



Metro



2030 Regional Waste Plan

Community briefing booklet

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Why Metro regulates the garbage and recycling system

Project website:
oregonmetro.gov/letstalktrash

The plan is built on a strong foundation of values and principles, developed in partnership with communities throughout the region. The Metro Charter, the Oregon Constitution, and Oregon statutes grant Metro broad authority for planning, managing and overseeing the regional garbage and recycling system. Metro and local governments work together to manage the system for the region and this plan allows for flexibility over the 12 years it will be in effect. It's a living document that will guide us toward a healthier, more resilient and more equitable system.

There are a lot of complexities to managing a regional waste system that serves two dozen cities, portions of three counties, over on million residents, thousands of businesses, and many garbage and recycling service providers. In 1987, the Metro Council highlighted the garbage and recycling system as an area and activity appropriate for a functional plan (Metro Ordinance 87-740). A regional plan provides a unified blueprint to coordinate all parties and to bring the parts of the system together into a well-functioning whole.

PREVIOUS WASTE PLANS:

Metro has adopted three solid waste system plans to date. These are updated about every 10 years to meet the needs of the changing region and to align with state and federal guidance.

Letter from Metro

Dear Friends:

I'm excited to share with you a remarkable work in progress: the draft 2030 Regional Waste Plan. Thank you for the time, energy and passion you brought to shaping the blueprint for the future of our garbage and recycling system. Congratulations on your work!

The journey we have taken has created a plan that will transform the system in many ways. To name a few:

Listening and learning shaped the plan. You shared how the greater Portland area's garbage and recycling system is and is not working and where opportunities exist for improvements. Those conversations will influence what the system looks like in the future.

Solutions by the community, for the community. The plan's goals and actions were generated in partnership with the people most affected by historic injustices and inequities: people of color, immigrants and refugees, people with low incomes, residents of multifamily housing communities and people with limited proficiency in English.

Benefits will be shared by all residents. The plan includes actions designed to right previous wrongs and honor the differences among people, no matter their race, immigration status or income level.

Changing a large system with many services, facilities and employees does not happen easily. It takes a lot of time and people working together to look carefully at each part. That is exactly what it took to create this draft plan.

More than two years in the making, the plan involved more than 4,000 local residents sharing suggestions and ideas with staff from Metro and our local government partners. Thank you for your patience through the process.

While the plan, its goals and actions reflect a significant amount of input and feedback already, it is still a work in progress. On behalf of Metro, I invite you to review and comment on the draft 2030 Regional Waste Plan.

Your voice matters. We want to hear from you. The draft plan is available for review and feedback from Nov. 19 through Dec. 21, 2018. This is a chance to suggest any further changes to the draft before a final version of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan goes to the Metro Council for adoption in February 2019. We look forward to hearing what you think.

Sincerely,



Marta McGuire, Project Manager
2030 Regional Waste Plan

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the 2030 Regional Waste Plan. This booklet serves as a guide to the draft plan. It's intended to help you navigate and understand the full plan, to see where community input and ideas show up and to learn how you can participate in shaping the final document.

We encourage you to refer to this booklet as you review the draft plan.

Questions or comments?

Please reach out. You can reach Metro at 503-797-1920 or regionalwasteplan@oregonmetro.gov, or at any of the contact options listed on page 13.

What is the 2030 Regional Waste Plan?

The 2030 Regional Waste Plan is both a vision for greater Portland's garbage and recycling system and a blueprint for achieving that vision. Metro created the plan in partnership with cities, counties, businesses and community leaders in the greater Portland area. Metro also collaborated with members of culturally-specific community-based organizations that have been historically marginalized by the region's garbage and recycling system but have had the least influence in the decision-making process to shape it. This will help ensure that the plan moves us toward a system where barriers and disparities that people of color experience are eliminated and where benefits are shared equitably.

