

REGIONAL WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Worksheet

PRESENTATION DATE: August 18, 2022 **LENGTH:** 30 minutes

PRESENTATION TITLE: Metro Regional Cleanup Services and Special Funding Updates

DECISION TYPE: N/A

RELATED REGIONAL WASTE PLAN GOALS: 11.4, 11.6, 10.4, 10.5

PRESENTER(S): JON MAYER, JENNIFER PAYNE, LISA CLARK, STEPHANIE RAWSON

PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

- Share updates related to regional cleanup efforts including \$10 million from the State of Oregon

ACTION REQUESTED

- Informational with call to action to share and promote availability of Regional Refresh Fund sponsorship program

BACKGROUND

- The emergence of the pandemic in 2020 significantly impacted Metro's capacity to provide community cleanup services and resources. As a result of the increased graffiti and litter across the region, Metro Council adopted a budget modification in April, 2021 totaling \$3.5 million to help address the increase in dumped garbage and to return RID Patrol to pre-pandemic service levels.
- On February 28, 2022, House Bill 5202 was approved by the State of Oregon Legislature and signed into law by Governor Kate Brown, sending \$10 million to the Metro region for cleanup of public spaces in the greater Portland area. Metro is responsible for the administration of these funds. Metro has begun working on plans to allocate this funding for expansion of existing internal programming as well as that of local jurisdictions, state agencies, nonprofits and other community based organizations engaged in cleanup efforts to demonstrate significant impacts during Summer 2022. In agreement with the State of Oregon, these funds will not be used for activities associated with camp site removal or to backfill existing funding. See attachment for Metro's funding strategy.
- This funding primarily supports goals 10 and 11 of the Regional Waste Plan by providing services to cleanup illegal dumps on public property and prioritizing communities with the greatest need, and by providing consistent regional and upstream services to mitigate the

areas with the greatest barriers to disposal such as multifamily communities and lower-income households.

- Roy Brower may have given a short, informal update at a prior meeting.

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- N/A

NEXT STEPS

- Share out of results to date at October 20th RWAC meeting

ATTACHMENTS

- Strategy Overview Metro Regional Cleanup Funds



Strategy Overview

Metro Regional Cleanup Funds

House Bill 5202, approved by the Oregon Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Kate Brown, will send \$10 million to the Metro region for clean-up of public spaces. Metro will allocate funding for expansion of existing internal programming as well as that of local jurisdictions, state agencies, nonprofits and other community organizations engaged in cleanup efforts to demonstrate significant impacts by summer 2022.

How will funding be utilized?

The majority of funding will be used to address highly visible impacts of trash through removal of litter, dumpsites and other hard to dispose of materials such as abandoned boats and RVs. The remaining funds will support proper disposal of commonly dumped items (bulky waste, sharps and other hazardous materials), graffiti abatement, and environmental or community restoration needs. Funds will be utilized to expand existing efforts rather than backfill programs and services that already have budget allocation and will not be used to sweep houseless camps or upgrade buildings.

The table below outlines Metro’s investment recommendations grouped into three main categories: expand cleanup crews (blue), invest in partner-led clean-up and mitigation (green) and target removal of key problematic dumped items (pink). Exact funding per line may shift as Metro continues to evaluate need.

Regional Cleanup Strategies – \$10M State of Oregon funding

Funding	Purpose	Example metric
\$3,000,000	Expand ODOT crews to clean-up trash along high-use highway corridors	Number of sites cleaned
\$2,000,000	Allocation to local governments for major projects	Equity focus areas served
\$1,000,000	Allocation to non-profit partners already focused on regional clean-up	Tons of waste collected
\$300,000	Expand Metro’s Regional Refresh Fund sponsorship program	Area of ground restored
\$300,000	Expand bulky waste collection events led by Metro partners	Number of events
\$2,700,000	Support boat removal and develop takeback program	Number of boats removed
\$500,000	Procure and install sharps collection boxes	Number of sharps collected
\$200,000	Metro limited duration staffing for program administration	

Questions? Please reach out to lisa.clark@oregonmetro.gov



Metro Regional Cleanup Special Funding

Updates and discussion

August 2022



Investing in cleanup needs

2020 – Significant impacts to cleanup services across the region due to COVID

2021 - \$3.5M budget Metro budget modification to restore and expand WPES services

2022 - \$10M state funding allocated to Metro to further address regional cleanup needs and expand capacity



Regional Program Updates

- Regional Illegal Dumping Program
- Regional Refresh Fund
- Neighborhood collection events
- State clean-up funding



Regional Illegal Dumping Program

- Cleaned up more than 3,000 sites in the last year
- Average response time 2.5 days
- Operating with six crews



Regional Refresh Fund

Expansion of flexible, low barrier funding for community-led projects including:

- Litter pick up
- Graffiti removal
- Difficult to dispose items



Neighborhood Collection Events

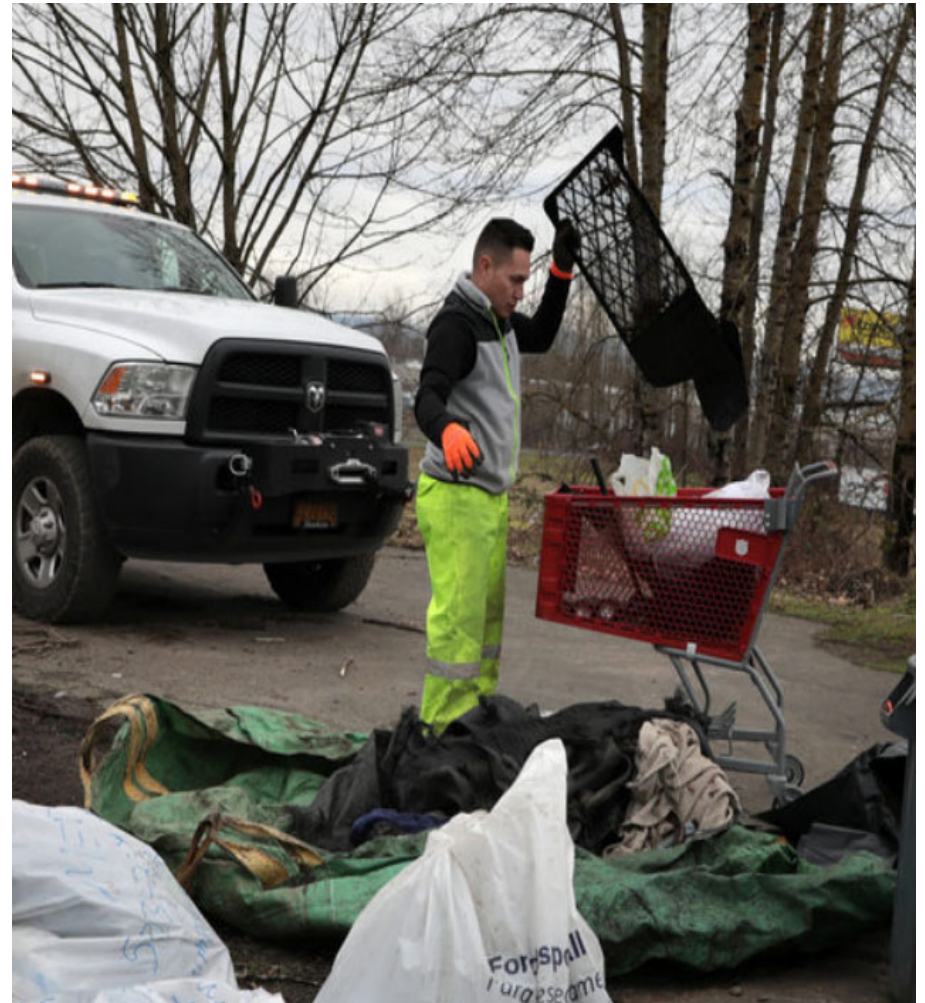
13 community
partnership collection
events

