

**METRO REGIONAL WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 17, 2020**

COMMITTEE INPUT ON PRIORITIZED ACTIONS FOR REGIONAL WORK PLAN FY 2020 - 2023

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Overview

Metro and local government partners are collaboratively developing a three-year work plan to support implementation of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan. The work plan will prioritize actions for implementation in years one through three of the Regional Waste Plan; identify high-level activities to achieve each action; and include estimates of resources needed to complete the work which will inform Metro and local government budgeting and resource allocation decisions.

The Regional Waste Advisory Committee's role in this process is to review and provide input on the actions and activities that are prioritized for implementation in each three-year work plan.

Regional Waste Advisory Committee Input

The first phase of the project is to identify actions for the 3-year work plan, including agency roles and responsibilities for action implementation. On October 30th the committee was provided with the list of actions prioritized for implementation by Metro and local governments for review and input. Questions for consideration included:

1. Which actions were not included that should be? Why?
2. Which actions were included that should not be? Why?
3. Which actions should the Regional Waste Advisory Committee have continued engagement?

To facilitate input, Metro staff conducted an online survey and additional input was gathered at the November 19th committee meeting. Committee input revealed:

- Most committee members do not perceive that there are actions missing.
- No specific actions were recommended for removal.
- There was no consensus on actions the committee should continue to engage in.
 - Some agreement that equity should remain a focus of the committee.
 - Sub-committees were suggested to accommodate the varied interests.

The following section includes a full list of the committee's input, how the input was incorporated into the final list of actions for the 3-year work plan and answers to general questions. The information is organized by the questions.

Question 1: Which actions were not included that should be? Why?

- 1 **Comment:** Goal 4: 4.3 I think this goal should be highlighted in light green because it's important to have these follow-ups and assessments.

Staff Response: Action to be included in future work plan.

- 2 **Comment:** Raise priority levels of 5.1,5,6 - advocacy for legislation.

Staff Response: Actions 5.1, 5.5 and 5.6 are included in the FY 20-23 work plan. The actions selected for the FY 20-23 work plan are all prioritized for implementation. The color

coding indicates how Metro and cities and counties will work together to implement the actions.

- 3 Comment:** Goal 5: 5.3 This action is new, but I believe it plays a big part in the goal. It's vital to continue to build relationships and partnerships with all the stakeholders and how this impacts the wider communities of Oregon.

Staff Response: Action to be included in future work plan.

- 4 Comment:** 7.1,2,4 - policies that support prevention and procurement, particularly 7.

Staff Response: Actions 7.1, 7.2 and 7.4 are included in the FY 20-23 work plan.

- 5 Comment:** 8.3 - increase reuse, repair, donation through building codes. The potential for emissions reductions by reusing building materials is significant. It is also relatively easy to implement through requiring minimum percentages of reused materials in construction.

Staff Response: Action to be included in future work plan.

- 6 Comment:** 8.4 - Expand collection of reusable materials at transfer stations. It isn't clear to me whether this would include smaller, local recycling and reuse depots, instead of just large transfer stations.

Staff Response: Action to be included in future work plan.

- 7 Comment:** Goal 8: 8.3, 8.4 both of these actions are similar in the aspect of reuse and repair. Reuse plays a huge role in many appropriate fields its being sustainable and using materials, items etc. more than once which can make an impact. I do understand how these actions can struggle due to COVID-19.

Staff Response: Action to be included in future work plan.

- 8 Comment:** 10.8 - Advocacy for EPR. Raise priority level.

Staff Response: Action 10.8 is include in the FY 20-23 work plan.

- 9 Comment:** 11.5, 11.6, 11.7 - research root cause of illegal dumping, collection services for homeless (should be a high priority), public collection bins (local recycle and reuse depots could address some dumping).

Staff Response: Actions 11.5, 11.6 and 11.7 are included in the FY 20-23 work plan. The actions selected for the FY 20-23 work plan are all prioritized for implementation. The color coding indicates how Metro and cities and counties will work together to implement the actions.

- 10 Comment:** 15.3 and 15.10 - improve systems for recovering recyclables and local end markets. If 15.3 can increase the number and type of local recyclers and remanufacturers, it should be a higher priority.

Staff Response: Action 15.3 is included in the FY 20-23 work plan. The actions selected for the FY 20-23 work plan are all prioritized for implementation. The color coding indicates how Metro and cities and counties will work together to implement the actions. Action 15.10 to be included in future work plan.

- 11 Comment:** 16 1,2,3,4,5,6 - maintain transfer stations and small recycling depots. These are included as mid-priority but which of these actions promote small recycling and reuse depots? Not clear to me.

Staff Response: Actions, 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.4, 16.5 and 16.6 are include in the FY 20-23 work plan. The actions selected for the FY 20-23 work plan are all prioritized for implementation. The color coding indicates how Metro and cities and counties will work together to implement the actions.

