

STAFF REPORT

INTRODUCTION TO THE GARBAGE AND RECYCLING SYSTEM FACILITIES PLAN PROJECT

Date: 4/5/2022

Department: Waste Prevention and Environmental Services (WPES)

Meeting Date: 4/19/2022

Presenter(s): Gloria Pinzón (WPES); Luis Sandoval (WPES)

Length: 15 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

Metro has started the process for developing a Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan to outline future infrastructure investments and services needed to fulfill the goals in the 2030 Regional Waste Plan over the next 20 years.

The plan will assess the region's current public, private and non-profit garbage, recycling and reuse infrastructure and identify services gaps. To fill those gaps, the plan will present approaches and a plan for future system investments, including construction of new facilities and incorporation of new services into existing facilities.

The plan will consider costs and ratepayer impacts, and will elevate the needs of communities of color and other groups historically underserved or impacted by the garbage and recycling system.

Metro expects to complete the Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan in five major phases, from February 2022 to summer 2023:

Phase 1 Policy Direction and Values	Develop a shared understanding of existing policy guidance and commitment to values and outcomes that will guide the development of the plan.
Phase 2 Gap Analysis	Identify current and future gaps in the regional garbage and recycling system of public, private and non-profit facilities.
Phase 3 Scenarios Development	Develop alternative future scenarios to consider tradeoffs of different paths forward and select a preferred scenario.
Phase 4 Implementation Strategy	Develop facility priorities and financing options for plan implementation for Metro Council's endorsement.
Phase 5 Plan Adoption	Present the Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan for Metro Council to consider for adoption.

Timeline for the Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan project



To help develop the plan, Metro will use a combination of Metro staff and consultants. A Request for Proposals for a consultant was issued on March 10, 2022 and will close on April 21, 2022. The process for selecting consultants has actively sought participation by COBID-certified firms and consultants with expertise in engaging historically-marginalized communities and developing programs and services that advance racial equity.

Engagement

Throughout the plan development process, the project will seek to engage potentially affected and interested individuals, communities and organizations, as well as local governments, businesses, reuse organizations and advocacy organizations. Staff plan to seek input from the Metro Policy Advisory Committee, the Regional Waste Advisory Committee and the Committee on Racial Equity at key decision points. Integral to this decision-making process is providing timely opportunities for community partners and the public to provide input to these advisory committees.

While Metro will engage the general public through a variety of means, particular emphasis will be placed on engaging communities of color, urban indigenous peoples and tribal nations and other communities who may be more directly impacted by the decisions that affect the garbage and recycling system, but may have fewer opportunities to influence and shape that system. As part of this commitment, Metro is currently working to convene a Community Advisory Group that will work alongside Metro project staff to advise Metro Council on key decision points throughout all phases of the planning process. The Community Advisory Group will focus on ensuring that shared prosperity, equitable access to services, environmental justice and racial equity are considered throughout the development of the Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan.

Local governments will be engaged through Metro Council formal advisory committees, as well as through other activities. Engagement will also include participation by businesses, privately owned garbage and recycling companies, reuse organizations and advocacy organizations.

Opportunities for Committee on Racial Equity engagement

The project team would like to invite the Committee on Racial Equity to participate in the development of the Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan, subject to the Committee's interest and desired level of involvement.

After today's meeting, the project staff plan to share the project's draft values and outcomes for Committee members to review for discussion and feedback at the

Committee’s May 19 meeting. A key question for the Committee to consider is whether the project’s values and outcomes align with Metro’s Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion goals.

At the May 19 meeting, staff will also propose a draft engagement timeline for the Committee to provide input at key decision points of the project.

The project team would also like to invite interested members of the Committee on Racial Equity to participate in the project’s Community Advisory Group, which is expected to meet monthly and work alongside staff to guide and review the consultant’s work throughout the planning process (spring 2022 to summer 2023).

Metro expects Community Advisory Group members to spend a total of 25 to 50 hours in meetings and preparing for discussions throughout the process. Community Advisory Group meetings are expected to be conducted virtually, until Metro policy allows in-person meetings and the Community Advisory Group chooses to change the meeting format.

Community Advisory Group members will receive monthly stipends to acknowledge their participation. Transportation, childcare, and support with technology can also be made available as needed. Metro will also provide access to interpretation and translation services for participants.

COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT

Staff will seek Metro Council’s input on and endorsement of key deliverables at each of the five phases of the planning process. The first engagement with Council will take place in late May, at which Council will consider endorsing the project’s draft values and outcomes. The deliverables to be reviewed by Metro Council in all phases of the project are outlined below, ending with consideration of the final plan for Council approval at the end of phase 5 (summer 2023).

Council engagement timeline

Phase 1	Metro Council endorses the values and outcomes that will guide plan development.
Phase 2	Metro Council reviews and provides feedback on the gap analysis of the regional garbage and recycling system.
Phase 3	Metro Council endorses a preferred scenario for filling current and anticipated gaps in the garbage and recycling system.
Phase 4	Metro Council endorses facility priorities and a financing approach for plan implementation.
Phase 5	Metro Council considers adoption of the Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan.

QUESTION(S) for CORE

1. Do you have any general, clarifying questions about the Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan project?
2. Are there members of the Committee on Racial Equity who are interested in participating in the project's Community Advisory Group?

