



AOR ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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NOTE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

As your new board chair, I'm honored and excited to be able to share AOR's 2022 annual report. The COVID-19 pandemic threatened the very core of AOR's organizational model. But due to the outstanding leadership of our past chair, Kristin Leichner, the commitment of our board, the tireless efforts of our resource director Amy Roth, and the strength of our membership and volunteers, I'm proud to take over an organization that is emerging from the crises stronger than before.

In 2022, for example, we harnessed the lessons of the pandemic and began to offer both virtual and in-person events. We'll continue to draw on the strengths of both models to ensure that we can provide members across the state with timely and valuable content and opportunities to network that just don't seem to be replicable in the virtual space. Our members' desire for face-to-face meetings was on full display in Bend in October, as we returned to an in-person annual conference. The vibrancy of the conference is evidenced by record-setting sponsorship levels, high levels of first-time attendees, and contested board elections.

The issues we gather to talk about, of course, ultimately play out in the legislature. In 2022, like every year, AOR continued to help shape statewide policy conversations – most notably the passage of SB 1576, which established a Mattress Stewardship Program and further expanded the list of materials in Oregon's growing extended producer responsibility landscape.

In 2023, we're looking forward to a full calendar of events and advocacy, focusing on the reemergence of plastics as a focus in the legislature, the ongoing rulemaking for the Recycling Modernization Act, and navigating the sweeping leadership changes across the public agencies and elected offices that shape our industry. I'm excited to embrace the challenges and opportunities ahead for AOR, especially with a board of directors that has demonstrated an abundance of energy and desire to make a meaningful contribution.

Sincerely,



Joel Schoening – AOR Board Chair



AOR HIGHLIGHTS

The Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) is a nonprofit membership organization that has been dedicated to supporting waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting in Oregon since 1977.

- With the COVID-19 pandemic slowing down, 2022 saw an exciting return to in-person events. AOR held the first in-person forum in over two years in July and hosted the annual conference in-person.
- A contractor was hired to help the board move the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) work forward.
- Updates to the Recycler of the Year awards were made, removing the categories, and making the awards more agile.
- A workplan was developed for the board.
- Minor updates to R101 and planning began to determine the future of R101 in relation to the Recycling Modernization Act.
- Total net revenue generated in 2022 was in excess of \$22,500, exceeding our projected net revenue for the year.



AOR BOARD

			
Chair	Past Chair	Vice Chair	Treasurer
Joel Schoening Exp. 2024	Kristin Lechner	Thomas Egleston Exp. 2024	Laura Leebrick Exp. 2023
RRS	Pride Disposal	Washington County	Rogue Disposal
			
Conference Chair	Secretary	Legislative Chair	Member-at-Large
Danielle Womble Exp. 2023	Elizabeth Cole Exp. 2023	Rosalynn Greene Exp. 2023	Maya Buelow Exp. 2024
Waste Connections	City of Beaverton	Metro	Lane County
			
Member-at-Large	Member-at-Large		
Eric Chambers Exp. 2024	Jeff Murray Exp. 2023		
OBRC	EFI Recycling		

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

AOR is committed to supporting policies that promote high-quality recycling and composting, thoughtful consumption, and producer responsibility. We believe the producers that manufacture and sell products to Oregonians should have a role in how products are managed at the end of their usable life. Equity, community partnerships, and community restoration are also centered in our guiding principles because we believe the reuse, repair, and recycling economy should benefit everyone, including communities of color and rural areas. AOR's legislative activities are key to achieving this vision and that is why your membership is so important – it makes our lobbying activities possible.

The Oregon Legislative Session in 2022 was a short session, meaning it lasted 35 days, as opposed to a long session, which lasts 160 days. The biggest victory for AOR last year was the passage of SB 1576. After several years of advocacy on this issue, the bill established DEQ's Mattress Stewardship Program. The program will help build recycling infrastructure for mattresses that is currently lacking in our state. Once disassembled, up to 85 percent of a typical mattress is recyclable. The metal, foam, cotton, and wood used to make a mattress are valuable materials and can be used to make new products. SB 1576 will help leverage the financial resources needed to expand mattress processing throughout our state. With the passage of the bill, Oregon became the fourth state in the country to benefit from product stewardship laws for mattresses.

Another important priority was HB 4158. A situation arose where some manufacturers had outperformed their e-waste collection goals as set under the law and some current e-cycling collection sites had been dropped from the program as a result. HB 4158 was introduced to provide an important short-term fix to allow DEQ to change the goal, retain the existing collection sites, and keep potentially harmful products from ending up in places they should not be. HB 4077 was also prioritized by the AOR Board, which expanded the capacity of Oregon's Environmental Justice Task Force by designating budget and staff time to support it. AOR also worked on an interim workgroup and supported SB 1520, which made enhancements to Oregon's Bottle Bill by adding wine in cans because we believe all beverages in aluminum and steel cans with pull-tab openers and plastic bottles with twist-off caps should be included despite what type of liquid is in the container. Any exceptions to this create confusion for consumers.

