



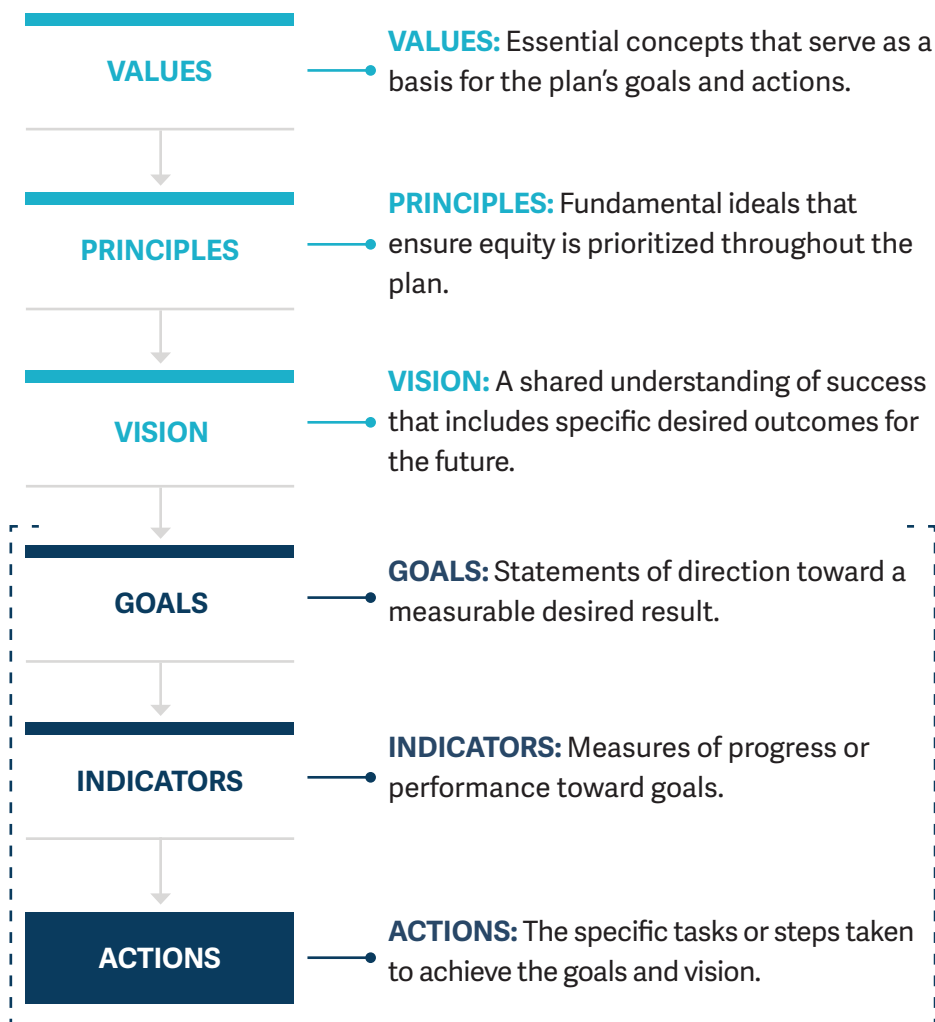
Values, principles and vision

Overview

With equity considerations front and center, participants developed values, principles and a vision to serve as the plan’s foundation. Existing guidance—including regional, state and federal policies and plans regarding waste management, recycling, toxics and other related environmental programs—also informed these core concepts.

FROM IDEALS TO ACTIONS

The values, principles and vision inspire and inform the concrete actions that Metro and local governments will implement as part of this plan.



Values

The values serve as a basis for the plan's goals and actions and will guide implementation.



PROTECT AND RESTORE THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROMOTE HEALTH FOR ALL

- Ensure that current and future generations enjoy clean air, water and land.
- Lead efforts to reduce impacts of climate change and minimize release of toxins in the environment.



CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES

- Reduce the amount of energy, water and raw materials needed to make products.
- Manage materials to their highest and best use (reduce, reuse, recycle).



ADVANCE ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

- Facilitate life-long environmental learning for youth and adults.
- Increase knowledge of natural systems, and the human impacts on them, in order to foster civic responsibility and community empowerment.



FOSTER ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

- Promote inclusive prosperity and living well for all residents of the region.
- Increase access to economic opportunities for all communities.



ENSURE OPERATIONAL RESILIENCE, ADAPTABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Maintain a regional system that is safe and responsive to changing conditions to ensure long-term viability.
- Prepare for recovery after natural disasters.



PROVIDE EXCELLENT SERVICE AND EQUITABLE SYSTEM ACCESS

- Ensure that high-quality and good-value programs, services and facilities are equitably accessible to all.

Principles

This plan provides Metro and local governments a powerful opportunity to advance racial equity, diversity and inclusion.

The following principles were developed by the Equity Work Group in collaboration with Metro staff. Their purpose is to help address historical and disproportionate impacts of the waste system on marginalized communities and to define how the plan may advance racial equity.

Community restoration

Take action to repair past harms and disproportionate impacts caused by the regional solid waste system.

In practice, this means:

- Acknowledging historical impacts passed from generation to generation within communities.
- Actively including communities that have been historically marginalized from decision-making processes.
- Equitably distributing costs and benefits, taking into account historical and system impacts.
- Valuing indigenous and cultural knowledge about using resources sustainably.
- Committing to building a greater awareness of equity among providers of garbage and recycling services.

Community partnerships

Develop authentic partnerships and community trust to advance the plan's vision. In practice, this means:

- Prioritizing historically marginalized communities within the delivery of programs and services.
- Expanding voice and decision-making opportunities for communities of color.
- Supporting resilient community relationships by creating ongoing opportunities for leadership development.

Community investment

Emphasize resource allocation to communities of color and historically marginalized communities. In practice, this means:

- Making investment decisions in partnership with communities.
- Investing in impacted communities and youth through education and financial resources.
- Eliminating barriers to services and employment.

"I'm excited to see [the 2030 Regional Waste Plan], a project on which I've dedicated a lot of hard work and time, become a real tangible part of the Metro region's operations. There is satisfaction in knowing that our group has had a positive influence on how governments, businesses and communities interact to create positive outcomes for all."

Andre Bealer,
Regional Waste Plan Equity
Work Group member

Vision

The 2030 Vision identifies the desired future for the garbage and recycling system and specific outcomes for managing and reducing the impacts of products consumed in the region. The goals and actions are designed to close the gap between today and this desired future.

Economic prosperity

Innovation, investments and partnerships support a thriving garbage, recycling, reuse and repair economy that benefits local communities.

Good jobs

All garbage and recycling industry jobs pay living wages and provide opportunities for career advancement. All occupations in the industry reflect the diversity of our local communities.

Education and information

Everyone has the culturally responsive, age-appropriate information and educational resources needed to make purchasing and disposal decisions that will protect their health and the environment.

Healthy products

Companies and consumers share responsibility for reducing the harmful impacts of products and packaging on public health, climate, air quality, waterways and wildlife throughout the entire life cycle of products.

Reduce, reuse and repair

Reduce, reuse, repair and donation are mainstream practices accessible to all, creating economic opportunity and building community self-reliance.

Quality service

Garbage and recycling services meet the needs of all people and all communities.

Garbage and recycling operations

From trucks to facilities, our garbage and recycling system is safe for workers and the public, minimizes pollution of air, soils and water, and is financially sustainable.

Preparedness and resilience

The region's garbage and recycling system is resilient and prepared to recover quickly from disruptions like natural disasters, while minimizing harmful impacts to the most affected communities.