4 large scale household
hazardous waste
collection events



State Clean Up Funding Priorities

- Locally led efforts
- Bulky waste collection
- Boat and RV removal
- Highway corridors
- Sharps collection



Funding goals

- Expansion of Metro, local jurisdictions and state agencies' cleanup efforts addressing visible, high impacts sites such as along highway corridors.
- Majority of funds should focus on downstream efforts, 75%
- Funds may also be allocated upstream such as bulky waste collection, 25%
- Prioritize expansion of existing projects
- Continue to center equity and ensure funding is accessible

Racial equity considerations

- Investment in communities with greatest barriers to disposal and most impacted
- Expand on community led efforts
- Utilize COBID firms whenever possible
- Ensure funds, such as sponsorships, are low barrier and accessible

State Cleanup Funding Strategy

Funding	Purpose
\$3,000,000	Expand ODOT crews to cleanup dumped trash along high-use highway corridors
\$2,000,000	Allocation to local governments for major projects focused on removal of problematic dumped items, removal of abandoned RVs, graffiti abatement and litter and dumpsite cleanups
\$1,000,000	Allocation to non-profit partners already focused on regional cleanup for projects related to mitigation of litter, dumpsite cleanup, graffiti abatement and bulky waste collection
\$300,000	Expand Metro’s Regional Refresh Fund sponsorship program which provides equity-focused cleanup resources to community based organizations, nonprofits, business districts, local governments and others
\$300,000	Expand bulky waste collection events led by Metro partners, including other local governments and nonprofits, for focused bulky waste removal efforts in communities most impacted
\$2,700,000	Support boat removal and develop takeback program for abandoned and derelict vessels within waterways and on land which cause significant environmental and social impacts
\$500,000	Procure and install sharps collection boxes to increase regional capacity to address significant issue of improperly disposed of sharps littering public spaces

Timeline

MARCH	APRIL-MAY	JUNE*	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	JUNE 2023
State of Oregon HB 5202 announced	Project scoping and stakeholder engagements	Contracts and special procurements		RWAC and Metro Council engagements	First impact reporting (quarterly)	All funds spent down Final impact reporting
Clean-up projects underway						

**Funds transfer from State of Oregon to Metro*

Locally led efforts

Direct funding for city and county led efforts to conduct clean-up and removal of litter including:

- Abandoned RV cleanup
- Bulky waste collection
- Clean up crews
- Curbside bulky waste vouchers
- Vehicles and equipment
- Graffiti abatement



Locally led efforts

Funding for community organization led efforts to conduct clean up including:

- Adopt One Block
- SOLVE
- Trash for Peace
- Cultivate Initiatives



Boat and RV Removal

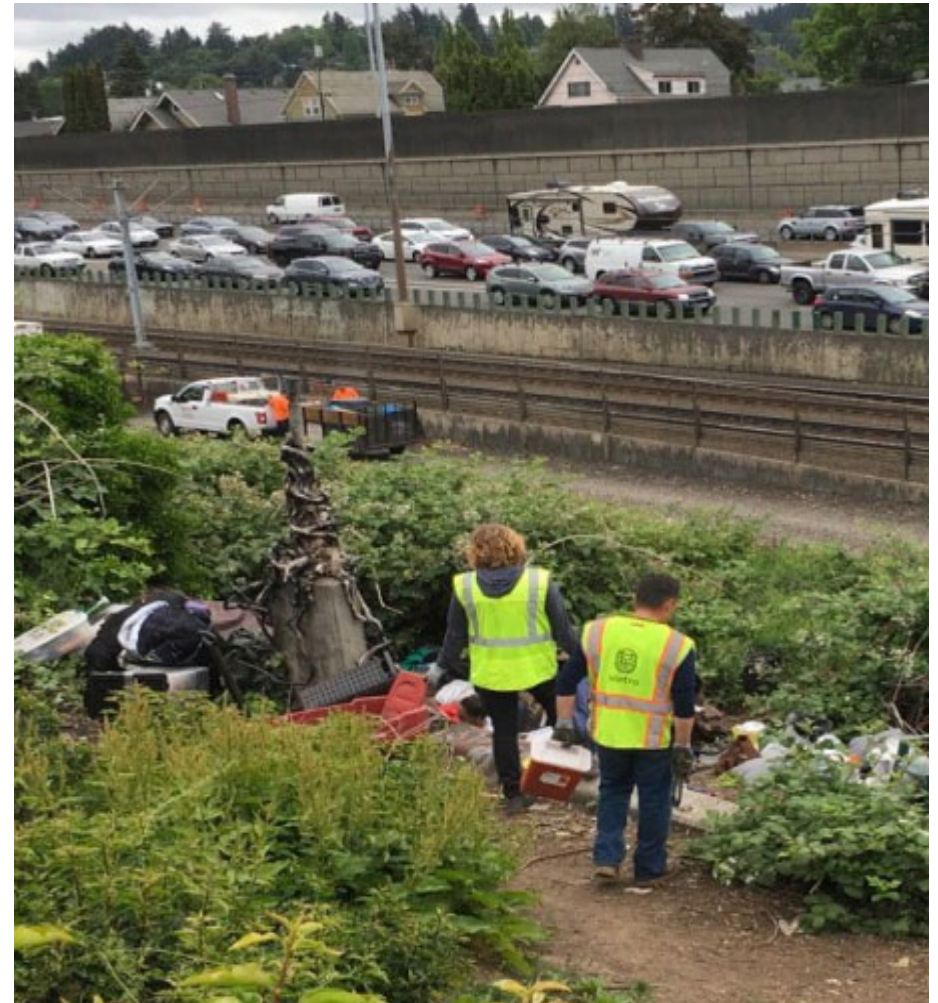
Funding efforts to remove vessels in Columbia and Willamette Rivers; development of a boat take-back program

