Laying the Tracks:
Reuse Policy Options for the City of Bend

ECC of the City of Bend, OR

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Upstream



What We'll Cover Today

1. Reuse systems in action: a real city example
2. The reuse policy landscape — how many cities are acting, and what they're doing
3. **Reduce:** Types of policies that change the default away from single-use
4. **Build:** Types of policies that create reuse infrastructure
5. Why Bend is uniquely positioned to lead right now
6. Three recommended starting points for ECC



Don't Waste Durham creates solutions that prevent trash

DON'T WASTE DURHAM

est. 2013

OUR PROGRAMS:

- Reducing Waste in Durham Schools
- Plastic Waste Prevention Policy
- Bull City Boomerang Bag
- The ReCirculation Project
- GreenToGo

Green TO·GO

BULL CITY - DURHAM, NC
BOOMERANG BAGS
BRING YOUR OWN BAG

THE RE:CIRCULATION PROJECT



- Launched 2017
- 37+ partner locations
- 750+ paid subscribers
- Trash-free takeout, school meals, catering

How GreenToGo works













Reuse logistics & wash facilities







New opportunities!

- Switching **schools** stainless steel
- Reusable beverage cups for Durham Central Park **events and festivals**
- Product packaging for **local producers**
- Food packaging for local waste-free **grocery store**
- Serveware for **catered meals** at local institutions
- **Dish rental** across the city
- **Durham Bulls Stadium (MLB)**




Green
TO-GO

We didn't convince Durham. We showed them.



CHOOSE to REUSE

BOOMERANG BAGS

sustainably sewn in

BULL CITY - DURHAM, NC

dontwastedurham.org



Next up!

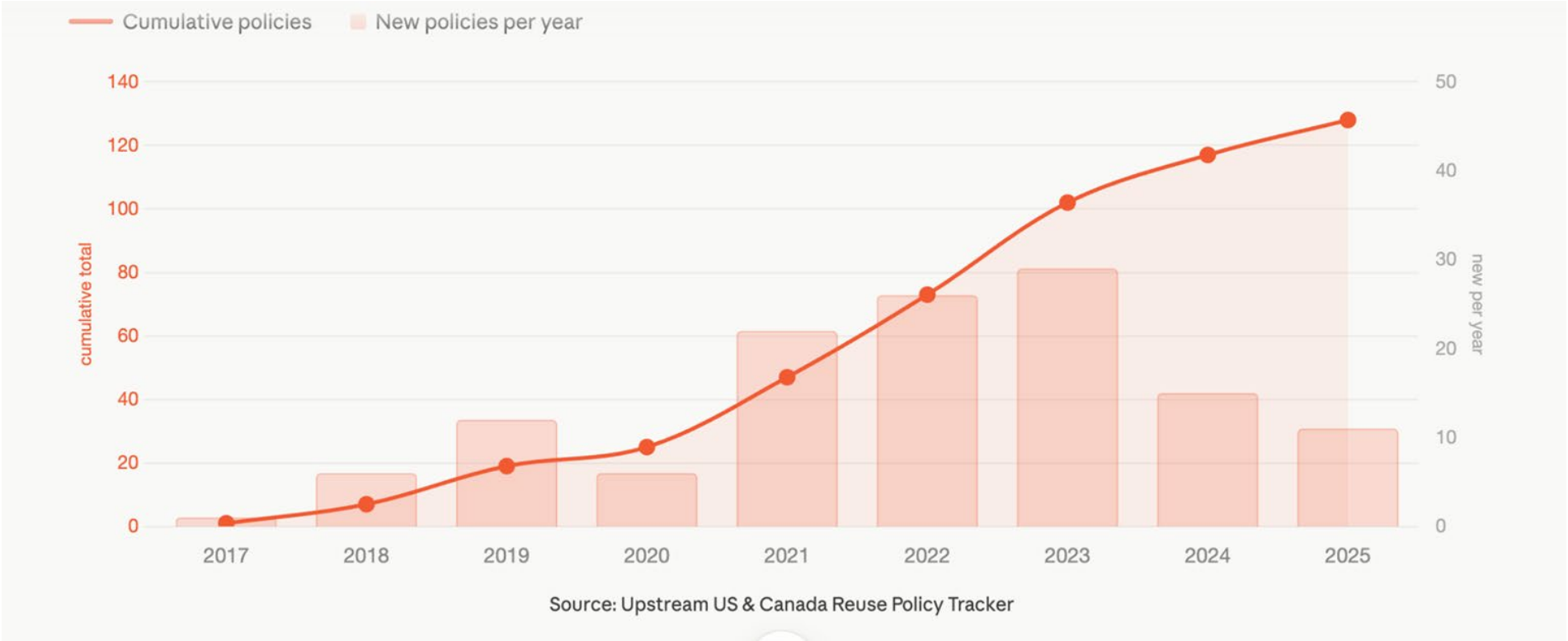
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The reuse policy movement is here

