



Garbage & Recycling System Facilities Plan Scenario Evaluation Criteria

How is Metro planning for investments in the region’s garbage and recycling infrastructure? By looking at multiple potential scenarios and weighing the benefits and tradeoffs of each approach.

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, repair, recycling and garbage infrastructure. The plan will focus on facilities such as transfer stations and reuse, repair, 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.

Scenario development

Scenario planning is a practice where communities can plan for an uncertain future by exploring multiple possibilities. Scenarios provide a framework for talking about future outcomes and support decision-making about projects, policies and investments.



There are four steps to finalizing potential investment scenarios:

- Develop scenarios – Approaches that Metro could take in planning for future facilities. The scenarios will represent options that are very different from each other to aid in discussions about potential outcomes and tradeoffs.
- Add key information – Key elements will be added to each scenario, including Metro’s future role, the fate of existing facilities, how the gaps are addressed, the estimated cost range to implement, and more.
- Evaluate criteria – Criteria will be developed based on project values and outcomes. The scenarios will be assessed and ranked using these criteria.
- Assess & discuss – The information above will be provided to stakeholders and engagement opportunities will be held this fall for feedback.

Criteria development

To compare possible scenarios or solutions to fill gaps in the region’s reuse, recycling and garbage system, the project team developed the six evaluation criteria .

The evaluation criteria were shaped by the specific set of [values and outcomes for the Garbage & Recycling System Facilities Plan](#) that were developed from the 2030 Regional Waste Plan with input from community advisory groups and Metro Council.

Evaluation criteria



Planning future investments

The project team will score the scenarios against the evaluation criteria using existing information, case studies from other jurisdictions and reasonable assumptions. The scenarios will be scored on a scale based on their relative potential to advance the project's values and outcomes.

The collective aim is to develop an investment plan that is focused on reducing waste through infrastructure improvements, improving quality and access to services, and keeping services affordable.