

Agenda



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting: Regional Waste Advisory Committee
Date: Thursday, December 15, 2022
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Place: Zoom virtual meeting
Purpose: *The purpose of the Regional Waste Advisory Committee is to provide input on certain policies, programs, and projects that implement actions in the 2030 Regional Waste Plan, as well as to provide input on certain legislative and administrative actions that the Metro Council or Chief Operating Officer will consider related to implementation of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan.*

8:30 a.m.	Welcome	Marta McGuire Metro
8:35 a.m.	Public Comment Period	
8:40 a.m.	Metro Budget Development <i>Purpose: Informational</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide RWAC committee members an opportunity to provide input on the FY23-24 budget priorities.	Marta McGuire Metro
9:00 a.m.	Regional Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan – Phase 2 Gaps Analysis Summary <i>Purpose: Consult</i> Provide an update on system facility gaps identified through stakeholder engagement and technical analysis completed in October and November 2022.	Estee Segal Lindsey Lopez Metro
9:30 a.m.	Upcoming Investment and Innovation Grants Solicitations <i>Purpose: Informational</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide an overview of the upcoming grant solicitation, including funding priorities, timeline, and review committee opportunities.	Suzanne Piluso Metro
9:50 a.m.	Multifamily Service Improvements – Background and current efforts <i>Purpose: Consult</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide background information on multifamily efforts and updates on current and recently completed work including adoption of updated standards, decal redesign and implementation, completion of the first multifamily indicator and an introduction the bulky waste policy project.	Sara Kirby Lauren Ballinger Metro
10:28 a.m.	Consideration and approval of items*	
10:30 a.m.	Adjourn	

* Material will be distributed at the meeting.

Upcoming RWAC Meeting: Thursday, January 19, 2023 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

For agenda and schedule information:

Carly Tabert: carly.tabert@oregonmetro.gov

To check on closure or cancellations during inclement weather please call 503-797-1700.

Metro's nondiscrimination notice

Metro respects civil rights. Metro fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that bans discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin. For more information on Metro's civil rights program, or to obtain a Title VI complaint form, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights or call 503-797-1536.

Metro provides services or accommodations upon request to persons with disabilities and people who need an interpreter at public meetings. If you need a sign language interpreter, communication aid or language assistance, call 503-797-1536 or TDD/TTY 503-797-1804 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays) 7 business days in advance of the meeting to accommodate your request.



Regional Waste Advisory Committee

Schedule of Topics

Schedule of Topics | 2022-23

Date	Topic	Regional Waste Plan	Decision Type
August 2022	• Community clean-up initiatives: RID, regional refresh sponsorships, state funding	Goals 2, 8, 15	Informational
	• Investment & Innovation Grant Program	Goal 15	Informational
	• Recycling Modernization Act (SB582)	Goal 15	Informational
September 2022	• Disaster Debris Reserve Fund and Grant Program	Goal 17, 19	Consult/Advise
October 2022	• Business food waste requirement and food processing at Metro Central	Goal 10, 15, 16	Informational
	• Regional Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan	Goal 16	Consult/Advise
	• Recycling Modernization Act (SB582)	Goal 15	Consult/Advise
November 2022	• No meeting		
December 2022	• Metro Budget Development	Goals 1-19	Informational
	• Investment & Innovation Grant Program	Goal 15	Informational Consult/Advise
	• Regional Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan	Goals 17,19	Consult/Advise
	• Multi-family recycling service standards update and bulky waste policy project introduction		
January 2023	• Disaster Debris Reserve Fund and Grant Program	Goal 10	Informational
	• 2030 Regional Waste Plan progress report	Goal 16	Consult/Advise
	• Bulky waste reuse project introduction		Informational

February 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bulky waste policy project research results Community collection events Recycling Modernization Act (SB582) 	<p>Goal 10 Goal 10 Goal 15</p>	<p>Consult/Advise Informational Consult/Advise</p>
March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste prevention and reuse program efforts WPES education program update Regional Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan 	<p>Goal 8 Goal 6, 9</p>	<p>Informational Informational</p>
April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metro Budget Development Disaster Debris Reserve Fund and Grant Program Recycling Modernization Act (SB582) 	<p>Goals 1-19 Goal 17, 19</p>	<p>Informational Informational Consult/Advise</p>
May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community clean-up initiatives: RID, regional refresh sponsorships, state funding Bulky waste collection services administrative rules development t 	<p>Goals 2, 8, 15</p>	<p>Informational Consult/Advise</p>
June 2023	NO MEETING		
July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan 		

The schedule is subject to change.