Intergovernmental agreements to remove abandoned RV's



Highway clean-up

Expansion of clean-up crews to address garbage and litter along high-use highway corridors



Sharps Collection

Increase regional capacity to address significant issue of improperly disposed of sharps littering spaces through procurement of sharps collection boxes



Engagement and communications

- Metro Council updates, direct communications with local governments, CBO's and nonprofits
- Media; e.g. Facebook, Twitter, press releases, before and after photos, success stories
- Quarterly progress updates on Metro's website

Metro News



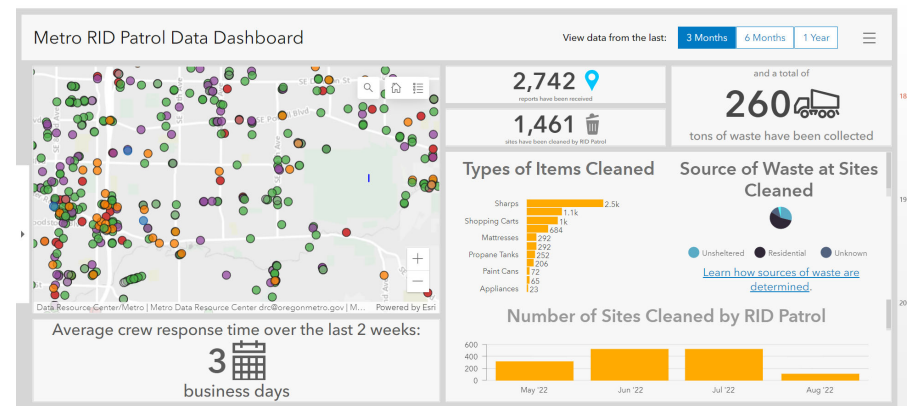
By Kimberlee Ables
April 25, 2022 7 a.m.

Metro officials are ready to use new state funding to clean up the greater Portland region.

House Bill 5202, approved by the Oregon Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Kate Brown, will send \$10 million to the Metro region for clean-up of public spaces. Metro, the elected regional government in the greater Portland region, regulates and guides the garbage and recycling system in most of Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties.

Reporting and Metrics

- Tool for local governments and community based organizations to submit data
- Visual displays showing where work is being done
- Initial progress reports end of Sept, 2022; quarterly thereafter
- Progress will be published on oregonmetro.gov



Reporting and Metrics

Activities	Measure
All activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before and after photos • Success stories, community highlights • Funds spent to date
Bulky waste collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of vouchers issued and redeemed • Tonnage collected
Trash collection, litter cleanup crews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tonnage, pounds or cubic yards collected • General areas serviced
Abandoned RV disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of RV properly disposed of • General area activities took place
Derelict vessel disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of derelict vessels properly disposed
Graffiti abatement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total assets cleaned; e.g. fire hydrants, walls, signs • General location or area
Cleanup on high-use highway corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miles of highway miles serviced • Tonnage collected
Sharps collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of collection boxes purchased • Location to be installed

Thank you!



Arts and events
Garbage and recycling
Land and transportation
Oregon Zoo
Parks and nature

oregonmetro.gov

REGIONAL WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Worksheet

PRESENTATION DATE: August 10, 2022 **LENGTH:** 15 minutes

PRESENTATION TITLE: 2022 Investment and Innovation grants and program update

DECISION TYPE: Informational

RELATED REGIONAL WASTE PLAN GOALS: Goals 2, 8, 9 and 15

PRESENTER(S): Suzanne Piluso, Investment and Innovation Program Manager

PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

- Staff will provide a summary of the 2022 Investment and Innovation grants recently awarded to reduce waste and advance equity in the garbage and recycling system, and share what's next for the grant program.

ACTION REQUESTED

- None (informational)

BACKGROUND

Metro's Investment and Innovation (I&I) program recently awarded 22 new grants, totaling \$2 million, to private businesses and nonprofit organizations for creative projects to reduce waste in ways that advance racial equity. Capital grants up to \$500,000 will support upgrades to infrastructure and equipment, and program grants up to \$100,000 will build capacity by funding personnel, operations and smaller equipment. *See Attachment 1 for descriptions of the new grants.*

The Metro Council initiated the I&I program in 2018 to support a wide range of private sector efforts to reduce waste and foster economic opportunities and other benefits for communities of color and other historically marginalized communities. The I&I program has awarded approximately \$10.5 million over four funding cycles to date, and is an important tool to help achieve the overarching objectives of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan. Specifically, the grants are advancing the following Plan actions:

2.3 -- Utilize grant programs to invest in businesses and nonprofit organizations to strengthen regional efforts around reducing waste, making better use of the waste that is produced and helping foster economic opportunities for communities of color and others who have historically been left out of the garbage and recycling system.

8.1 -- Support efforts to ensure that surplus edible food desired by agencies serving communities experiencing hunger is made available to them.

8.2 -- Implement strategies to increase the salvage of building materials for reuse, without increasing exposure to toxics.

8.5 -- Invest in neighborhood-scale reuse and repair services and infrastructure.

9.1-- Provide culturally responsive education and assistance for responsive education and assistance for garbage, recycling and reuse services to residents and businesses.

15.3 -- Develop public-private partnerships to expand local markets for priority recyclable materials, with an emphasis on minority-owned and other business owners from historically marginalized groups.

15.4 -- Fund investments to improve the performance of material recovery facilities through collection rates and/or other mechanisms.

This year, the I&I program:

- Prioritized funding three types of projects: Recycling infrastructure, reuse and repair, and food waste prevention and rescue.
- Added a second external review committee for program grants as an equity best practice, to have more community input into funding decisions.
- Implemented an “equity threshold” requirement, requiring every application to demonstrate meaningful efforts to advance racial equity to be eligible for funding. Staff offered applicants opportunities to brainstorm ways they could incorporate equity into their unique projects and programs, and staff are continuing to provide this assistance in the current contracting phase of the new grants.