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Metro has broad authority, from the Metro Charter, the Oregon Constitution, and Oregon statutes, for planning, managing and overseeing the regional solid waste system. In 1987, the Metro Council designated solid waste as an area and activity appropriate for a functional plan (Metro Ordinance 87-740), recognizing the complexity of managing this system across two dozen cities and portions of three counties, over a million residents, thousands of businesses and many solid waste service providers.

The 2030 Regional Waste Plan, adopted by the Metro Council in 2019 (Metro Ordinance 19-1431), is the greater Portland area's long-range blueprint for managing and reducing the environmental impacts of goods consumed in the region, from production to disposal. The plan sets goals and policies for the region to reduce the amount of waste it generates, promote greater reuse and recycling of items, and manage the waste that is leftover in a manner that protects the environment and public health, gets the best value for the public's money, and advances racial equity, diversity and inclusion in the region.

On March 3, 2022, Metro Council approved Resolution No. 22-5248, directing Metro staff and adopting a work plan to develop a Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan to serve as a companion document to the 2030 Regional Waste Plan. The resolution reaffirms that the Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan will be guided by the same values, principles and vision of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan and will outline future infrastructure investments and services needed to fulfill Regional Waste Plan goals over the next 20 years.

RELEVANCE TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN TO ADVANCE RACIAL EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

This project has the potential to advance Goals A, B, C, D and E of Metro's Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

Goal A. Metro convenes and supports regional partners to advance racial equity.

The Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan development process will convene local governments, businesses, reuse organizations, advocacy organizations and a Community Advisory Group to assess the current and anticipated gaps in the regional garbage and recycling system and to develop a plan for future infrastructure investments and services needed to fill those gaps. The planning effort will elevate the needs of communities of color and other groups who have been historically underserved or impacted by the regional garbage and recycling system. This will help advance racial equity by improving the distribution of and access to garbage, recycling, reuse and repair services in the region.

Goal B. Metro meaningfully engages communities of color.

The project intends to engage communities of color throughout the five phases of the planning process using a variety of methods. Staff plan to seek input from the Regional Waste Advisory Committee and the Committee on Racial Equity at key decision points. Metro is also convening a Community Advisory Group that will work alongside Metro project staff to advise Metro Council on key decision points throughout the project. Metro is prioritizing participants for this group from communities of color and from communities that have not often participated in garbage and recycling system planning and policy development processes.

Metro will engage the general public at large through a variety of means such as surveys and open houses, with particular emphasis on engaging communities of color, urban indigenous peoples and tribal nations and other communities who may be more directly impacted by the decisions that affect the garbage and recycling system, but may have fewer opportunities to influence and shape that system.

Goal C. Metro hires, trains and promotes a racially diverse workforce

The 2030 Regional Waste Plan has the following two goals related to workforce diversity, wages and benefits:

Regional Waste Plan Goal 3

Ensure that all jobs in the garbage and recycling industry pay living wages and include good benefits.

Regional Waste Plan Goal 4

Increase the diversity of the workforce in all occupations where people of color, women and other historically marginalized communities are underrepresented.

To help implement these Regional Waste Plan goals, this project has a number of related, draft desired outcomes for the development and implementation of the Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan. These desired outcomes include:

- Offering jobs with living wages and benefits at all Metro garbage and recycling facilities
- Implementing strategies to recruit, train and retain workers from underrepresented groups in the garbage, recycling, reuse and repair sectors, particularly women and people of color.

The draft outcomes will be shared with the Committee on Racial Equity for discussion at the May 19 meeting and that feedback will be shared with Metro Council in late May.

Goal D. Metro creates safe and welcoming services, programs and destination

In line with Regional Waste Plan values and goals, the draft desired outcomes for this project related to Goal D include:

- Developing environmental education and programming for future Metro facilities in partnership with community-based organizations and organizations focused on waste prevention, reuse, repair, recycling and composting.
- Locating facilities that are designed to serve the general public near major roads or highways and close to public transit to increase access for people without cars.
- Keeping services at facilities affordable for low-income customers through methods such as discounts or income-based sliding scale pricing.
- Employing multilingual and culturally competent staff, as well as communication tools such as flyers and signs that are simple and easy to understand by all.
- Designing and building Metro facilities that are accessible and inclusive to people with disabilities.

These draft outcomes will be shared with the Committee on Racial Equity for discussion at the May 19 meeting and that feedback will be shared with Metro Council in late May.

Goal E. Metro’s resource allocation advances racial equity

Related to Goal E, Metro issued a Request for Proposals on March 10, 2022. The process for selecting the consultants to work on this project has actively informed and encouraged participation by COBID-certified firms and consultants with expertise in engaging historically-marginalized communities and developing programs and services that advance racial equity.

The project’s draft desired outcomes based on the Regional Waste Plan values and goals also include:

- Developing Community Benefits Agreements between new and existing Metro facilities with their host community to ensure benefits and investments are equitably shared and help address the host community’s needs.
- Partnering with and supporting projects led by people, organizations and businesses from communities of color, immigrant communities and other historically marginalized groups at Metro facilities where it is feasible to provide business incubator or space for reuse, repair and upcycling of materials.

These draft outcomes will be shared with the Committee on Racial Equity for discussion at the May 19 meeting and that feedback will be shared with Metro Council in late May.

ATTACHMENTS

None