



# Community Partner Roundtable Summary

## Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan

*Metro hosted a roundtable on Oct. 6, 2022 to seek participation from community members and partners representing historically marginalized experiences. The focus of this meeting was to hear about garbage, recycling, reuse and repair service gaps that could be filled by new or updated facilities. The following is a summary of what Metro heard during breakout groups.*

### Round 1 discussion

Discussion was based on these questions:

- *What do you do with your garbage, recyclables, and other things you don't need anymore?*
- *What services are you signed up for and/or regularly use?*
- *What are the items or materials that are hard to get rid of?*

### What we heard:

#### Clackamas County

- Some don't use curbside service, only use Metro South Transfer Station
- Apartment building garbage enclosures are used, but lack recycling opportunities.
- Using community exchange free tables are popular for reusable items
- Batteries, sharps, yard waste, and hazardous waste are all difficult to get rid of

#### Multnomah County

- Group members use creative methods to repurpose or refurbish waste when possible
- Trying to not cook too much to prevent food waste, making broth with vegetable and meat scraps, home composting food waste for gardening

- Giving things away, putting things on curb, using Buy Nothing groups, Habitat for Humanity Restore for reusable items
- Community recycling events, Styrofoam depot on Rosa Parks/Vancouver are good supplemental recycling options
- Use transfer stations for large loads of waste
- Clothing, clamshells, paint, cooking oil are difficult to get rid of
- Ridwell is used for lightbulb recycling



#### Washington County, Group 1

- Collection events are a popular way to get rid of items for disposal. Better advertising, more frequency and language access is desired.
- Recycling worn-out clothes is a challenge, where can fabric be recycled?
- Tip: *Recycle Day* app shows events and facilities near you

#### Washington County, Group 2

- Use curbside pickup, collection events, dump/Transfer Station/landfills
- Disparity of prices for private vs Metro Transfer Stations, means many in Forest Grove/Cornelius must travel farther to Portland
- Differences in services between Apartment buildings and single family houses
- One participant collects food waste in their apartment and brings it to a friend's garden for composting
- Goodwill, Habitat for Humanity Restore, electronic waste collection are good supplemental options

## Round 2 discussion

Discussion was based on these questions:

- *What is working well about these systems?*
- *What is not working well?*
- *What services do you think are missing or wish you had access to in your community?*
- *What are the main barriers that limit you from taking garbage and recycling to a facility today? (cost, distance, accessibility, etc.)*

## What we heard

### Clackamas County

- Language, age and income barriers
- Transfer Stations are not working well because of staff turnover and long lines
- In person events with visual examples are very helpful, beneficial to see the piles of items

### Multnomah County

- Composting is working well except where it's not available for multifamily units and areas that don't offer food waste collection
- Need more education to know what is recyclable, it's complicated because of misleading labels
- Need more education for folks new to area etc.
- Love events, advertising is lacking



### Washington County, Group 1

- Satisfaction with home pickup service that include garbage, recycling and compost, plus using bottle drop
- Dissatisfied with affordability and price disparity between private and Metro Transfer Stations
- Transportation is a big barrier
- Styrofoam is a difficult item to store and to recycle
- Difficulty to access non-English language info to know how to dispose of items and knowing what's hazardous
- Events that accept refrigerators for fridges etc., some of events require to dispose of coolant liquid but that's not common knowledge
- Information access barriers for older folks and younger folks.
- Community organizations are helpful to reach community and host collection events



### Washington County, Group 2

- Shared garbage and recycling spaces in apartment buildings are nice for the community aspect, but there could be many more bins to collect additional items for reuse of special recycling
- Difficult to know what to do with medication
- Centro Cultural events that collect reuse and recycling as well as give vaccines and other offering, convenient to have a 'one stop shop'
- Need more services for houseless camps
- Need a shared community calendar to know where/when events are happening