Looking Ahead – 2023 Legislative Session

In addition to a bill designed to update the Oregon E-Cycles program, AOR expects to see the return of Right to Repair, a suite of policies to address single-use plastics, and a Truth in Labeling bill.

AOR and other advocates are keenly interested in securing Oregonian's right to repair electronic devices they purchase and own. Consumers have found it increasingly difficult to access information to, diagnose, and repair smartphones, tablets, laptops, PCs, and "smart" appliances.

This is a bill AOR actively supported during the 2021 session and will continue to support during the 2023 session.

In addition to right to repair and E-Cycles, AOR is supporting a trio of bills to address single-use plastic waste (SB 543, 544, and 545). The plastics crisis is complex. Recycling alone will not be enough to resolve the issue. These three bills target some of the most toxic plastics to human health and the environment, sets a statewide plastics reduction goal, and would legalize the use of reusables at food establishments.

AOR is closely watching and participating in further discussions around Truth in Labeling.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION SUMMARY

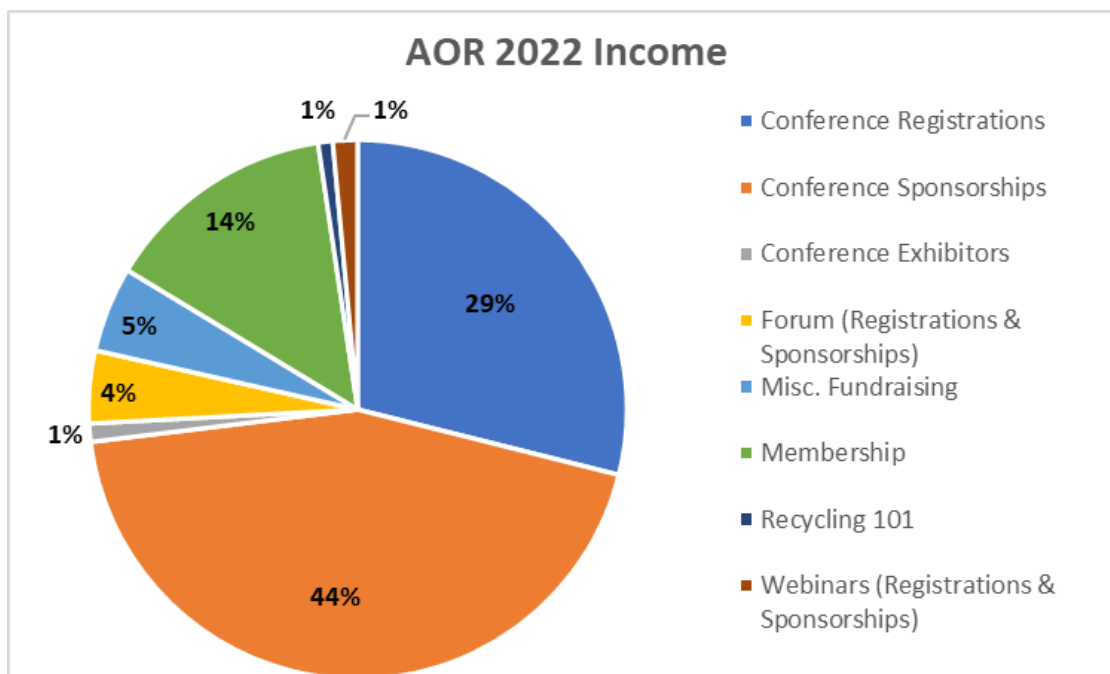
In 2020, the Board formed an internal team interested in exploring how structural racism is influencing AOR's own processes and opportunities in our industry. This team became the Board's Equity Committee. We are working to identify how AOR could better incorporate equity into our broader goals as an organization, our operations and decisions, and what role we could take to be a more active leader for our industry.

In 2022, we contracted with Start Consulting to support the committee in the development of a workplan and to bring an equity lens to the AOR conference. Start Consulting has guided us in formulating a near-term (1-2 years) workplan that highlights the following priority topics for the committee to advance: recruitment and diversification of the AOR board, solidifying an AOR equity statement, scholarships for the conference, developing a charter for the equity committee and an equity handbook for the Board, conducting an equity audit of all current AOR literature and collateral, and applying an equity lens to all conference and forum content.