- 12 Comment:** 19.4 - Strategies for safe use of disaster debris. With climate change, we will have more disasters that will disrupt our systems. We need to find ways to reuse debris, rather than simply remove it. 19.5 could be a higher priority than currently classified - setting requirements for recycling disaster debris. Relatedly, 18.6 (assess waste facilities for vulnerabilities to disaster) should be a priority.

Staff Response: Actions 19.4 and 18.6 to be included in future work plan. Action 19.5 is included in the FY 20-23 work plan. The actions selected for the FY 20-23 work plan are all prioritized for implementation. The color coding indicates how Metro and cities and counties will work together to implement the actions.

- 13 Comment:** I observed that most of the actions that focused on research and evaluation were not prioritized. I understand that local governments are more focused on implementation than research, but without good measurement, and understanding the dynamics and structures of our waste system, the RWP risks spending funds and expending effort on symptoms rather than causes.

Staff Response: The plan includes a measurement framework to evaluate progress. The measurement framework identifies three types of indicators including Key Indicators, Goal Indicators and Performance Indicators. Some of the data to inform the indicators is available like tons of waste generated. Other indicators will require collecting new data. Please refer to the Measuring Progress chapter of the Regional Waste Plan for a description of each type of indicator. Metro is in the process of developing a concept for an annual Regional Waste Plan report that will track progress towards implementing plan actions and meeting indicators.

- 14 Comment:** I do think we need to make sure we put some attention to disaster and resilience planning. Not just for the earthquake, but also just continuity of operations.

Staff Response: Actions 17.2, 18.2, and 19.3 focused on disaster resilience and continuity of operations were added as regional priority actions for the FY 20-23 work plan.

Question 2: Which actions were included that should not be? Why?

- 15 Comment:** 8.1 - food donation and recovery. Effort should be placed on increasing access to food in regular distribution channels (stores, farmers' markets, community gardens, growing food at home) and reducing wasted food through more accurate purchasing and use by food service vendors. Food donation and recovery creates a parallel, separate system that generates GHGs through increased transportation of food.

Staff Response: Metro explored involvement in wider food systems and food access work beyond composting, donation and prevention and determined that this type of work does not have a strong enough tie to our materials management/solid waste system work to justify use of solid waste funds. The Business Food Waste Requirement requires that local governments provide businesses with technical assistance for prevention, donation and composting. Metro is supporting these efforts through the Food Waste Stops With Me campaign which is linked to statewide efforts as well as regional partnerships with the Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association, Oregon Food Bank and other experts able to share knowledge and connect food service professionals to each other, resources and technical assistance to help reduce food waste. Action 6.5 is included in the FY 20-23 work plan and is specific to food waste prevention for both the residential and commercial sector.

- 16 Comment:** 9.1 - increase knowledge about recycling through education to residents and businesses. Effort should be focused on reducing waste upstream, to reduce the burden on residents and businesses. How do we make it easy for end users while producing a quality stream of materials for reuse and recycling? More productive to make simple systems with fewer inputs (types of materials) than educating end users.

Staff Response: State law requires education be provided about waste prevention, including reduce and reuse practices, in addition to education about recycling. Taken as a whole, the goals and actions in the plan address every stage of the product life cycle and address community needs within the garbage and recycling system.

- 17 Comment:** 15.1 - end user contamination education. The real problem is the mix of packaging types that overwhelm consumers, not training consumers to sort materials better. The effort to clean up the materials stream is misplaced by prioritizing contamination education.

Staff Response: State law requires education be provided to reduce contamination. We expect there will be stronger requirements for contamination reduction education, technical assistance and direct feedback to generators in the future if the DEQ recycling modernization proposal is adopted by the legislature. In addition, the proposal includes a number of elements to make recycling easier and less confusing for residents. Taken as a whole, the goals and actions in the plan address every stage of the product life cycle and address community needs within the garbage and recycling system.

- 18 Comment:** I think we should be putting more movement behind the minority business contracts and a piece of all contracts need to have a number of youth working in entry level positions in those minority contracts.

Staff Response: We will discuss this recommendation with cities and counties

19 Comment: I would just advocate that Metro not take on work that the DEQ is already working on and support efforts already happening. I also suggest we look at Climate Action Plans that are being put together or updated to align our work.

Staff Response: Noted.

Question 3: Which actions should the Regional Waste Advisory Committee have continued engagement?

