



Community Advisory Group Summary

Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan

Metro convened a Community Advisory Group to advise on key decision-points throughout the development of the Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan. The committee met in October and December 2022 to identify, review, and discuss the garbage, recycling, reuse and repair service gaps that could be filled by new or updated facilities. The following is a high-level summary of what we heard.

Existing facility gaps

Committee members shared the following summarized comments about existing facilities:

- Reuse organizations and future drop off facilities should have longer and/or weekend hours. Some are hard to access depending on work schedules.
- Transportation from residences to facilities is needed for large, reusable items.
- Physical assistance is important to have at facilities for those who cannot lift items.
- Need more education and information in multiple languages on where facilities are located to recycle or donate items, especially for people new to the area.
- Household hazardous waste disposal is needed, even in areas that have a transfer station to collect it. This could be an issue with lack of transportation, improper education, or an inconvenience because of the long lines at existing facilities.
- Need to prioritize reuse and repair at facilities to combat culture of excess buying and consumerism.
- Need better education on where to take items (“garbage”) that can be reused.
- Need better options for repair services in Washington County.
- Marginalized people needing employment should be paired with reuse/repair organizations. A program for this could teach skills for repair/refurbishing of furniture and other items for reuse.
- Multifamily building garbage and recycling services are lacking; could develop fee for service, like a utility.
- If more space is needed for reuse/repair storage, could local governments provide use or access to unoccupied or underutilized buildings?
- Illegal dumping seems to be an issue across the entire Metro region. Can Metro collaborate with local governments to combat this problem?

Other system gaps

- Recycling at apartment buildings is challenging due to:
 - Lack of compost collection.
 - Bin capacity and improper sorting.
 - Glass collection is not standard in some areas.
 - Lack of direction or responsibility for recycling options from landlords/ building owners.



Hear from Bunsereyrythy (Bun) Kong, Washington County resident, about why he joined the Community Advisory Group, “I can bring the knowledge that I learn from the advisory committee to share with my community members.”

The advisory group will provide input and their expertise throughout all phases of the project. Learn more:

oregonmetro.gov/systemfacilitiesplan