



Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan

About the project

Metro's 2030 Regional Waste Plan set a vision that centers racial equity to reduce waste, protect health and the environment and provide excellent services for everyone. Creating a Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan will help implement that vision by identifying the places where people lack services, and set a strategy to invest in modernizing the region's reuse, recycling and garbage infrastructure.

The plan will focus on facilities such as transfer stations and repair, reuse and recycling centers that play a key role in managing the things we all throw away. Future investments may include building new facilities, adding new services to existing facilities, and identifying other alternatives.

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
- keeping services affordable

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 community advisory groups and Metro Council.

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.

Reusing and repairing materials has even greater benefits by avoiding the negative impacts from landfilling and reducing 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, adaptability, and sustainability

- 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)