be given priority.</i>	June 2, 2023 by 11:59 p.m.
Notification of Acceptance/Regret	July 2023
Speaker Materials Due: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Speaker agreement form, headshots and bios</i>	August 1, 2023
Final slides and/or multi-media due no later than:	September 29th, 2023
Date of Presentation	October 9 th , 10 th or 11 th , 2023

Questions?

Contact Amy Roth, AOR Resource Director: amy@oregonrecyclers.org or Danielle Womble, AOR Conference Chair: danielle.womble@wasteconnections.com