FIND IT IN THE PLAN

- How equity and engagement shaped the plan (p. 16)
- More about the full life cycle of products (p. 12)
- The values and principles guiding plan's actions (p. 44)
- The shared vision we'll be working to achieve (p. 47)



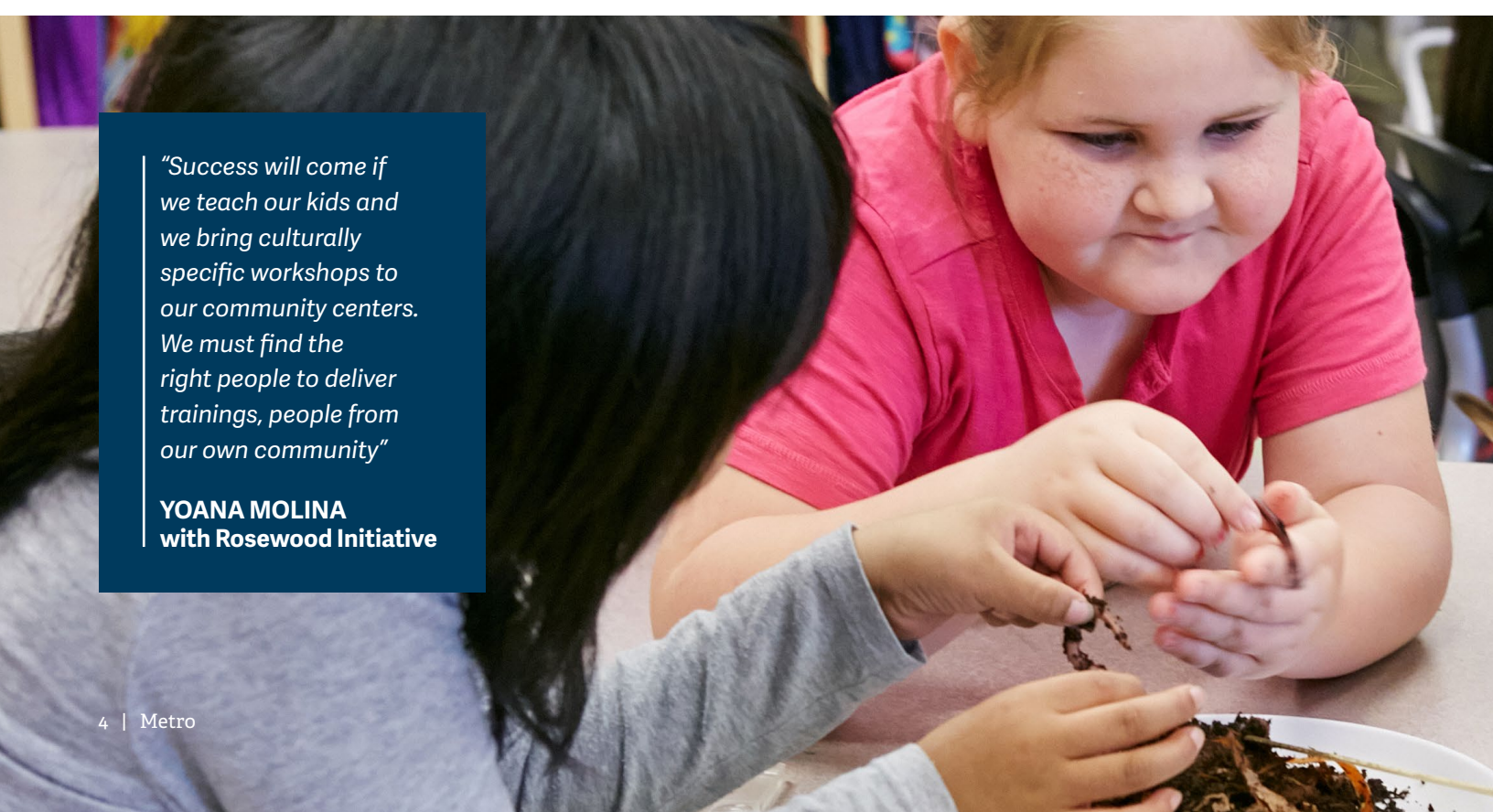
What problems and opportunities does the new plan address?