REGIONAL WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Worksheet

PRESENTATION DATE: December 15, 2022 **LENGTH:** 30 mins

PRESENTATION TITLE: Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan – Phase 2 Gaps Analysis Summary

DECISION TYPE: N/A - Inform

RELATED REGIONAL WASTE PLAN GOALS: Goal 16: Maintain a system of facilities, from smaller recycling drop-off depots to larger full-service stations, to ensure equitable distribution of and access to services

PRESENTER(S): Estee Segal, Lyndsey Lopez (Jacobs)

PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

Provide a summary overview of the gaps and themes identified in Phase 2 of the System Facilities Plan.

ACTION REQUESTED

Informational

BACKGROUND

At Metro Council request, WPES has been asked to produce a long-term plan to identify gaps in the solid waste infrastructure needed to support the work of the Regional Waste Plan and anticipated regional facility needs over the next 15-20 year horizon. [The Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan](#) will be completed in five phases from now until the winter of 2023 when Metro Council will consider adoption of the plan.

Plan development will include assessing the region's current public, private and non-profit garbage, recycling and reuse infrastructure, identifying service gaps, and presenting potential approaches and a plan for future system investments. Throughout the process, the project will seek to engage communities and organizations, as well as local governments, businesses, reuse organizations and advocacy organizations. As detailed in the project values and outcomes (summary flyer attached) Metro will be elevating the needs of communities of color and other groups historically underserved or impacted by the solid waste system.

In October and November 2022, the project team engaged regional stakeholders in four virtual roundtables to identify and discuss facility gaps in the existing garbage and recycling system. See attachments below for a summary of "what we heard" from each roundtable. The roundtables held were:

- Reuse/repair business - October 4 (19 attendees)
- Community partners - October 6 (12 attendees)
- Local government staff and elected officials - October 31 (28 attendees)
- Private industry - November 3 (30 attendees)

A meeting with the project's Community Advisory Group (CAG) was held on October 18 to focus on identifying gaps from their perspective. Their input will be summarized in and presented to Council in late January.

The project team also held meetings and discussions to identify gaps and hear from staff in the Waste Prevention and Environmental Services (WPES) department. Staff in WPES, especially frontline staff that work at Metro's garbage and recycling facilities, have extensive knowledge of the existing system and we wanted to capture their input on gaps and needs. Meetings and discussions were held with 4 WPES policy and program teams and 4 WPES facility sites (Metro South, Metro Central, Report Illegal Dumping (RID), Metro Paint).

An on-line survey was sent to roundtable invitees and participants, the CAG, as well as to WPES staff to allow for additional opportunities to provide written information on gaps. We received 30 survey responses from roundtable and CAG members (5 in Spanish), 6 survey responses from WPES policy & program staff, and 22 from WPES facility site staff.

All of the comments that we received on gaps and needs were logged into a "gaps spreadsheet" for staff and consultant review and analysis, and to categorize and assign themes. An early summary of "what we heard" from all this outreach will be the main focus of the RWAC presentation on December 15th.

The team is also in the process of assessing gaps through a series of technical analysis tasks. An early summary of the technical analysis status and initial findings will also be included in the RWAC presentation on December 15th.

The project team has provided previous updates to RWAC on this project in February, March, April, May and October in 2022.

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- What gaps, needs or themes in the attached summary flyers or presentation today are most relevant or related to the project's values and outcomes (what are the top 3)?
- What gaps, needs or themes should be highlighted for Metro Council and/or addressed in developing scenarios in Phase 3?

NEXT STEPS

- Complete Phase 2 Technical Analysis portion of Gap Assessment
- Prepare a draft Phase 2 Gap Assessment Summary Report to share in early January 2023
- Review Phase 2 Gap Assessment Summary Report with CORE, MPAC and Metro Council in late January
- Seek Metro Council support to move forward to Phase 3, using Gap Assessment Summary Report as a basis for developing scenarios
- Return to RWAC in March or April 2023 to seek input on draft scenarios (possible solutions) for addressing facility gaps in the region.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Phase 2 roundtable summary flyers (all in one document)

Attachment 2: Phase 1 System Facilities Plan Values and Outcomes summary flyer



Reuse & Repair Roundtable Summary

Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan

Metro hosted a roundtable on Oct. 4, 2022 to seek input and engagement from partners in reuse and repair. The focus of this meeting was to identify infrastructure or facilities needed to support reuse and repair in the greater Portland region.