These program enhancements and others were implemented in response to findings in a 2021 program evaluation of the program’s three-year pilot phase. Staff presented the evaluation findings, including the program’s environmental and equity outcomes to date, to RWAC, the Committee on Racial Equity, and the Metro Council last year. *The evaluation report is available at <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-partners/grants-and-resources/investment-and-innovation-grants>.*

NEXT STEPS

- Funding priorities for the I&I program are developed each year, taking into account current needs in the garbage and recycling system and other policy, legislative and funding strategies underway and planned. Staff will return to RWAC in late 2022 to for input on proposed funding priorities for the FY22-23 grant cycle. The next grant cycle will launch in early 2023 with a request for proposals for up to \$2 million in available funding.

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- None

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: Summary of 2022 Investment and Innovation grants

Investment and Innovation grants

Presentation to RWAC:
2022 grants and what's next

August 18, 2022



Program history

Three-year pilot, launched in 2018

Advancing Regional Waste Plan goals 2, 8, 9, 15



I&I program purpose and objectives

Purpose: Reduce disposal of materials through waste prevention, reuse and repair, and material recovery. Advance racial equity in the solid waste system.

Objectives

1. Reduce harmful environmental and health impacts
2. Advance equity
3. Build system resilience
4. Catalyze innovation

Grants awarded since 2018

Total amount
requested=
\$37million+

Year (\$ available)	Capital grants (approx)	Program grants (approx)
2018 (\$3M)	\$2M	\$224K
2019 (\$6M)	\$5.32M	\$520K
2020 (\$500K)	N/A	\$472K
2022 (\$2M)	\$947K	\$1.05M
TOTAL	\$8,273,159 (24 grants)	\$2,270,269 (39 grants)

Grant types

Program grants: \$10,000 to \$100,000

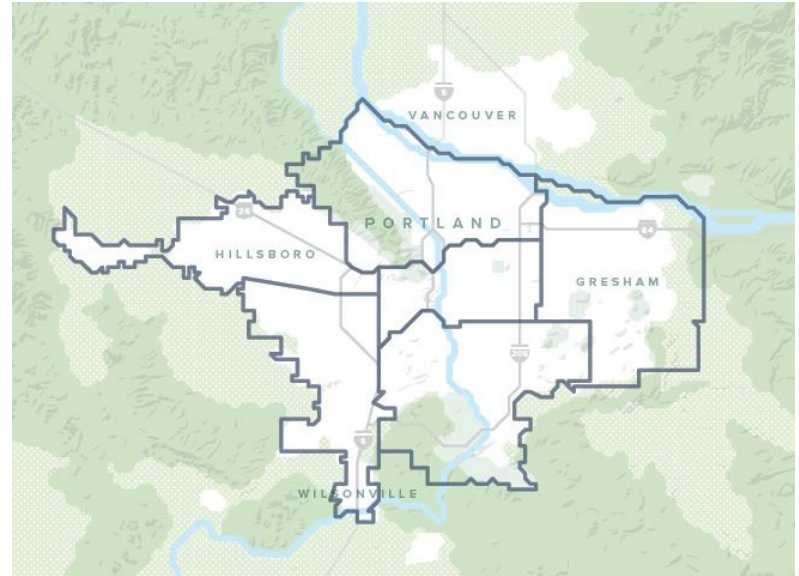
- Personnel, operations and equipment
- 20% match (**nonprofits exempt**)

Capital grants: \$50,000 to \$500,000

- Equipment and facility infrastructure
- 100% match (**nonprofits exempt**)

Who can apply?

- Non-profit organizations, for-profit businesses, **colleges and universities**
- Projects must take place in the Metro region or have a significant direct impact on waste generated in the Metro region



Grant review committees

- Two committees developed funding recommendations
- 5 community members
- Staff from City of Portland, City of Gresham, Washington County, DEQ and Metro

2022 solicitation highlights

- Priority focus areas
- Equity threshold (eligibility)
- No match for nonprofits
- Up-front installment payments for program grants
- Two grant review committees



Response to 2022 solicitation

- **\$2M** available funding for both grant types
- Received **63 pre-proposals totaling \$6.6M** in requests



2022 grant awards

- 22 grants totaling exactly \$2M
- Grantees and applicants are doing more to demonstrating commitment to equity
- 72% of grantees are new to the program
- More nonprofits applying for capital grants
- Fewer capital grant requests overall

Reuse and repair grants

- 15 grants totaling \$1M



Food waste prevention and rescue

- 5 grants totaling \$411,621



Recycling (and composting, etc.)

- Program originally focused heavily in these areas
- Recycling infrastructure was a priority focus area, few applications
- 2022 grants: Park Trading Corp and Dirt Hugger

What's next for I&I?

- Develop funding priorities for FY22-23 solicitation (*RWAC input opportunity this fall*)
- Next funding cycle (\$2M): launch anticipated Jan. 2023
- New I&I annual report coming Dec. 2022
- Review committee recruitment

oregonmetro.gov



Attachment 1

2021-22 Investment and Innovation Grants

Investment and Innovation grants are intended to build lasting private-sector and nonprofit-sector capacity to reduce waste through prevention, reuse, repair, recycling and composting. At the same time, the grants support efforts to advance racial equity in the garbage and recycling system, including expanding services and employment opportunities for underserved communities and reducing harms from garbage and recycling operations. The Investment and Innovation program advances progress toward multiple goals of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan and Metro's strategic plan to advance racial equity, diversity and inclusion.

Capital grants are awarded to private businesses, universities and nonprofit organizations for infrastructure upgrades and equipment. Businesses and universities are required to provide a cash match of at least 100 percent of the grant amount. Program grants support personnel costs, operations and equipment associated with programming at businesses, universities and nonprofit organizations. Program grants require business and university applicants to provide a match of at least 20 percent of the grant amount in cash, in-kind support or both.

Below is a summary of the 2021-22 Investment and Innovation (I&I) grants. The **22 grants represent a total Metro investment of \$2 million** to local businesses and nonprofits in greater Portland. Metro's funding will leverage an additional \$598,400 in matching funds provided by six business grant recipients.

I&I CAPITAL GRANTS

Birch Community Services

Refrigerated truck to rescue and redistribute 6.5 million pounds of edible food annually

Grant amount: \$102,221

Match amount: \$0 (not required for nonprofit organizations)

Total investment: \$102,221

Birch Community Services will purchase a refrigerated truck to rescue and redistribute 6.5 million pounds of high-quality edible food annually. Birch sources food from over 270 manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, farms, dairies, bakeries and food growers to recover food that would otherwise be disposed, to distribute to families in need. Currently, Birch passes up significant opportunities to rescue and distribute food due to aging and insufficient transportation options. Having a new refrigerated truck will enable Birch to quickly pick up large quantities of edible food from donors, which in turn bolsters those donors' willingness to donate rather than dispose.

