

Key Indicators

The 2030 Regional Waste Plan includes a robust measurement framework to evaluate progress toward the plan’s vision and goals. The framework allows Metro and local governments to demonstrate the positive impacts the plan’s activities are having on the region, highlight opportunities for improvement and evaluate which programs and projects are helping the region achieve its desired outcomes.

The measurement framework consists of 6 key indicators and 27 goal indicators, covering the wide variety of goals addressed by the 2030 Regional Waste Plan. Key indicators are linked to each of the six values in the plan. They also serve to highlight some of the most important work included in the 2030 Regional Waste Plan, from protecting the environment and promoting health to advancing racial equity in the garbage and recycling system and providing excellent and equitable garbage and recycling services.

The measurement framework calls for establishing baselines for each indicator in the plan and setting targets to measure performance as the plan is implemented. This report establishes baselines for all six key indicators. Future work will include setting targets for these indicators and tracking performance over time. Below are the six key indicators and a snapshot of the baseline data associated with each of them.

Snapshot of Key Indicator Baselines

Greenhouse gas emissions



Annual tons of waste generated



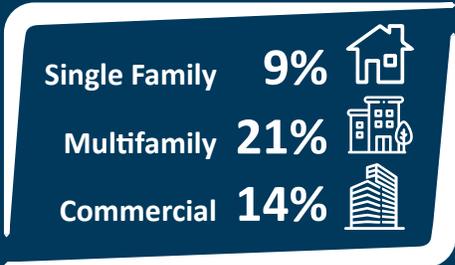
Youth reached through education programs



Multifamily properties with adequate collection



Recycling contamination by sector



Median hourly wage for Metro solid waste workers



Multifamily Properties with Adequate Collection Services

Regional Waste Plan Value

Provide excellent service and equitable system access.

Indicator

Share of multifamily properties with adequate collection services.

Why is this indicator important?

This indicator tracks the share of apartment and condominium homes in the greater Portland area with adequate garbage and recycling collection services. Adequate service is defined as meeting the Multifamily Regional Service Standard, which was updated in 2020 for the first time since it was established almost 30 years ago. Providing adequate garbage and recycling services at multifamily homes is important because it allows for more equitable access to services for all residents of the region.

The updated service standard established prescriptive language for:

- The amount and frequency of garbage and recycling (effective 2020)
- Signage on bins and in multifamily collection areas (effective 2023)
- Collection of large items (effective 2025), and
- A bin color standard (effective 2028).

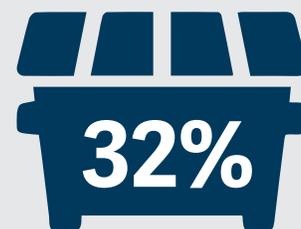
This indicator will include and report on the standards as they become effective.

Share of properties that meet the current Multifamily Regional Service Standard

The chart on the right shows the share of properties that met the regional multifamily service standards for garbage, recycling and glass in 2021. This was based on a study of gallons provided per unit per week for all three streams and in the future will include color standards

The values for garbage, recycling and glass are higher than the 32% of properties that met all service standards. This indicates many apartment and condominium homes have one or two services at or above standards, but only 32% meet all three service standards.

Baseline Data

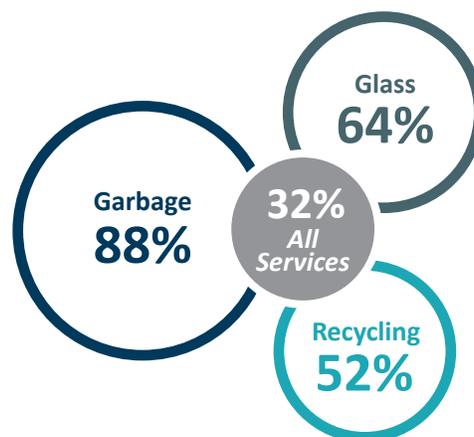


Properties with adequate services in 2021

Properties with adequate services are those that meet the current Multifamily Regional Service Standard (effective 2020), defined as:

Garbage and recycling, at least 20 gallons per apartment unit per week.

Glass, at least 1 gallon per apartment unit per week.