The 2030 Regional Waste Plan addresses challenges with our regional garbage and recycling system, including:

- How it impacts the environment, both locally and globally, and throughout the life of the products we make, use and throw away.
- How it impacts human health, including harmful emissions from facilities and chemicals in products that pose a danger.
- The long history of exclusionary and discriminatory policies and practices that continue to harm communities in the region.

In addressing these challenges, the plan also seeks to take advantage of opportunities, such as:

- Protecting natural resources
- Reducing pollution
- Preventing harm to human health
- Sharing the system's economic benefits equitably
- Looking at the full life of products, from when they're designed and made until they're thrown away
- Engaging local communities and community organizations throughout the process



"Success will come if we teach our kids and we bring culturally specific workshops to our community centers. We must find the right people to deliver trainings, people from our own community"

YOANA MOLINA
with Rosewood Initiative

Why should I care?

The garbage and recycling system is more than garbage trucks and recycling bins. It's about reducing waste and protecting the environment. It's about making sure everyone has access to high-quality services, information and economic opportunities. And it's about reducing the impacts of products throughout their lives.

The 2030 Regional Waste Plan connects these values—from jobs and services to health and the environment—to specific actions aimed at achieving them. It's the guide that Metro, cities, counties and others involved in managing the garbage and recycling system will use to determine what to focus on over the next 12 years. When you participate in shaping the plan, you're also helping to shape the future of this important system that affects us all.

METRO'S NEW APPROACH

For the 2030 Regional Waste Plan, Metro embarked on a new approach to planning for the future. The plan includes a significant focus on racial equity. It also addresses the impacts of products and materials throughout their lives. These core ideas strongly influence the goals and actions that make up the plan.

Leading with racial equity

To eliminate inequities and establish an inclusive process from the start, Metro convened an Equity Work Group to engage in each phase of the process. The work group collaborated with staff and industry representatives to draft elements of the plan.

Metro also partnered with eight community-based organizations to host discussions about the future of garbage and recycling. Ideas and feedback gathered from the community informed many of the aspects of the plan.

Addressing the full life of products

How we design, manufacture, buy and use products matters. Changes in these early stages of a product's life can make a big difference in reducing waste and protecting the environment.

That's why the 2030 Regional Waste Plan includes actions that address the entire life of the products we use, from design to production to use, until they go to a thrift store, recycler or landfill. The goals and actions are designed to not only improve the way we manage materials at the end of their lives, but also to reduce harmful impacts by intervening earlier.

WHAT IS RACIAL EQUITY?

Racial equity has been achieved when race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes, and outcomes for all groups are improved.



Narrative table of contents

These brief descriptions of the plan's content and organization are intended to help the reader more easily navigate the plan.

Introduction 4

This section provides an overview of the plan by describing the key trends and challenges it addresses and the opportunities and outcomes it delivers. Also included is a brief guide to navigating the plan.

A new approach to managing waste 10

This section describes two ideas that are the foundation of Metro's approach: addressing the entire life of products and advancing equity. It outlines how the plan will reduce harmful impacts by intervening before a product reaches the end of its life. It also describes the importance of equity and introduces the community engagement process. Also included is a map of facilities, services and providers.

Environmental impacts of products & materials 18

This section explains how producing and consuming goods and services affects the environment—locally and beyond. It also shows why our choices about managing waste matter and describes ways to measure environmental impacts.

Economic benefits 24

This section looks at the economic impacts of the garbage and recycling system. It details how the fees residents pay for garbage and recycling services support jobs and economic activity.

Legal foundation and policy guidance 28

This section presents the history and existing policies that guide the plan.

