# Companies Being Good Neighbors Connecting students to businesses to prevent pollution

conserving resources · protecting the environment · living well

Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Conference September 20, 2022



# Agenda

conserving resources · protecting the environment · living well

# Program Background & Authority Oregon Applied Sustainability Experience

Barriers, lessons learned, successes
 Using Toxics Release Inventory
 to Prioritize Outreach



### a vision for materials management

By 2050 Oregonians produce and use materials responsibly

conserving resources

protecting the environment

living well

foundational efforts

education and information

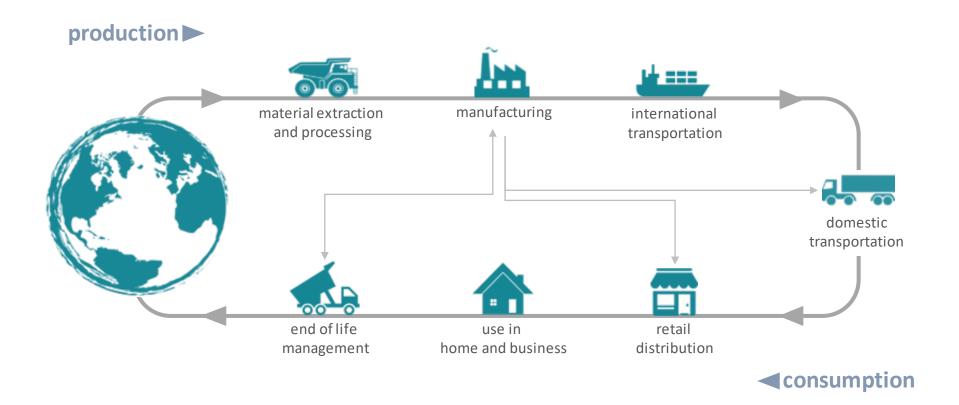
2050 vision

policies and regulations

collaboration and partnership

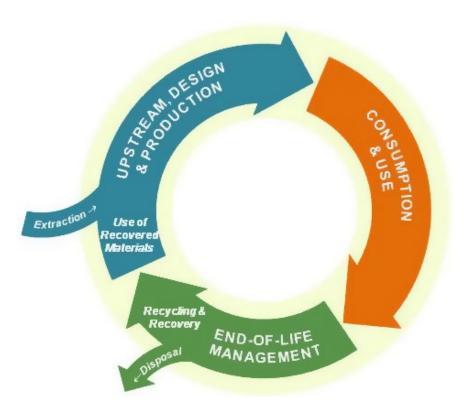


### material life cycle





#### business assistance



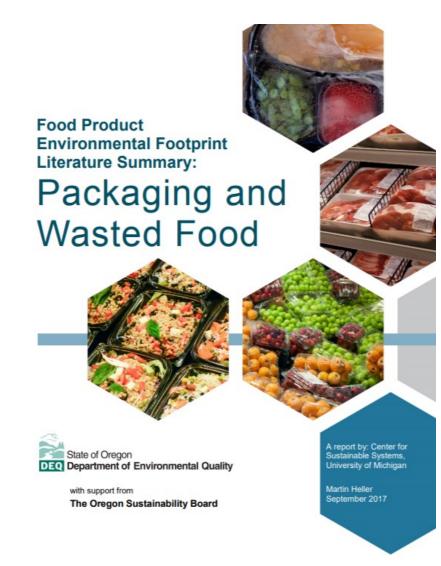






#### business initiatives projects

- Green Chemistry Research
- Preliminary literature reviews
- Case studies of Food Products Environmental Footprints
- Paid access to Concrete Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) tool
- Prevention of wasted food
- Business grants
- Training
- Foster collaboration



Developing Oregon's Oregon environmental workforce through hands-on student internships **Applied** Sustainability Experience









# Oregon **Applied** Sustainability Experience (OASE) is a **Partnership**

OASE is Administered by the Oregon DEQ and Oregon Sea Grant Funded in part by the US EPA



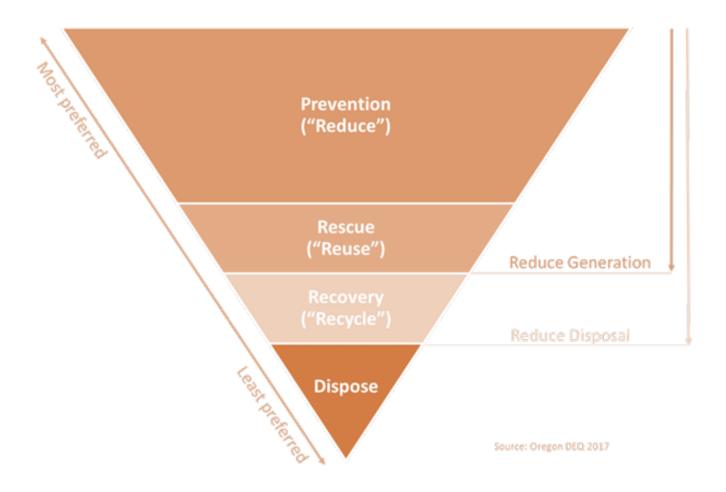








### sustainability internships prevent pollution





#### OASE host businesses locations

#### **Host Business**

#### Locations

**Portland** Eugene

Sandy

**Oregon City** 

**Hood River** 

Hermiston

Hillsboro

Salem

Gresham

Clackamas

**Port Orford** 

Universities

Portland State

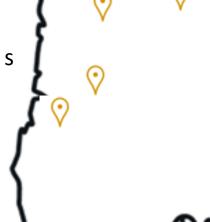
University

Oregon State

University-Corvall s

University of

Oregon-Eugene













Students are placed with businesses to conduct pollution prevention and sustainability research