Community Development Corporation of Oregon

A network of portable coolers for BIPOC farmers

Grant amount: \$50,000

Match amount: \$0 (not required for nonprofit organizations)

Total investment: \$50,000

Community Development Corporation of Oregon will buy three portable coolers to place at strategic locations around East County where food is being grown by Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) farmers. Having these coolers shared by a network of producers will bring food closer to consumers. The coolers will extend the life of their crops, allowing food to remain edible from harvest to sale or donation. This will ensure that the food reaches its highest value, providing economic benefit for BIPOC farmers to feed their communities with culturally appropriate foods. The grant fortifies the micro food hub model developing in Rockwood and East Multnomah County, including the Rockwood Food Systems Collaborative, which includes more than 50 emerging food businesses in an underserved area of the Metro region.

Dirt Hugger, LLC

Generating more compost with fewer emissions

Grant amount: \$500,000

Match amount: \$500,000

Total investment: \$1,000,000

Dirt Hugger, located in Dallesport, Wash., is a commercial composting facility that processes a significant amount of greater Portland's residential and commercial food waste and yard debris through a designated facility agreement (68 percent of their feedstock comes from the Metro region). Over half of the facility's end products — high quality compost — is sold in the Metro region. This project will increase throughput from 62,700 to 90,000 tons annually while reducing air emissions by adding aeration to the final phase of the composting process. The grant will also support conversion of diesel-powered equipment to electric. These improvements will ensure Metro area waste does not contribute to negative air quality impacts on local communities. Dirt Hugger will work with The Next Door, a social services agency based in the Columbia Gorge, to advance equity in the business by completing a diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) assessment of the company's policies, procedures, work culture and physical environment, and a series of DEI workshops for staff. The project will include development of DEI goals for at least the two years after the grant period to ensure the company's commitment to advancing equity continues beyond the grant.

Lovett Deconstruction

Lumber resale project

Grant amount: \$54,500

Match amount: \$54,500

Total investment: \$109,000

Lovett Deconstruction will add an electric kiln and warehouse improvements to its new facility in northwest Portland. A wood kiln will significantly reduce the amount of mold and moisture on stored materials. Typical Pacific Northwest weather can compromise the quality and reusability of collected lumber by as much as 20 percent. Lovett Deconstruction is the only company in Portland that will offer Forest Stewardship Council-certified kiln dried lumber in large quantities. Lovett Deconstruction has a strong track record with regard to inclusivity, diversity and inclusion, and employs over 50 people of diverse backgrounds. The company partners with Oregon Tradeswomen to support hiring and training of BIPOC and women employees.

ReBuilding Center

A mobile classroom to bring home-repair classes to vulnerable communities

Grant amount: \$90,000

Match amount: \$0 (not required for nonprofit organizations)

Total investment: \$90,000

ReBuilding Center helps people stay in their homes and avoid waste by promoting and teaching repair skills, particularly for homeowners living with low incomes. Often homeowners with low incomes have many small repair needs, like a minor leak or failing siding, that worsen over time and result in houses with extensive, expensive repairs and safety concerns. The nonprofit's philosophy is that empowering homeowners with repair skills and knowledge of how to use salvaged items will promote housing retention and stability. ReBuilding Center has a rich roster of classes in electrical repair, plumbing and carpentry at little to no cost, and focuses these opportunities to BIPOC and low income residents of Portland. However, limited access to transportation makes traveling to inner North Portland to attend classes difficult. This grant will remove this barrier by developing a mobile shop to take ReBuilding Center classes out into the community. Funds will support a new all-electric van, tools, shelves, storage, and a level-2 charging station, to enable the organization to get out into more underserved parts of the Metro region, in collaboration with community partner organizations.

SnowCap Community Charities

SnowCap's Covenant Campus to increase clothing reuse for underserved communities

Grant amount: \$100,000

Match amount: \$0 (not required for nonprofit organizations)

Total investment: \$100,000

SnowCap operates in East Multnomah County, providing the community with free reused clothing five days a week. In 2021 SnowCap served people who spoke 75 different languages, 46 percent of which were people of color, refugees or ethnic minorities. Pre-pandemic, over 4,000 people a month had access to free clothing. This grant will support SnowCap's ambitious campaign for a new campus to greatly expand its capacity to receive, sort and distribute reused clothing. SnowCap believes individuals accessing assistance should be able to do so in a manner that focuses on choice. Being able to select one's own clothing helps bring dignity to the process and encourages people to continue to access needed services. In addition to growing SnowCap's clothing program, the new campus will enable them to offer space to partner agencies, like the Energy Trust of Oregon and the Oregon Food Bank. Partners will be able to conduct trainings and classes for clients, focusing on topics that help prevent waste such as cloth diapering, and low waste cooking and food preparation techniques.

West Tuality Habitat for Humanity

Construct a covered outside area to promote year-round shopping for reused items

Grant amount: \$50,000

Match amount: \$0 (not required for nonprofit organizations)

Total investment: \$50,000

West Tuality Habitat for Humanity in Forest Grove is one of the few reuse organizations serving the western part of the greater Portland region. This grant will enable the organization to create a

covered area outside where people can shop for high quality reused items year-round. The current area is not accessible in rainy or hot weather. Providing a cover will promote year-round activity, building sales and keep more goods from the landfill. The cover will also help prolong the usable lifespan of products stored and sold from the outside area. The anticipated waste stream impact of the covered area is an annual increase of 50,000 to 100,000 pounds of additional goods being repurposed, reused or recycled via Habitat for Humanity's Restore retail shop. The project will demonstrate the merits of reuse by utilizing a large portion of materials salvaged from other construction projects, including an entire garage and large quantities of timber and shiplap.

I&I PROGRAM GRANTS

Clackamas Service Center

Enhance capacity to rescue and redistribute edible food for families in need

Grant amount: \$100,000

Match amount: \$0 (not required for nonprofit organizations)

Total investment: \$100,000

Clackamas Service Center will expand its capacity at its new 8,000 sq. ft. "food hub" warehouse that opened in 2021. This grant will provide staff time and equipment, including a new walk-in fridge and freezer and backup generator to avoid food loss in a power outage. This will increase the center's ability to accept and distribute food donations, and the organization estimates it will be able to divert an additional 20,000 pounds of food annually that would otherwise go to waste. Clackamas Service Center will focus recovery and distribution efforts on culturally relevant items for Central American, Caribbean, Halal, Slavic, East African and Asian cuisines, to be distributed in partnership with organizations that serve diverse populations. This nonprofit fills a critical role as one of the few food rescue and distribution organizations in Clackamas County.