Creating the plan..... 34

This section summarizes the steps taken to develop the plan, with a focus on the wide range of individuals, groups and advisors that gave input and guidance.

Values, principles and vision 42

This section describes essential concepts, or values, that guided creation of the plan's vision and goals. It also describes the standard beliefs, or principles, that provide further direction for the plan's development and implementation. And it shares the desired future, or vision, for the garbage and recycling system. Together, the values, principles and vision are the foundation on which the plan is built.

Goals and actions 48

Goals and related actions in five areas will address the impacts of materials and products, from production to disposal. Metro, city and county government will work to implement the actions in the coming years.

Measuring progress 102

This section describes how Metro and local governments will monitor work at all levels. It also describes processes to evaluate, measure and report progress to the community and elected officials.

Implementation, compliance and amendments 108

This section focuses on the roles of those responsible for carrying out the plan and the approach to completing actions, ensuring compliance with existing requirements and amending the plan.

Appendices

Acknowledgements

Waste reduction program (list of plan items that meet the waste reduction requirements required by state law)

Key solid waste laws

Glossary of terms

How community input shows up in the plan


In partnership with eight community-based organizations, Metro convened a diverse group of close to 100 local residents to take part in multiple engagements over a two-year period about the garbage and recycling system.

This included tours of facilities, facilitated discussions and gatherings at community centers. Industry representatives, elected officials and local government staff participated in these conversations.

Throughout the process, Metro listened, learned and gathered a lot of great ideas to make the system work better for everyone. Input from this engagement is reflected throughout the draft 2030 Regional Waste Plan.

The following pages highlight the parts of the garbage and recycling system that the community prioritized for changes and calls out the changes the community most wants to see. Input helped shape goals in each area of the plan and specific actions to address concerns. The community's voice is reflected most frequently in the following areas:

- Shared prosperity
- Product consumption and use
- Product end-of-life management