StanleyBlack&Decker RE SFS TS OF CORE SFS eakthrough value to our ing high level facilities. ress that enumber. suring that are world

Interns recommend environmental solutions with cost benefit data

Interns are trained and paid a stipend for 10-week internship



#### first cohort: 2017 interns















### second cohort: 2018 interns



**BOEING** 







Oregon
Applied
Sustainability
Experience









#### third cohort: 2019 interns







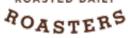








A CRH COMPANY























# successes: measurable goals







#### **CONNECTING PEOPLE**



200 students trained



19 Oregon business participants



40 partner organizations

#### **EXCEEDING GOALS**

OASE projected savings



\$2 million for businesses



11.5 tons hazardous waste



**61 million** gallons of water





# successes: measurable goals



L to R Top Row: Angel Contreras Cruz-Oregon Soap Co., Connor Nolan-Port Orford Sustainable Seafood, Katherine Gwynn-Tofurky, Alexi Overland-Defunkify, Bottom Row: Emily Koch-Pacific Seafood, Caitlin Wahlers-Good Clean Love, Jake Kennedy-Bora Architects, Kylee Church-Providence Health Services



# lessons learned: student training

- Pollution Prevention
- Project Management
- Writing

- Holistic/creative thinking
- Support to verbalize ideas





## lessons learned: business relationships



Oregon
Applied
Sustainability
Experience

Developing Oregon's
environmental workforce through
hands-on student internships

Experience

Strong businesses partners committed to students

"Our summer intern was focused and smart. She produced an excellent final document that will be useful to us and to other companies, we hope - for years to come."

2019 Host Businesses, Grand Central Bakery

## lesson's learned: advisors



















22

2022

# barriers: telling the stories















### barriers: business engagement



#### **Small Businesses**

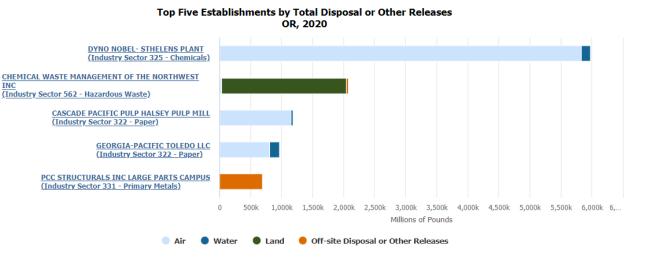
- Less expertise: can be handsoff with intern
- Slower response time: case study/final report review report
- Small measurable results
- Not reporting to TRI

#### **Big Businesses**

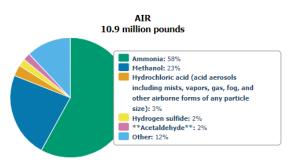
- Complicated hiring structure
  - No "free" interns
- Environmental Manager can't get support
- Confidentiality concerns
- Worried about working with Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

