



# Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan

## Department staff survey results summary

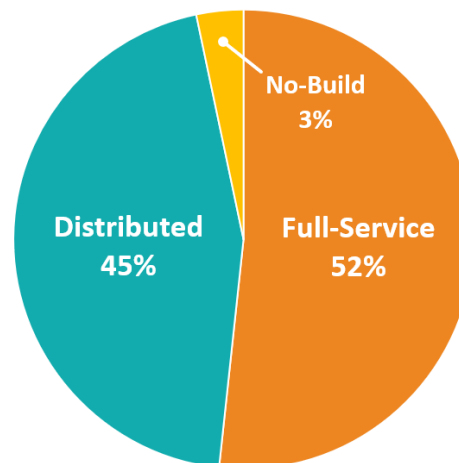
*In October 2023, staff from Metro’s Waste Prevention and Environmental Services department provided input on four scenarios that were developed for the Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan. The intent was to seek input and expertise from all levels of staff currently involved with operating, delivering and planning garbage and recycling services.*

Developing and discussing scenarios is a way to help people think about the many ways the future could unfold and support decision making on a preferred set of investments. From October 17 to October 31 an online survey collected feedback from staff at existing Metro facilities: Metro South and Metro Central transfer stations, St. Johns landfill, MetroPaint, and the RID Deployment Center in addition to waste prevention, education, policy and program staff. The following is a high-level summary of what we heard.

### System Facilities Plan scenarios, as presented in the discussion guide

Baseline	Full-Service
Metro does not build new facilities or address facility gaps, but maintains current facilities	Metro builds four large transfer stations and two new reuse facilities
Distributed	No-Build
Metro builds a network of distributed mid-sized facilities across the three counties	Metro increases requirements, invests in private facilities and renovates existing facilities

### Survey results



**61**  
staff took the survey

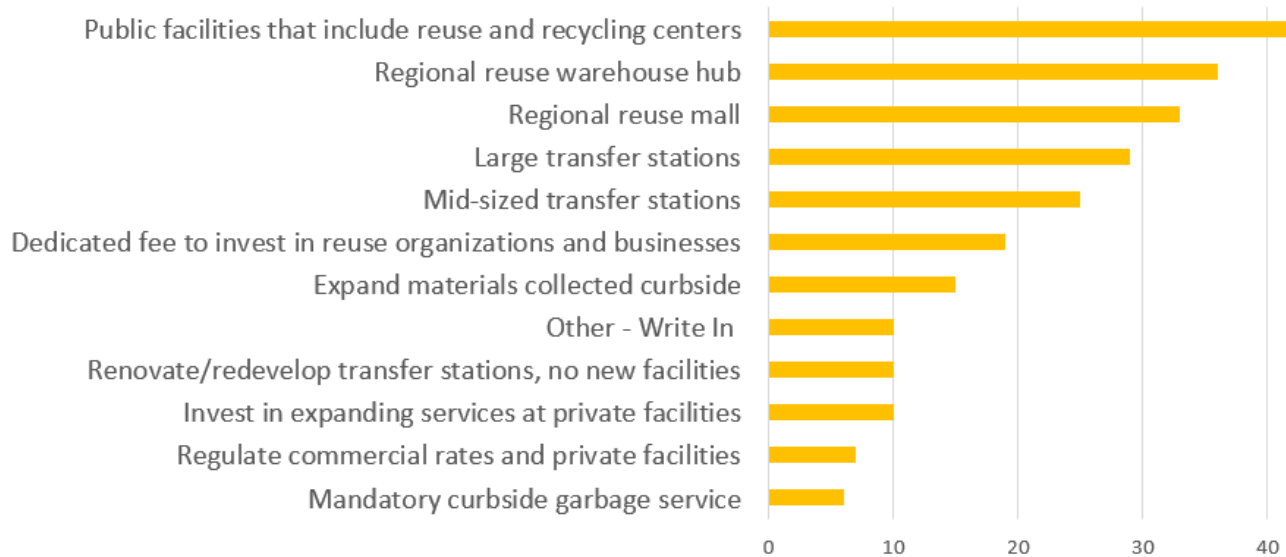
**52%**  
of staff preferred the Full-Service scenario, followed closely by the Distributed scenario (45%)

**Overall, staff placed the most value on** services available to the general public and how the scenario prioritized waste reduction, access and affordability. Least important to staff was how the scenario performed in the evaluation and how the scenario improved private facilities.

**Over half of WPES staff would make changes to their preferred scenario (52%)**

**In terms of impact to single-family collection bills, 68% preferred a moderate price increase** as described in the Full-Service scenario (\$4.10) as opposed to the Distributed (\$3) and No-Build (\$11.70) scenarios.

**Staff voted on their preferred scenario components, as summarized in this chart:**



**Notes from write-in comments**

- **Create a hybrid between Distributed and Full-Service scenarios**
- **Incorporate a reuse hub and reuse mall into any scenario**
  - Utilize Metro facility staff for running reuse facilities, expand upon current household hazardous waste reuse options
- **Prioritize upward mobility for facility staff**
  - Staff see benefits in Metro-run facilities and have concerns about contracting out operations
  - Develop comprehensive trainings to educate staff about all parts of Metro
- **Focus on service accessibility and environmental justice**
  - Balance need for accessible facilities throughout region and convenient, larger “one-stop-shops”
  - Sites located on the edge of the region may not serve many in the region well
  - Facilities should be evenly spread on both sides of the Willamette River
  - Proposed scenarios and actions may not significantly increase access to services for non-drivers
  - Is there a way to extend current bus lines to facilities, such as Metro Central transfer station?
  - Increase curbside pick-up options for large items and hazardous waste
  - Focus on expanding services that increase accessibility instead of building new full-size facilities
- **Current Metro facilities were not designed to accommodate current volumes and service levels**
  - Space and safety concerns related to existing facilities
  - Invest in current infrastructure and increase self-haul opportunities
- **Balance need for improvements with cost to customers**
  - The increased cost to customers in the No-Build scenario seems too high to justify
  - Can reuse efforts be funded in some way other than a fee for customers?
- **General comments**
  - Regulate private facility commercial rates
  - Move Metro’s focus towards upstream initiatives (reuse, toxics reduction) versus recycling
  - Incorporate education opportunities at facilities
  - Build facilities that support food container and drink bottle refilling initiatives
  - Increase local recycling capabilities, such as building a plastics recycling facility
  - Concern over selling Metro land that is suitable for a facility because suitable land is hard to find