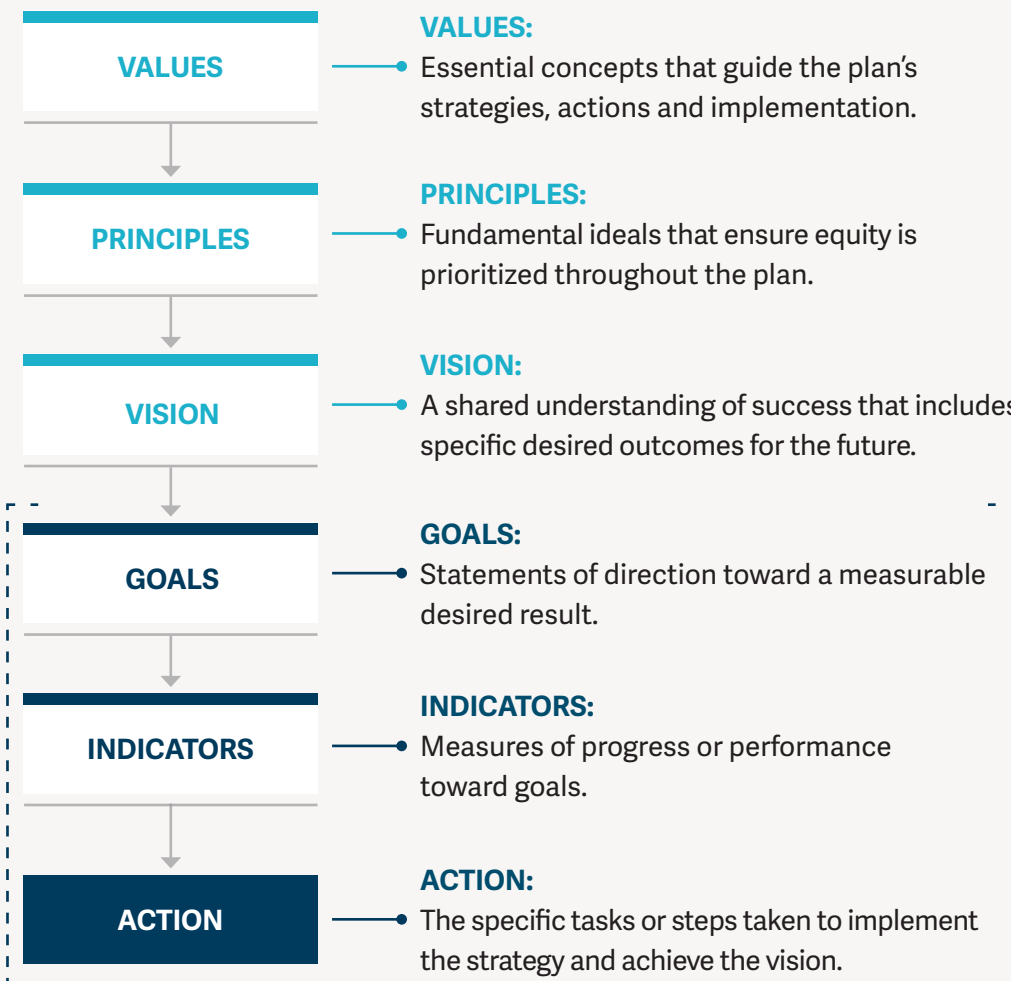


"I really like the idea of bringing together people of different backgrounds and ages. They have lots of valuable experience. They know a lot and can share a lot. The more people participating, the more wisdom."

KONSTANTIN ARNAUTOV
Russian-speaking elder
originally from Moldova

FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO CONCRETE ACTION

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



40 actions focus directly on advancing equity and reducing disparities.

E This symbol identifies actions with the greatest potential for advancing racial equity.

Find the actions in the Goals and Actions section of the plan.

Learn more about how community engagement led to concrete action in the Creating the Plan section of the plan.

Addressing community concerns

COMMUNITY'S CONCERN	WHERE TO FIND IT ADDRESSED	HOW THE SYSTEM WILL CHANGE
Frustration with differences in availability and quality of and access to services.	Product end-of-life management, goals 10 and 11	<p>Actions will make garbage and recycling services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More consistent • Meet the needs of all users • Respond to community concerns
People want to recycle and protect the environment, but they experience challenges related to cost, a lack of bins and space (especially to dispose of large items), frequency of collection, not being able to compost at apartments and inadequate accommodations for age and abilities.	Product end-of-life management, goals 10 and 14	<p>Actions will result in service that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easier to understand • More accessible • Improved for residents of multifamily communities, low-income households and communities of color
Confusion about services and how the system works, and insufficient information for people from diverse cultures and age groups.	<p>Product consumption and use, goal 6</p> <p>Product end-of-life management, goal 9</p>	<p>Actions will result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more diverse range of people reached • Improved information about how to reduce waste • Information that is culturally relevant
Concerns about impacts to human health and the environment, such as noise, odors, and air and water pollution.	<p>Product design and manufacturing, goal 5</p> <p>Product consumption and use, goals 7-6</p> <p>Product end-of-life management, goal 12</p>	<p>Actions will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create new policies that will make products safer • Design culturally relevant educational experiences • Take steps to reduce health and environmental impacts for workers at facilities and residents in nearby neighborhoods
Concerns about a lack of diversity in the workforce and opportunities for people of color in the industry.	Shared prosperity, goals 4-1	<p>Actions are designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase workforce diversity • Enhance job quality • Give leadership opportunities to people of color and others historically marginalized

Areas of the plan

SHARED PROSPERITY

This area of work aims to address barriers faced by communities of color and those who have been disproportionately impacted by the garbage and recycling system. Through the goals and actions in this section, Metro and local governments aim to make changes that result in:

- More leadership opportunities and greater representation of youth and adults of color on formal advisory committees
- Greater diversity in all jobs in the garbage and recycling system workforce
- All jobs in the garbage and recycling industry pay a living wage, offer good benefits and create opportunities that lead to advancement
- Companies owned by people of color and other historically marginalized groups receive a larger portion of the almost \$290 million that flows through the garbage and recycling system each year
- A well-functioning whole

PRODUCT CONSUMPTION AND USE

Goals in this area focus on reducing the environmental and health impacts of what we buy. The actions emphasize education and policy efforts to reduce those impacts and support purchasing choices that conserve natural resources and reduce waste.