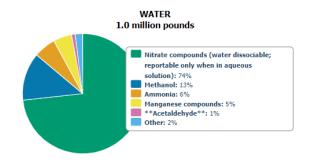
SEEKING INTERESTED HOST BUSINESSE

#### **Top five Oregon TRI Reporters**

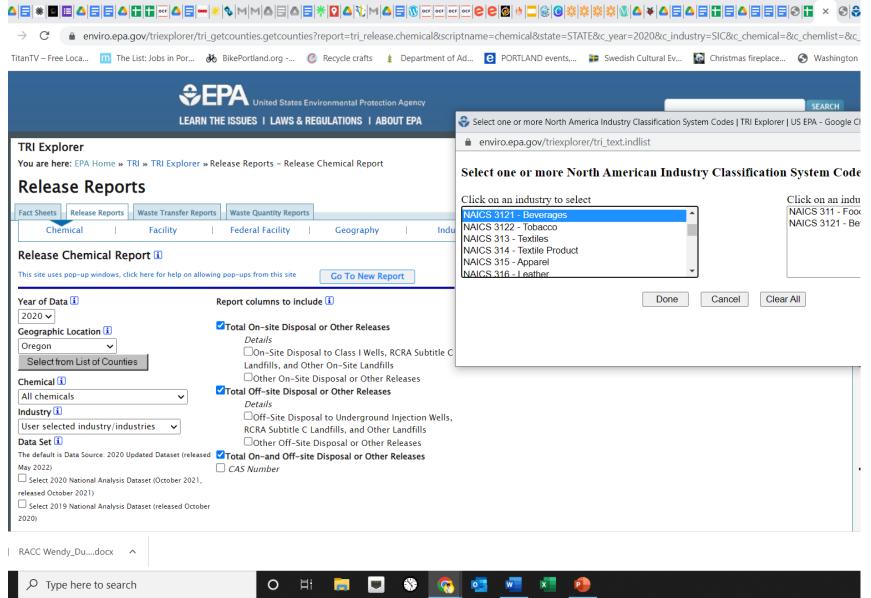


#### Top Five Chemicals Released to Air and Water OR, 2020

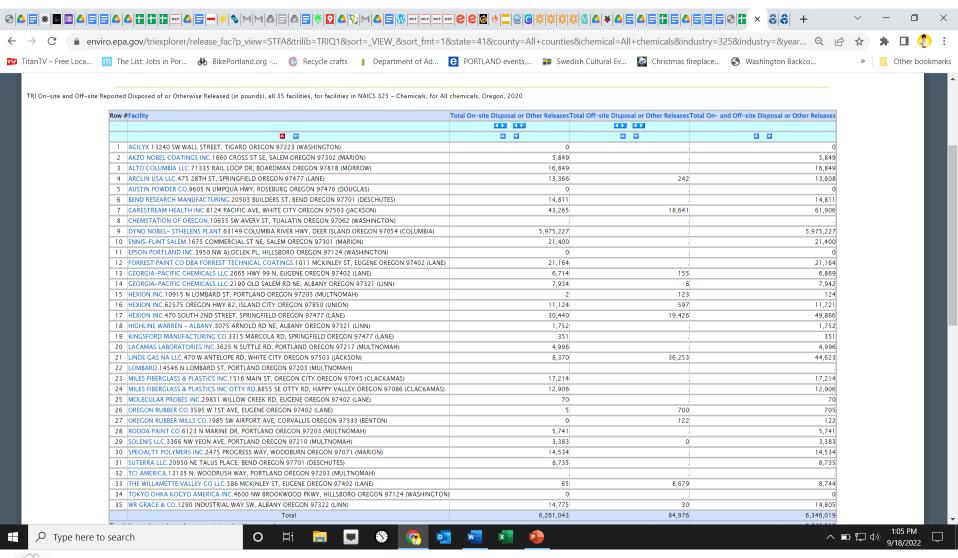




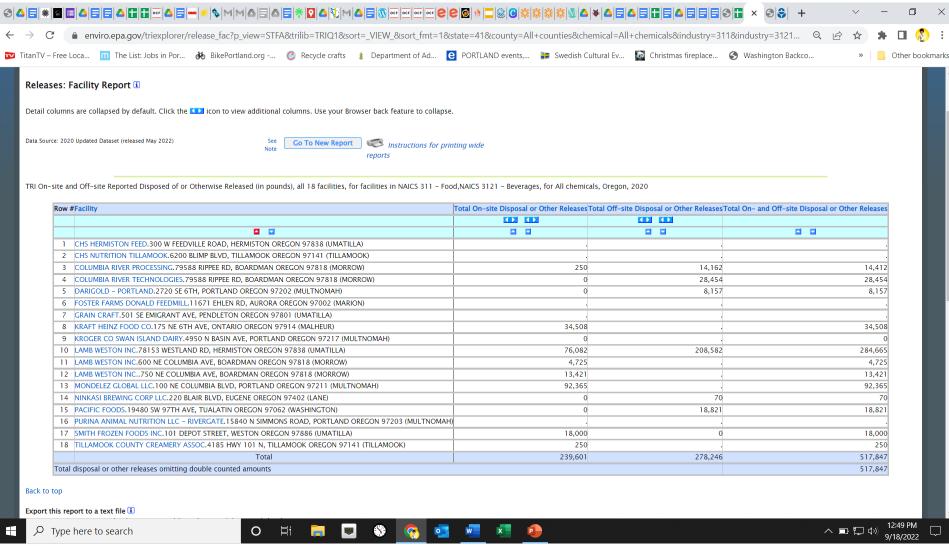














## tri: business partners reporting to TRI

# Boeing



SEEING POSSIBILITIES IN POTATOES





### intern program: successes

#### **Partnerships & Awards**

- Washington Applied Sustainability Internship
- Tofurky Year long Sustainability fellowship
- North America Hazardous Materials Management Association – Community Partnership Award
- Businesses contributions



#### Student Succeed!

- 2022-Kristina offered full-time position with Pacific Seafood
- 2021 -Connor Nolan offered extended internship
- 2021- Derek Yau working in fulltime position with Pacific Seafood
- 2020 Kylee Church extended internship
- 2020- Katherine/Tofurky awarded student of the year by the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable
- 2018-Jake Price/Boeing win national award for pollution prevention research



https://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/OASE/about-oase

# Pollution Prevention for Cleaner Air and a Better Climate



# Thank you!

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