Participants were broken up into five small groups to discuss:

- *What infrastructure is needed to support reuse and repair in the greater Portland region, especially in underserved geographic areas of the region?*
- *How can Metro support the reuse and repair economy at Metro transfer stations?*
- *How can equitable distribution systems be created to benefit overburdened communities and other Reuse/Repair systems?*

Infrastructure gaps we heard:

- Physical space for warehousing, sorting and storage of reuse materials
- Centralized locations for people to drop off or shop for reuse materials
- Transportation of large items for people without vehicles (trucks)
- Places or hubs for reuse organizations to share tools and equipment

Other needs we heard:

- Communications support for reuse campaigns
- Education for regional residents about where to take reuse materials
- Support capacity-building for reuse organizations (staffing, equipment, volunteer matchmaking)
- Policy support for producer accountability and “right to repair”



Priorities

Results from a live voting exercise, in which participants ranked their top priorities today, from a list of gaps identified in previous engagements with City of Portland and other projects:

- Storage space (9 votes)
- Ongoing or operation funding from grants or local government (8 votes)
- Staffing capacity (7 votes)
- Processing space (4 votes)
- Organizational capacity (4 votes)
- Cleaning & repair space (3 votes)
- Living wages and benefits for reuse and repair workers (3 votes)
- Policy supporting reuse & repair (3 votes)

Overall comments and takeaways from participants:

- Reiterated the value of a centralized volunteer resource pool; Metro facilitating a platform for volunteer pooling would be helpful.
- The low wages at non-profits and lack of benefits mean you can't keep staff on for long; need benefits and a livable wage.
- Some organizations pay volunteers and suggested Metro could offer financial incentives for reuse/repair volunteers.
- This has been a great opportunity for folks to come together, but there should be a longer discussion opportunity, too, with more time to hear from each other.

Summary discussion notes on gaps:

Group 1

- Centralized space for refurbishing with tools and storage space
- Distributed donation centers around the city
- Places at transfer station where materials for reuse can be dropped off at no cost (prior to scales)
- Education so reuse organizations don't get junk dumped on them
- Don't want Metro to compete with community organizations, but would like support of existing reuse/repair organizations
- Desire for Metro to follow-up on what they hear from community members with actionable outcomes

Group 2

- A network of existing organizations to be able to share resources, like volunteers, trucks, bedbug dryer etc.
- Centralized hubs around the area for sharing physical resources and a location for all organizations to work together
- Location is a big barrier and needs to be convenient for many throughout the region
- Physical locations that include customer interface often means staff must deal with mental health crises that they aren't trained for

Group 3

- Agreement on the hub/spoke model, a centralized processing system for multiple organizations
- Economic incentives from Metro like making transfer station fees cheaper if waste is diverted to a reuse organization first, perhaps through a voucher
- Library is a good model for reuse
- Lowering barriers for grants

- Importance of shoppers having dignity, the experience of shopping in a place that is set up to reduce barriers
- Transportation of large household items to people's homes is needed

Group 4

- In need of more physical space to receive, process, and store materials
- Agreement with sharing space and pooling resources, especially for those organizations working directly with the public, and with access to trucks
- Importance of increasing public education on where to take materials before and at the transfer station
- Agreement on reducing financial barriers
- More conveniently located facilities for all

Group 5

- Need more space to process materials
- The large amount of clothing thrown away by each American; need to create a system to sort out what is still useable
- Support transporting large items to people's homes is needed
- Liked the large "mall" concept to bring together multiple organizations
- Interest in the subscription-based home pickup model to remove transportation barriers for customers
- Could there be an opportunity to capture the gas produced at transfer stations to use for mattress debugging?
- Organizations are having to pay retail price at the transfer station when they are taking on the burden of disposing waste on the donor's behalf

Opportunities for collaboration

Participants also broke into small groups to discuss:

- *What are the opportunities for collaboration? (What should be the role of other players in providing reuse and repair facilities/infrastructure?)*
- *What infrastructure is needed to support these organizations if there are additional collection opportunities?*

What we heard

Many reuse/repair organizations are small so Metro acting as the convener would be most beneficial to long-term collaboration.

When large businesses have an excess of materials but don't know there is a reuse market it ends up in a landfill. A campaign to market, promote and normalize reuse & repair is needed.

Goodwill has experience to share managing a truck fleet.

Most materials are not made to last long. To support a reuse market, what economic levers could be adjusted to support reuse, such as right to repair and extended producer responsibility legislation?

More sharing of resources and volunteers to make things easier on consumers would be helpful, such as being able to drop off materials at other organizations and having a shared transportation system to get materials to the right organizations.

Desire for financial support from the government to build capacity among organizations that are already doing the work vs. creating new systems.



Community Partner Roundtable Summary

Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan

Metro hosted a roundtable on Oct. 6, 2022 to seek participation from community members and partners representing historically marginalized experiences. The focus of this meeting was to hear about garbage, recycling, reuse and repair service gaps that could be filled by new or updated facilities. The following is a summary of what Metro heard during breakout groups.

Round 1 discussion

Discussion was based on these questions:

- What do you do with your garbage, recyclables, and other things you don't need anymore?
- What services are you signed up for and/or regularly use?
- What are the items or materials that are hard to get rid of?