1. 120 reuse policies across the US & Canada
2. Cities, counties, states, and provinces — all levels of government are acting

Resource: Upstream's reuse policy tracker

Policy growth in past 5 years



Two ways cities are acting upon single-use

Reduce: Change the default away from single-use

- Make single-use less automatic
- Make single-use less free
- Make single-use less available

Build: Create infrastructure for reuse

- Make reuse easier
- Make reuse cheaper
- Make reuse more accessible

Oregon is moving — but key gaps remain

What's already in place

3 state-level reuse policies. Portland and Eugene have local **accessories-on-request ordinances.**

What's missing

No Oregon city has a mandatory **reuse-at-events** policy or a **government procurement** policy.

Bend's opening!

First city in Oregon to act on both — with infrastructure already in motion to make it real.

Reduce: Policies that change the default away from single-use

Accessories on request

88 jurisdictions

Businesses only hand out utensils, straws, and condiment packets if a customer asks. No bans, no new infrastructure.

Eugene already has this

Cup / container charge

20 jurisdictions

Small fee (~$0.25) on disposable cups or containers. Vendor keeps the fee — it's an incentive, not a tax.

Nudges behavior change without banning anything

Reuse at events

7 jurisdictions

Permitted or public events must use reusable serviceware. Creates direct demand for local reuse programs.

Especially relevant to Bend + DISH

Reuse for on-site dining

Nearly half of all tracked policies include this

46 jurisdictions

Restaurants use real plates and cups for dine-in. Requires dishwashing capacity — typically phased in.

Build: Policies that create infrastructure and make reuse the default

Bring your own

23 jurisdictions

Requires or clarifies that businesses must accept customer-owned containers. Oregon just updated its health code statewide.

Oregon state already done — Bend can build on it

Refill stations

6 jurisdictions

Requires water and refill stations in public buildings or new construction. Builds the physical environment for reuse habits.

Long-game infrastructure play

Government procurement

18 jurisdictions

City purchasing and city-run events default to reusables. Governs only what the city itself does — no enforcement burden on businesses.

Lowest-friction entry point for ECC

Reuse in lodging

Worth watching as the space develops

1 jurisdiction

Hotels use bulk dispensers instead of single-use toiletry bottles. Early-stage nationally — less immediately relevant to Bend.

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Why now, why Bend

Infrastructure already moving

The Environmental Center has secured significant funding. DISH is launching. Most cities wait for policy before infrastructure follows — Bend already has it the other way around.

A functional partnership model

Environmental Center runs operations. City provides policy support and funding. ECC recommends to council. Everyone playing their lane.

A clear gap to fill

No Oregon city has a mandatory reuse-at-events policy or a government procurement policy. Bend can be first.

Environmental Center
Operations + program infrastructure

City of Bend
Policy support + continued funding

ECC
Recommendations to city council

Start developing a policy recommendation package for City Council

Not everything at once — a focused package built around what's already in motion.

1

Government procurement

Easy win — the city controls it entirely. No enforcement burden on businesses. City decides: we use reusables.

2

Accessories on request

Most widely adopted policy in North America — 88 jurisdictions. Lowest political resistance. Eugene and Portland already have it.

3

Reuse at events

DISH is launching now. This policy sends a direct signal of city support and creates the demand that makes the program scale.