Community Warehouse

Creating a reuse hub

Grant amount: \$100,000

Match amount: \$0 (not required for nonprofit organizations)

Total investment: \$100,000

Community Warehouse will establish a third warehouse location and hire staff to accept and redistribute additional household goods, including mattresses, tables, chairs, dressers, bedding and kitchenware. Additional space will enable the organization to store donations that come in during the peak donation seasons of spring and summer, so that they will be fully stocked at distribution centers year-round and be able to move more material back into the community. Community Warehouse estimates the project will enable the recovery and redistribution of an additional 200 tons per year. The project will also pilot a Reuse Hub that will provide a shared space with other reuse organizations. This will be a major step forward in addressing a high priority need for reuse organizations to have shared physical space, resources and opportunities, as identified in a 2021 reuse, repair and share needs assessment report commissioned by the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability.

Cracked Pots***Repair and reuse technician***

Grant amount: \$80,000

Match amount: \$0 (not required for nonprofit organizations)

Total investment: \$80,000

Cracked Pots will establish a new repair and reuse technician position for its retail store, ReClaim It, to increase the amount of reusable furniture and other bulky items it recovers from Metro Central transfer station. The organization will grow its partnership with Community Warehouse, and may co-locate in its new Reuse Hub. With a dedicated technician, Cracked Pots can accept gleaned items that have minor, fixable flaws and devote the time and skill to repairing them for a new life. Cracked Pots will also continue to implement diversity, equity and inclusion into its organization and practices, building on consultation and training funded by a 2020 Investment and Innovation grant. This includes promoting the repair technician opportunity funded by the new grant to BIPOC candidates, along with implementing measures to support diverse employees and board members.

East Portland Tool Library***Establishing a new East Portland Tool Library***

Grant amount: \$47,071

Match amount: \$0 (not required for nonprofit organizations)

Total investment: \$47,071

The East Portland Tool Library will expand access to a wide variety of shared tools for residents on the east side of Portland. The hand and electric tools will help alleviate air pollution from gas powered tools. The tool library will reduce waste by allowing people to rent tools and avoid the unnecessary purchase of new tools. Nearly a quarter of the people living in this area speak English as a second language, 35 percent are BIPOC individuals and 45 percent have low incomes. This will fill a gap by serving all people east of 82nd Avenue to the Gresham and north of Halsey to the Columbia River, which is the East Portland area not currently served by a tool library. The East Portland Tool Library will work with partners such as Habitat for Humanity East Portland and East Portland Resilience Coalition to develop culturally appropriate outreach strategies to encourage tool library use, including translation of information into the languages most often used in the area. Grant funds will support the building costs for the new library and a new volunteer and operations coordinator position.

Feed'em Freedom Foundation***Food recovery program***

Grant amount: \$75,000

Match amount: \$0 (not required for nonprofit organizations)

Total investment: \$75,000

Feed'em Freedom Foundation is a Black-led organization which centers Black and BIPOC people to become owners and leaders within agriculture, land stewardship and regional food security response. The organization will develop a localized food recovery program that links unsold farmer's market produce from BIPOC and small Portland-area producers to the food systems of local area hospitals and social service organizations. This project is modeled after a successful effort with Sutter Health in California, which is providing project mentorship. Funding will also support

the Propagating Produce for the People program, which trains BIPOC youth affected by the justice system in agriculture, including waste reduction practices. As a newer nonprofit, Feed'em Freedom Foundation is working with the Oregon Food Bank to develop data collection methods, but anticipates that their programs will impact 200 BIPOC consumers weekly, more than 10 BIPOC farmers annually, and 40 BIPOC youth each seasonal cycle.

Free Geek

Recycling and reuse capacity expansion

Grant amount: \$96,808

Match amount: \$0 (not required for nonprofit organizations)

Total investment: \$96,808

Free Geek will expand its bulk sales program to be able to handle large quantities of printers, monitors, A/V systems, and vintage technology that the organization has not been able to receive and process. The grant will fund a new bulk sales coordinator to receive and sort these specialty items and pair them with unique customers and markets, to extend their useful lives. The grant will also provide flexible storage space bulk sales items and for lesser-used items, which will also serve as a drop-off location for the west side of Portland. The grant will also fund equipment to automate some of Free Geek's operations, including an automated drive crusher and battery-powered pallet jack, to improve efficiency and safety for employees.

GO Box

Reusable food retail packaging pilot

Grant amount: \$87,500

Match amount: \$17,500

Total investment: \$105,000

GO Box will partner with New Seasons Market and Waste Free Advocates to develop, implement and track the impacts of a reusable packaging pilot for retail food products produced by local companies in the greater Portland region. The pilot will launch at New Seasons Market locations where the products in reusable packaging will be available for sale. Packaging from these products will be returned by customers and accepted back by the store. GO Box will collect returned packaging, wash and sanitize them, then resell the packaging back to the local producer where it originated. In the project period, an estimated 10,000-15,000 glass jars will be prevented from becoming waste. The project will result in lessons learned from the pilot to develop a replicable reusable packaging model for retail products.

Green Lents

Community tool library waste reduction, repair and reuse empowerment

Grant amount: \$45,500

Match amount: \$0 (not required for nonprofit organizations)

Total investment: \$45,500

The Lents neighborhood is historically disinvested and undeserved, with many communities of color, immigrants and families living with low incomes. The goal of this project is to expand accessibility and remove barriers to the Lents Tool Library which is a community space that provides a way to share and reuse tools instead of having to purchase new. In particular, the project

focuses on welcoming the 40 percent of Lents residents that speak a language other than English at home. Green Lents will develop educational and outreach materials and conduct nine workshops on tool sharing and reuse. Educational topics will include safe tool usage, composting and seed starting, among other skill-building topics. The education and outreach content will be translated into multiple languages commonly spoken in the area to reach additional communities.

JD's Shoe Repair

Repairers onward: advance training in repair skills

Grant amount: \$22,000
Match amount: \$4,400
Total investment: \$26,400

JD's Shoe Repair is a LGBTQ and woman-owned small business dedicated to one of the oldest forms of repair. The shoe repair industry in the greater Portland region is struggling, with nine shops closing since the pandemic started. This grant will enable JD's Shoe Repair to expand its ability to handle a wider range of textiles through professional development and by training a new cobbler. Funds will be used for advanced training in dye work, sneaker repair, and purchasing highly specialized machinery. JD's Shoe Repair will also hire a new multilingual staff member to expand access to non-English speaking customers; and a short-term outreach coordinator to educate and empower the public to repair what is otherwise perfectly good, rather than dispose and buy new. The business will also develop shoe repair curriculum for Portland Community College classes to educate the next generation of cobblers.