This work is ongoing and will be an additional lens through which AOR evaluates its initiatives and its members' needs in the future. AOR is committed to creating a more inclusive environment that allows us to reach more people as a result of our EDI work and we are excited to open the EDI conversation to our interested members in the coming year.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

AOR ended the 2022 calendar year revenue positive. The Board-approved budget for 2022 was very conservative with expectations related to income as uncertainties still existed with regards to the pandemic. AOR planned to host in-person events (a forum and conference) anticipating that distancing restrictions would ease as the year progressed, but remained guarded in terms of how well-attended the events would be. Fortunately, the events were well-attended, and with generous sponsorships resulted in AOR exceeding projected net revenue for the year.

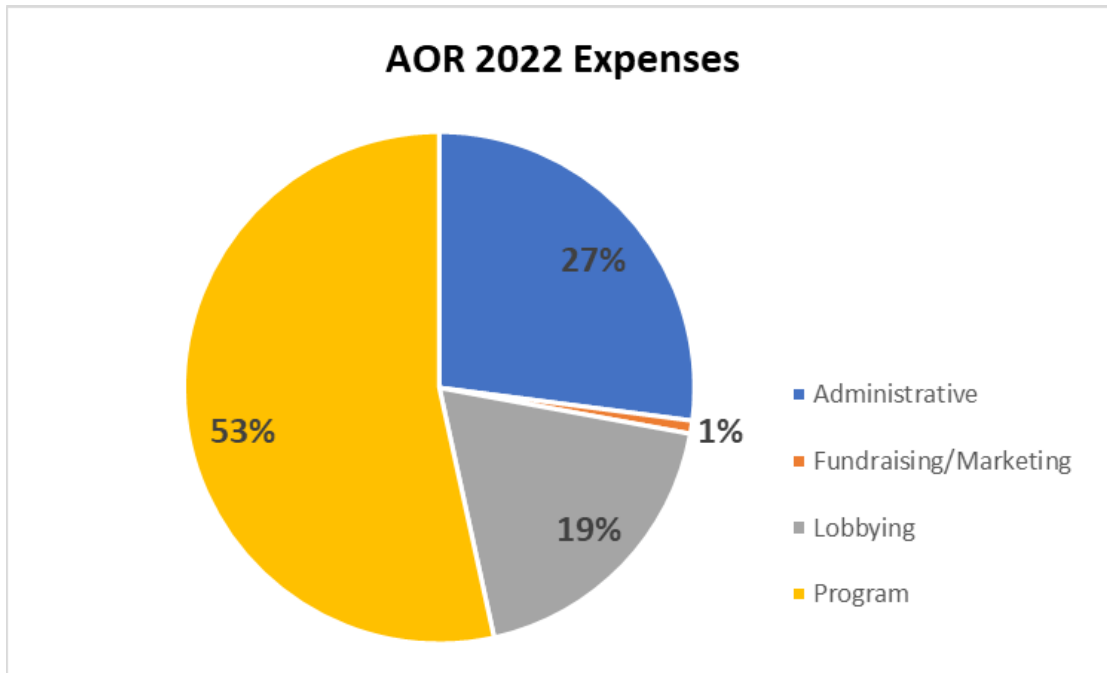


AOR allocates expenses into four categories:

1. Program Expenses - expenses related to carrying out AOR's mission, and that result in goods or services being provided.
2. Administrative Expenses - expenses for AOR's overall operations and management.
3. Fundraising Expenses - expenses for publicizing and conducting fundraising campaigns, maintaining donor mailing lists, conducting special fundraising events,

and any other activities that involve soliciting contributions.

4. Lobbying Expenses - expenses related to lobbying activities.



Expenditures in 2022 exceeded projections by 12 percent due to higher-than-expected conference costs, general increases in insurance and bank fees, hiring an EDI consultant, and our Resource Director attending and speaking at the national Resource Recycling Conference in Austin, Texas.

SUSTAINABLE OREGON CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The 2022 Sustainable Oregon conference was held in Bend, Oregon at the Riverhouse on the Deschutes from October 26-28. We hosted 220 registrants and ended the year with a net conference revenue of \$96,000. Our silent auction raised over \$3,500 at our first in-person conference since 2019.

Our Keynote Speaker, Rhodes Perry, provided valuable takeaways on inclusive leadership trends with his program, *Imagine the Power of Belonging at Work*. In addition, he also provided a post-keynote workshop, *Build Belonging at Work: Everyday Actions You Can Take*, which allowed participants to explore these concepts even further.

Liz Start, Principal Consultant at Start Consulting, also hosted a workshop focused on equity, diversity, and inclusion within AOR at the conference this year. Liz spent time getting to know members and

their thoughts on AOR's EDI initiatives, while creating a safe space for open conversations and explaining the work that has been done and what is yet to come.