20 Comment

Goal 5: I am particularly glad to see the following prioritized and would like the RWAC to engage in:

- 5.4 - advocating for product stewardship (and other policy advocacy that wasn't prioritized)
- 8.5 - neighborhood scale reuse infrastructure
- 10.1,5,6 - MF bulky waste, food scraps, enclosures, business food scrap collection, **if paired with wasted food prevention efforts**

Goal 11:

I think 11.5, 11.6, 11.7 are especially important and are among the top issues for the Portland Metro area - research root cause of illegal dumping, collection services for homeless (should be a top priority), public collection bins (local recycle and reuse depots could address some dumping)

21 Comment

I would like to continue to be engaged/informed of the progress of these actions:

- Goal 1: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3
- Goal 2: 2.3
- Goal 4: 4.2, 4.5
- Goal 5: 5.1, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6
- Goal 6: 6.2, 6.3, 6.5
- Goal 7: 7.2
- Goal 10: 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.5, 10.6
- Goal 11: 11.5, 11.6, 11.7
- Goal 12: 12.1
- Goal 14: 14.1, 14.5
- Goal 15: 15.1, 15.2, 15.4, 15.8
- Goal 16: 16.1, 16.3

22 Comment

Maybe focus on the actions that have the largest equity implications.

23 Comment

Goal 3. 1-3

24 Comment

Actions that involve public behavior or equity may be the best options for this committee. This committee no longer has a number of industry representation so that should be considered with actions we focus on.

25 Comment I think there are different interests among partners within the advisory committee - maybe consider subcommittees based on interest and capacity.

26 Comment There needs to be more discussion on fees and how these are applied equitably.

General Questions:

27 Question **Question:** Does 15.10 represent an opportunity to evaluate and design a new model for funding waste prevention work, de-coupled from waste?

Staff Response: This action includes an evaluation of a range of options related to the use of garbage tip fees to incentivize waste prevention. This could include new funding models. This action is not on the current draft of the three year work plan.

28 Question **Question:** 6.2,3,5 - reduce environmental impact through education and behavior change, including education about connection between consumption and nature, single use products, and food waste prevention assistance. How do we do this education paired with education on how to make change upstream, to not focus on end user choices but changing the choices available to them?

Staff Response: Taken as a whole, the goals and actions in the plan address every stage of the product life cycle and address community needs within the garbage and recycling system. Educating consumers to advocate for changing the choices made available to them is included in many of the existing education programs (examples in school programs, Master Recyclers, Environmental Promoters?). This is also prioritized in action 5.1, 5.2 and 5.4 through legislative efforts and assistance in implementing existing laws including advocating for product stewardship legislation, eco-modulated fees and implementing the Oregon Toxic-Free Kids Act.

29 Question **Question:** Which actions promote small recycling and reuse depots? (Group 16) Not clear to me.

Staff Response: Goal 8 and Actions 8.4 and 8.5 include activities related to expanding reuse at transfer stations and in neighborhood scale infrastructure. Goal 16 and Action 16.1 includes smaller recycling depots and larger full service stations.

30 Question **Questions:** Fewer temps and contractors. Many workers need flexible schedules, part-time work (though with benefits). I am concerned that an emphasis on creating full-time, permanent positions will favor men over women, and people who have fewer caregiving obligations. Can living wage, part-time positions that do not have high barriers for entry and re-entry be made available to a diversity of people?

Staff Response: The intent of this action is to provide stable, living wage jobs with benefits. These jobs may be part-time or full-time with varying levels of entry. It is not to solely create full time jobs.

31 Questions

Question: Goal 15: How are community needs assessed? - anywhere in this plan -> who would lead? Are these community led?

Staff Response: As a part of plan development, Metro conducted extensive outreach to communities to identify and understand needs of specific communities. As a part of plan implementation, Metro, cities and counties will continue to work with culturally specific community organizations to continue existing partnerships and develop new partnerships. This will include co-development of programs and services.

32 Question

Question: Questions about evaluation actions - Are these based on existing data or would this include new data collection?

Staff Response: The plan includes a measurement framework to evaluate progress. The measurement framework identifies three types of indicators including Key Indicators, Goal Indicators and Performance Indicators. Some of the data to inform the indicators is available like tons of waste generated. Other indicators will require collecting new data. Please refer to the Measuring Progress chapter of the Regional Waste Plan for a description of each type of indicator. Metro is in the process of developing a concept for an annual Regional Waste Plan report that will track progress towards implementing plan actions and meeting indicators.

33 Question

Question: What does light green mean for movement on the action? Is there support? Does it mean it will be more challenging?

Staff Response: The color coding of the actions indicates how Metro, cities and counties will work together to implement the actions. It does not indicate level of importance, level of support or difficulty in implementing an action. Actions shaded in light green will be implemented by some combination of Metro and local governments. A full explanation of the color coding was provided at the November 19, 2020 committee meeting.

34 Question

Question: General questions around how this plan is communicated to community? How to break down a 30 -year plan in 3- year work plans. What does that mean for community engagement? How is outreach done to ensure communities receive this information?

Staff Response: The plan directs Metro to provide annual reports on progress including the status of each action. These reports will be posted on Metro's website, shared with community groups that participated in plan development, and presented to RWAC. The three-year work plans

will also be shared with community partners that are involved with plan implementation activities and presented to RWAC.