Okapi Reusables

Reusable food ware service expansion

Grant amount: \$75,000
Match amount: \$15,000
Total investment: \$90,000

Okapi Reusables, a COBID-certified business, will expand its new circular cup borrowing service to more Portland cafes and restaurants. Okapi is modeled off a similar approach on reuse networks in Australia that has proven highly successful. It works like this: customers download an Okapi app, and can ask any participating cafe (currently 11 in Portland) for their drinks in a reusable cup. When finished, customers can return the reusable cup at any participating drop-off site. Okapi cleans and sanitizes used cups, and puts them back into circulation. This grant would fund a concentrated outreach effort to enroll 20 additional coffee shops to participate, additional materials and supplies, and outreach to cafe customers to encourage behavior change by choosing the reusable cup option. Okapi estimates the waste stream impact of this project will be an additional 46,000 single-use cups and 41,000 lids avoided during the project period, with more as cafes fully ramp up the service.

Park Trading Corp

Building a network of recycling opportunities for cannabis packaging

Grant amount: \$35,000
Match amount: \$7,000
Total investment: \$42,000

Park Trading Corp will hire a program coordinator to conduct outreach and coordinate collection events to increase business and customer participation in ReDram, a return-to-retailer recycling program for plastic packaging from cannabis products. This material is not accepted in curbside recycling programs and would otherwise be discarded as trash. The project includes expanding a three-day community collection event called “420 for Earth Day” to increase the number of participating retailers and incentivize customers to return plastic packaging. The project is estimated to result in a monthly increase of at least 4,000 pounds of plastic packaging returned for recycling with partner company P3 Recycling. Park Trading Corp is a BIPOC-owned small business and is currently seeking COBID certification with the State of Oregon.

Portland Fruit Tree Project

Increasing capacity to harvest and share excess urban fruit

Grant amount: \$84,400

Match amount: \$0 (not required for nonprofit organizations)

Total investment: \$84,400

Portland Fruit Tree Project will develop a fruit tree index to plan for long-term growth and viability of Portland’s fruit trees, resulting in less wasted fruit. The grant will provide jobs and training opportunities in tree scoring and tree care for BIPOC community members who will collect fruit tree data. Tree health and location data will be used to determine which trees are good candidates for harvest and the best time to harvest, which will focus staff and volunteer time. Tree data will also be used to create tree care plans to increase the viability of less healthy trees for future seasons. The project will result in more rescued fruit for people without access to fresh food, healthier fruit trees with less wasted fruit, workforce development opportunities, and improved neighborhoods with fewer pest-ridden, unhealthy trees.

ReDeploy

Increasing salvage of usable items during junk pickup to redeploy into community

Grant amount: \$100,000

Match amount: \$0 (not required for nonprofit organizations)

Total investment: \$100,000

ReDeploy is the nonprofit arm of veteran-owned G.I. Junk Removal service. ReDeploy was recently created to salvage serviceable items such as mattresses, furniture and other household items bound for disposal, and match them with the needs of vulnerable people. This grant will fund a program coordinator position and help outfit ReDeploy’s warehouse in Oregon City with storage and tools for assessing, sorting, storing and refurbishing salvaged items. The program coordinator will organize veterans and volunteers to identify and meet material needs of community members, with an emphasis on organizations serving veterans and people of color. G.I. Junk Removal is one of many junk removal companies in the Metro region, and this project can serve as a model for how junk removal companies can intercept salvageable materials before they end up in the transfer station as garbage, and get them back into the community to those most in need.

Repair PDX***Small appliance repair shop and education space***

Grant amount: \$84,000

Match amount: \$0 (not required for nonprofit organizations)

Total investment: \$84,000

Repair PDX will develop and pilot a space where small appliances can be fixed, community members can learn to repair their own items, and repair volunteers can increase their repair skills and knowledge. Additionally, they plan to explore donation and revenue streams for fixing small appliances and putting them back into circulation, in ways that will be sustainable after the seed money from the grant ends. Repair PDX has been hosting repair events successfully for years, and notes the large number of small appliances that come in that need just minor repairs to be fully functional. This grant will build the infrastructure and repair skills base to get more appliances out of the waste stream and back into use, in partnership with organizations like Goodwill Columbia Willamette and Gresham Habitat for Humanity ReStore. Repair PDX has developed an extensive network of local government and community-based organization partners, with a large bank of volunteers as key to its growing success.

SCRAP PDX***SCRAP community investment program***

Grant amount: \$21,000

Match amount: \$0 (not required for nonprofit organizations)

Total investment: \$21,000

SCRAP PDX will provide a variety of free monthly outreach events in low-income communities to increase access for reuse opportunities through teaching creative reuse skills to underserved members of the community. The youth outreach program will involve public mural projects that invite youth to develop, plan, and create public murals at their schools and within their communities. The family-oriented community events will focus on SCRAP's Fill Minds Not Landfills program, which collects waste materials from companies around Portland for reuse. Adult skill-building workshops will enable BIPOC community members, adults living with low incomes, and artists to build marketable or otherwise useful skills for free. These programs will leverage and expand existing partnerships with Portland Public Schools, New Avenues for Youth, the Latino Network, Hoi Phu Huynh, Rosewood Initiative, Trash 4 Peace, and the Albina Public Library, among others.

REGIONAL WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Worksheet

PRESENTATION DATE: August 18, 2022 **LENGTH:** 20 minutes

PRESENTATION TITLE: WPES participation in Recycling Modernization Act Implementation

DECISION TYPE: Informational

RELATED REGIONAL WASTE PLAN GOALS: Goals 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16.

PRESENTER(S): Audrey O'Brien (Oregon Department of Environmental Quality)
Rosalynn Greene, Jill Aki Hrycyk and Sabrina Gogol (Metro, Waste Prevention and Environmental Services)

PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

- Overview of the Recycling Modernization Act key provisions, issues of interest to WPES in the first rulemaking period (2022-23).
- Overview of rule-making processes and composition of committees.
- Request for committee input on topics to bring to a future RWAC meeting that is an advisory decision meeting.

ACTION REQUESTED

- The committee's feedback is requested on the list of topics to bring to future RWAC meetings.