Education will prioritize culturally responsive efforts, with programs and services designed and delivered in partnership with community organizations to reach historically marginalized groups.

Policy actions in this area aim to provide safer, lower-risk products and reduce the use of single-use items that harm the environment and create problems for the recycling system.

Learn more on p. 52
of the plan.



Learn more on p. 64
of the plan.



END-OF-LIFE MANAGEMENT

Through the actions in this area, Metro, cities and counties will work to improve the system that handles the region's recycling and garbage. The actions will help determine which services are available, how we learn about them, where they're located and much more.

This area has the largest number of goals and actions in the plan. Through these actions, Metro and local governments aim to make progress toward:

- Transparency and consistency in rates and services
- More useful and culturally relevant education and information
- New and improved services that respond to community-identified needs
- Operations that reduce impacts to human health and the environment
- A thriving reuse and repair economy
- Investment in local communities and innovation

PRODUCT DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING, AND DISASTER RESILIENCE

There are two other areas of the plan with goals and actions that will change the garbage and recycling system in the future.

Product Design and Manufacturing focuses on reducing the environmental and health impacts of products by influencing how products are designed, manufactured and packaged. Actions also aim to reduce or eliminate potentially dangerous chemicals and highly toxic materials.

Disaster Resilience will help prepare the garbage and recycling system for a disaster. The actions will help the region plan how to manage both disaster debris and regular garbage and recover from a major incident.

Learn more on p. 70
of the plan.



Learn more on p. 60
of the plan.



Get involved to finalize the plan

You can help make sure the future garbage and recycling system reflects the shared values and priorities of residents across the Metro area.

As Metro works to finalize the 2030 Regional Waste Plan, your voice matters. We invite you to share your recommendations during a public comment period from Nov. 19 to Dec. 21, 2018.

Here's how you can get involved:

- Join our public forum on December 8 to review the draft plan and give your comments in person.
- Review the draft plan and share your comments with Metro. Find out how in the “How can I comment” section to the right.
- Attend and testify at a Metro Council hearing in February.

After the public comment period, here's what will happen to finalize the plan:

- January 2019: Metro will summarize all comments received during the comment period and publish them in a responsiveness report available in print and online. The report will include changes to the draft plan in response to comments received.
- January 2019: Metro's Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee will consider the draft plan and provide input to Metro Council.
- January 2019: Metro Policy Advisory Committee will consider the draft plan and the responsiveness report and provide input to Metro Council.
- February 2019: Metro Council will hold legislative hearings on Feb. 21 and 28. The Council will consider final adoption of the plan on Feb. 28.

WHAT CAN I COMMENT ON?

We want to hear your thoughts on the entire plan, including these sections in particular:

- Values, principles and vision (Section 7)
- Goals and actions (Section 8)
- Measuring progress (Section 9)
- Plan implementation (Section 10)

HOW CAN I COMMENT?

Your feedback will help set the future course of the garbage and recycling system. Here's how to submit a comment:

Write a letter

Metro Regional Waste Plan
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232

Comment in person at a public forum

Saturday, Dec. 8
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Metro Regional Center,
council chamber
600 NE Grand Ave., Portland

Call or email your comments

503-797-1920
regionalwasteplan@oregonmetro.gov

Your voice matters.

Shape the future of your garbage and recycling system. Comment on the draft 2030 Regional Waste Plan by December 21!

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