Multifamily Properties with Adequate Collection Services

The baseline data for this indicator was collected through a study of multifamily properties. Apart from the baseline data, the study looked at other aspects of multifamily collection services, in particular:

- Whether large items such as sofas and mattresses were found in garbage bins or collection areas.
- What colors are used for garbage and recycling bins at different multifamily properties.

These results will help implement future elements of the Multifamily Regional Service Standard that will require multifamily properties to have regular collection of large items (effective 2025) and follow a bin color standard (effective 2028).



25% of multifamily properties had large items in or around garbage bins

Large garbage items

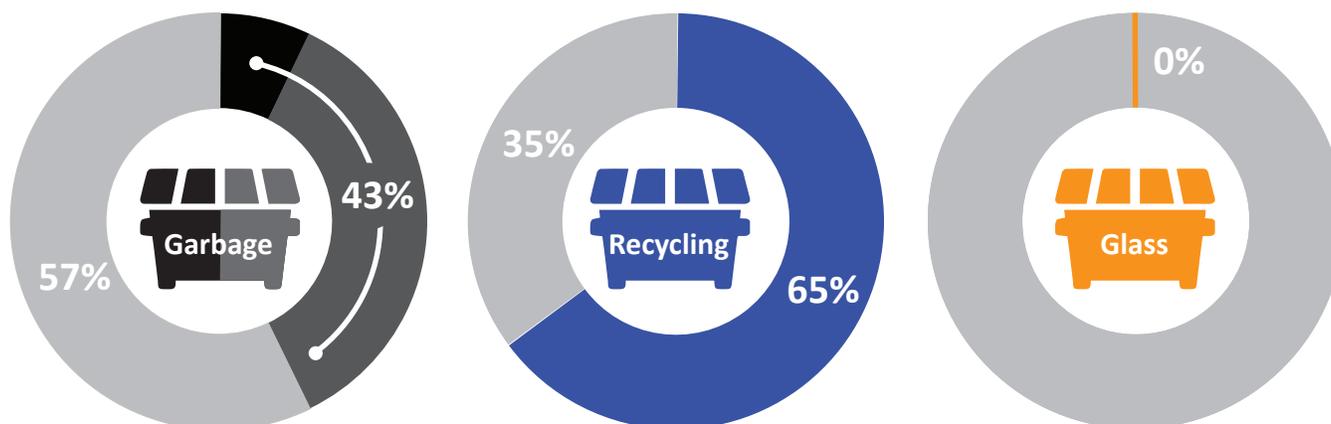
The study results show that large items were found at 25% of all the multifamily properties surveyed.

Bin colors and standards

To meet the bin color standard, garbage bins will have to be gray or black, recycling bins blue, and glass recycling bins orange.

The study results show that currently, an estimated 43% of garbage bins are black or gray and 65% of recycling bins are blue.

The study did not find, and did not expect to find, any orange glass recycling bins at the multifamily properties visited. The most common color for glass recycling bins found was blue (48% of bins).



Note: It is not unlikely that glass bins would be at zero because the standard for orange bins has not yet been established.

Multifamily Properties with Adequate Collection Services

2020-2021 Multifamily Garbage and Recycling Services Study and Standards

The data for this indicator come from a study by Metro with the help of Portland State University and information from cities, counties and collectors. The study surveyed 308 randomly selected multifamily sites across the region between October 2020 and April 2021.

Future studies will continue to evaluate the current Multifamily Regional Service Standard, as well as additional elements of that standard as they become effective.

The Regional Waste Plan prioritizes multifamily garbage and recycling services because people living in apartment and condominium homes often have less space for garbage and recycling than those living in single family homes and bins and collection areas can be confusing to navigate, making proper disposal and good recycling practices more difficult.

The updated standards aim to create an improved and more consistent garbage and recycling collection experience, with consistent bin colors, signage, and instructions from building to building. Consistency between multifamily sites is an important consideration to address recycling contamination, as half of renters move each year.



About the indicator

Data Year: 2021

Source: Metro

Data Frequency: Every 2-3 years

Scope: Clackamas County, Multnomah County and Washington County