



Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan

Phase 1: Developing values and outcomes

Overview

Metro's 2030 Regional Waste Plan set a vision to reduce waste, protect the environment and human health and provide excellent services for everyone. Facilities such as transfer stations or repair, reuse and recycling centers play a key role in managing the things we all throw away.

As the greater Portland region grows, the Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan will look at where we can invest in public, private or non-profit facilities or services to make our system work better for everyone.

What is guiding the development of this plan?

The values and racial equity principles of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan guide this work. The plan also includes a new value reflecting Metro's commitment to seek Tribal government consultation. From these values, staff created desired outcomes specific to this new plan. Together, the values and outcomes will steer the development of an investment plan that includes:

- a focus on reducing waste through infrastructure improvements
- improved quality and access to services
- affordable services for everyone

These values and outcomes will guide evaluation of service gaps and investment options and will be used to measure the overall success of the plan over the next 20 years.

The values and outcomes were shaped with input from multiple groups, including Metro Council and four advisory committees: Metro's Committee on Racial Equity, the Metro Policy Advisory Committee, the Regional Waste Advisory Committee and a newly formed community advisory group.

A focus on waste reduction

This plan will outline the infrastructure investments necessary to help the region reuse, repair and recycle more materials in order to reduce the negative health and environmental impacts of waste.

New facilities could help the region recover more waste through recycling, composting or energy recovery, instead of sending it to the landfill.

We can have an even greater impact on health and the environment by building infrastructure to reuse and repair more. Reusing and repairing materials not only avoids the health and environmental impacts from landfilling, but helps reduce the need to manufacture new products.



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Summarized Values and Outcomes:



Healthy people and environment

- Minimize the negative health and environmental impacts of facilities by incorporating innovative sustainability practices as outlined in Metro's green building policy
- Develop good neighbor agreements between communities and facilities



Resource conservation

- Identify the items the plan needs to target for reuse, repair, recycling or composting – and the infrastructure needed to manage them
- Increase access to donate and buy used items
- Provide workspace, reclaimed materials and other types of support to regional reuse and repair initiatives



Environmental literacy

- Provide learning opportunities at facilities through tours, displays, exhibits, viewing rooms
- Develop programming with organizations focused on waste prevention and environmental justice



Economic well-being

- Provide jobs with living wages, benefits, and safe work environments
- Recruit and retain workers who are underrepresented in the garbage and recycling industry
- Create opportunities within the garbage, recycling, reuse and repair sectors for people with barriers to employment



Excellent service and equitable system access

- Develop a network of facilities to provide equitable system access
- Establish direction for Metro transfer stations and Metro solid waste facilities
- Keep facility-based services affordable for low-income customers
- Make public facilities accessible for people with disabilities and people who rely on transit
- Develop multilingual and culturally relevant communication tools for facilities



Operational resilience

- Develop funding options that advance waste reduction and affordability goals
- Design efficient facilities to serve people quickly and recover useful materials
- Identify facility investment needs for natural hazard resilience
- Shape garbage and recycling system with key elements from regional transportation and land use planning efforts



Community restoration

- Evaluate potential facility benefits and burdens using a climate justice lens
- Incorporate the needs of marginalized communities in the planning process



Community partnerships

- Create a Community Advisory Group that works with staff to develop the plan
- Involve community-based organizations in decision-making of facility projects
- Partner with Black, Indigenous, People of Color Communities and immigrant-led organizations to support reuse and repair projects at new facilities



Community investment

- Develop Community Benefits Agreements to ensure benefits are equitably shared and address community needs
- Provide community gathering spaces such as parks and meeting rooms at public facilities that serve residential customers



Tribal consultation

- Seek to consult with Tribal governments to advance shared priorities such as cultural and historic resource protection, environmental protection and resources conservation.
- Establish partnerships with Tribes through government-to-government engagement

For more information, visit
[oregonmetro.gov/
systemfacilitiesplan](https://oregonmetro.gov/systemfacilitiesplan)