BACKGROUND

The Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act (RMA) will update Oregon's outdated recycling system by building on local community programs and leveraging the resources of producers to create an innovative system that works for everyone. The Oregon legislature passed the legislation in 2021 and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) must implement the new system by July 1, 2025. The new law is designed to increase responsible recycling. It will make recycling easier, expand access to recycling services, upgrade the facilities that sort recyclables, and create environmental benefits while reducing social and environmental harms, such as plastic pollution.

Path to implementation

Rulemaking is the first step in the implementation process and will take place in two stages. The first will establish rules for the accepted materials list, local government compensation and producer responsibility organization (PRO) plan requirements. The Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) will consider draft rules from this stage in late 2023. The second rule-making process begins in 2023 and will focus on recycling processing facility requirements, incentives for better product/package design and how to protect ratepayers from costs to modernize the system. The EQC will consider the second set of rules in mid-2024. The PRO(s) that form to meet producer obligations under the law must submit their program plans to DEQ in March 2024 and begin implementation by July 1, 2025.

Advisory committees

The Oregon Recycling System Advisory Council or Recycling Council will advise DEQ and the producer responsibility organizations on key recycling system elements, including the uniform statewide collection list, PRO program plans, and more. The council consists of 17 members appointed by the Governor, plus 2 non-voting members of the Legislature appointed by the Senate President and Speaker of the House. Members of the council represent local governments, community-based organizations representing the interests of historically underserved groups, small business, environmental nonprofit organizations, the recycling industry, service providers, processors or material end users and producers of covered products or producer trade associations or suppliers. The council's duties begin during the initial development and implementation phase prior to July 2025 and continue throughout ongoing implementation in perpetuity. Pam Peck, WPES Policy and Compliance Program Director, represents local governments on the Recycling Council and was elected as Council chair at the group's first meeting in June 2022.

DEQ is convening a rule-making advisory committee to review the technical issues and fiscal impacts related to the proposed rules. DEQ has appointed members that reflect the range of entities that are both directly and indirectly affected by proposed changes to the rules. Rosalynn Greene, WPES Policy and Program Development Manager, represents local governments on this committee. WPES staff are committed to working closely with area local governments and other stakeholders to support rulemaking that carries out the original intent of the legislation and minimizes disruption to existing services.

Recyclable materials collected in the Metro region – potential changes ahead

RMA implementation will likely result in changes to the list of materials accepted for recycling at homes and businesses in the region starting in 2025. Additional materials may be accepted at recycling depots and via other collection methods. Some materials may shift from home collection to depot or other collection methods to reduce contamination, support more recycling and ensure materials go to responsible end markets. DEQ will convene a panel to discuss collection methods and how to support convenience and accessibility standards for regions across the state. With the unique needs and infrastructure of the Metro region, there is an opportunity for collection and accessibility standards in this region to meet the needs of people in multifamily housing and those who want to walk, bike, or take public transit to drop off RMA-covered materials.

Responsible end markets – potential changes ahead

The responsible end market requirements in Oregon's new recycling law will lead to more transparency and standards about where and how materials collected in Oregon are recycled. The law includes oversight of producers and processors to ensure responsible recycling. These statutory requirements were intended to address the negative environmental, social, economic and health impacts that can result from irresponsible recycling. There are currently four areas where rulemaking is needed to clarify the obligations related to responsible end markets:

1. Specify which persons in the recycling supply chain are considered the "end market;"
2. Clarify standards for what would constitute a "responsible" end market
3. Set auditing requirements for "responsible end markets;" and
4. Clarify actions that may be considered "practicable" for the PRO's obligation to ensure product delivery to responsible end markets with materials managed in an environmentally-protective manner and according to Oregon's materials management hierarchy.

Local government compensation

Local governments will also be eligible to receive funding for new expansion of on-route collection as well as additional collection such as through depots and mobile collection. This summer, DEQ will work with local governments—including Metro—to better understand needs related to

expanding recycling collection and inform rules related to producer obligations to support expanded collection.

What are the key elements that guide Metro participation?

The Metro Council adopted 2030 Regional Waste Plan and legislative principles for Equity in the Solid Waste System provide guidance or critical lenses for providing input, feedback, and options for implementation of the RMA. Essentially, the RMA advances multiple goals, actions, and principles already adopted by Metro Council. To this end, Metro is looking at how rulemaking for the RMA can advance the original intent of the legislation and where there is broad intent also advance Metro's goals, actions and principles.

- The Metro 2030 Regional Waste Plan aims to eliminate disparities experienced by people of color and historically marginalized communities from the full life cycle of products and packaging used and disposed in the region. Metro supports legislation providing that whoever designs, produces, sells or uses a product bears responsibility for minimizing the product’s environmental impact throughout all stages of the product’s life cycle. Metro supports efforts to minimize the health, safety, environmental, economic and social impacts associated with consumer products and packaging throughout all stages of a product’s life cycle, beginning with resource extraction and continuing through design, manufacturing, consumption and disposal.
- The Metro legislative principles for Equity in the Solid Waste System supports legislation advancing:
 - Community restoration, community partnerships and community investment
 - Access to recycling, waste and reuse services and information
 - Good jobs with improved worker health and safety, compensation and career pathways
 - Business opportunities in the local economy
 - Community health through minimized impacts from system operations - locally and in end markets - and from toxic chemicals in products and packaging.
 - Requirements that establish of targets, standards and compliance processes, as appropriate, to ensure progress toward equity goals.

Topics for RWAC advisory meeting

An RWAC advisory discussion of the following topics this Fall would be in time to inform Metro’s participation in the first rulemaking period for the RMA.

Topic	Decision type	Focus of input/reflection
Recyclable materials collected in the Metro region	Consult	Accessibility and convenience for people across the region.
Responsible end markets	Consult	Performance standards, monitoring and auditing, funding that ensures responsible end markets.
Public communication	Consult	Support for accessible messaging.

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Thinking about the list of Recycling Modernization Act topics that are particularly relevant to this committee, we’d like the committee’s feedback on what is included in a future advisory discussion. Questions for consideration include:

- Do you recommend adding or changing any of the topics in the list? Why?
- Do you recommend removing any of the topics in the list? Why?

NEXT STEPS

- The committee's recommendations will be carefully considered and the draft topics edited accordingly. The final draft will be submitted to WPES Director for approval.
- WPES staff will return to the committee in the Fall to present proposals for each topic, invite committee feedback, and provide an update on any related developments and activities.

ATTACHMENTS

DEQ timeline

Public Involvement Timeline (continued)

The public may attend all meetings, which will include time for public comment.

This is an estimated timeline and dates are subject to change.
 This chart is for projects starting in 2022-2024. Projects with later start dates (e.g., litter and marine debris assessment) are not yet scoped and therefore not included in the chart.