This year's plenary, *Understanding Oregon's Recycling Modernization Act*, was provided by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, with Cheryl Grabham and David Allaway providing thoughtful insight and clarification on the Recycling Modernization Act. The plenary was met with great excitement and garnered many questions from attendees.

Our sessions consisted of a robust variety of topics including reuse, equity, policy design, rate setting, environmental justice, market trends, and hard to manage waste. This year we welcomed eight concurrent sessions that received very positive feedback:

- How to Incorporate Equity into Policy & Program Design
- Rebuilding for Justice: Equity in Reuse Operations
- Prioritizing Reuse: Where Are We Now?
- Recycling Challenges: Mattress EPR, Wood, and Refrigerators
- Market Forces: Material Pricing and the Trajectory of Recycling
- Equity in Rate Setting
- Addressing the Bulky Item in the Room
- Oregon Food Systems: Building on Insights from DEQ Strategic Planning Listening Sessions

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

AOR members come from all sectors of the industry – collection, processing, manufacturing, consulting, education and outreach, government, and nonprofits. With over 500 members, AOR continues to set the industry standard for encouraging sustainable legislative initiatives and awareness about industry news and trends, educational workshops and conferences, legislative advocacy, and a large, resourceful network of people and organizations that work together to advance a common mission. We love our members and could not do the great work we do without their financial support and contributions.

Membership remained relatively static from 2021 to 2022.

Current membership breakdown	2022	Change from 2021
Individual Members	92	+ 4
Small Businesses (25 employees or less)	34	- 11
Large Businesses (26+ employees or less)	33	- 3
Small Government (serves 80,000 households or less)	12	- 5
Large Government (serves 80,000+ households)	11	+ 2
Nonprofits	19	0
Total	201	- 13

AOR COMMITTEES

Committees are small groups comprised of board members, staff, and dedicated AOR members who come together to provide expert guidance on legislative, event and conference planning, membership, and our equity, diversity, and inclusion work. Not only do they help move critical AOR work forward, but they also provide guidance and a diversity of perspectives. A sincere thank you to everyone that volunteers with AOR!



Conference Committee

Chair: Danielle Womble

- Ali Briggs-Ungerer
- Denise Barnes
- Gabriela Buamscha
- Elaine Cole
- Jill Hrycyk
- Genevieve Joplin
- Laura Leebrick
- Carolina Martins
- Rich McConaghy
- Jade Menchaca
- Ricardo Palazuelos
- Gretchen Sandau
- Joel Schoening
- Sanne Stienstre
- Laura van der Veer
- Megan Warner

Legislative Committee

Chair: Rosalynn Green

- Abby Boudouris – DEQ/Non-voting
- Linda Brewer – Community member
- Eric Chambers – OBRC
- Pete Chism – City of Portland
- Aaron Donley – Waste Connections
- Bryce Hesterman – RRS
- Jackie Kirouac-Fram – Rebuilding Center
- Steve Kramer – Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling
- Brandon Lesowske – PSU
- KJ Lewis - Republic
- Vinod Singh – Far West Recycling
- David White – Community member

Thank You 2022 AOR Regional Liaisons!

AOR's Regional Liaisons play an important role in keeping our organization connected with members and issues across the state. They play a critical role in communication, networking, and membership recruitment.



Oregon Coast

Aimee Thompson
Thompson's Sanitary
Service



Southern Oregon

Jamie Rosenthal
Recology - Southern
Oregon



Eastern Oregon

David Skakel
Tri-County Haz Waste &
Recycling

Thank You 2022 Outgoing Board Members!

Alison Briggs-Ungerer most recently served as the past chair for several years, after serving on the board for 12. Angie Marzano acted as Secretary and assisted in fundraising activities as well as board governance. Jennifer Stefanick was integral to the regional liaison program and assisted with membership outreach as well as conference planning. Sanne Stienstra served as conference chair and led the board's EDI work. A sincere thank you to each of you for your time, dedication, and passion!



Alison Briggs-Ungerer
Briggs-Ungerer
Consulting



Angie Marzano
Lane County



Jennifer Stefanick
Washington County



Sanne Stienstra
Oregon Department
of Environmental
Quality

AOR STAFF

As always, a huge thanks to our Resource Director, Amy Roth and our Lobbyist Chris Parta! Amy is responsible for everything ranging from board agendas to event coordination and so much more. Her passion and organization are instrumental to our success. Chris Parta is our lobbyist who tirelessly represents our legislative priorities and keep us informed throughout the legislative session.



Amy Roth
Resource Director



Chris Parta
Lobbyist