What we heard:

Clackamas County

- Some don't use curbside service, only use Metro South Transfer Station
- Apartment building garbage enclosures are used, but lack recycling opportunities.
- Using community exchange free tables are popular for reusable items
- Batteries, sharps, yard waste, and hazardous waste are all difficult to get rid of

Multnomah County

- Group members use creative methods to repurpose or refurbish waste when possible
- Trying to not cook too much to prevent food waste, making broth with vegetable and meat scraps, home composting food waste for gardening

- Giving things away, putting things on curb, using Buy Nothing groups, Habitat for Humanity Restore for reusable items
- Community recycling events, Styrofoam depot on Rosa Parks/Vancouver are good supplemental recycling options
- Use transfer stations for large loads of waste
- Clothing, clamshells, paint, cooking oil are difficult to get rid of
- Ridwell is used for lightbulb recycling



Washington County, Group 1

- Collection events are a popular way to get rid of items for disposal. Better advertising, more frequency and language access is desired.
- Recycling worn-out clothes is a challenge, where can fabric be recycled?
- Tip: *Recycle Day* app shows events and facilities near you

Washington County, Group 2

- Use curbside pickup, collection events, dump/Transfer Station/landfills
- Disparity of prices for private vs Metro Transfer Stations, means many in Forest Grove/Cornelius must travel farther to Portland
- Differences in services between Apartment buildings and single family houses
- One participant collects food waste in their apartment and brings it to a friend's garden for composting
- Goodwill, Habitat for Humanity Restore, electronic waste collection are good supplemental options

Round 2 discussion

Discussion was based on these questions:

- *What is working well about these systems?*
- *What is not working well?*
- *What services do you think are missing or wish you had access to in your community?*
- *What are the main barriers that limit you from taking garbage and recycling to a facility today? (cost, distance, accessibility, etc.)*

What we heard

Clackamas County

- Language, age and income barriers
- Transfer Stations are not working well because of staff turnover and long lines
- In person events with visual examples are very helpful, beneficial to see the piles of items

Multnomah County

- Composting is working well except where it's not available for multifamily units and areas that don't offer food waste collection
- Need more education to know what is recyclable, it's complicated because of misleading labels
- Need more education for folks new to area etc.
- Love events, advertising is lacking



Washington County, Group 1

- Satisfaction with home pickup service that include garbage, recycling and compost, plus using bottle drop
- Dissatisfied with affordability and price disparity between private and Metro Transfer Stations
- Transportation is a big barrier
- Styrofoam is a difficult item to store and to recycle
- Difficulty to access non-English language info to know how to dispose of items and knowing what's hazardous
- Events that accept refrigerators for fridges etc., some of events require to dispose of coolant liquid but that's not common knowledge
- Information access barriers for older folks and younger folks.
- Community organizations are helpful to reach community and host collection events



Washington County, Group 2

- Shared garbage and recycling spaces in apartment buildings are nice for the community aspect, but there could be many more bins to collect additional items for reuse of special recycling
- Difficult to know what to do with medication
- Centro Cultural events that collect reuse and recycling as well as give vaccines and other offering, convenient to have a 'one stop shop'
- Need more services for houseless camps
- Need a shared community calendar to know where/when events are happening

Local Government Roundtable Summary

Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan

Metro hosted a roundtable on October 31, 2022 to seek input from local government partners. The focus of this meeting was to identify infrastructure or facilities needed to support garbage, recycling, reuse, repair, recycling, and composting services in the greater Portland region. The following is a high-level summary of the discussion.



Location of current facilities

- People who live in Washington County and east Multnomah County must travel far to access a public transfer station, or any transfer station in some cases. The private transfer stations in Washington County are more costly for the public to use.
- People who live in Washington County and parts of Clackamas County have less or no convenient access to household hazardous waste, and reuse/repair services.
- Even if a transfer station or collection facility was built in Cornelius (on site purchased by Metro), cities in the southern parts of Washington County (King City, Tigard, Sherwood) would still face access disparities.
- Illegal dumping of garbage is an issue for communities throughout the region, and illegal dumping of household hazardous waste is especially concerning. More garbage facilities with more equitable access could help reduce these issues.

Who can access current facilities

- There are serious gaps around equity, including barriers for black, indigenous, and people of color, people living with low incomes and non-English speakers in accessing self-haul and special collection services. Seniors, people with limited mobility, and those living unhoused face barriers to accessing self-haul opportunities.

- Variance of fees and service levels between public and private transfer stations is of great concern. Higher costs or lack of services creates access barriers for disposal of household hazardous waste, recycling and bulky waste.
- Multifamily residents lack easy access to food waste and bulky item collection.

Strengthening our partnerships, regionwide

- Coordination is needed around holiday closures at collection facilities when franchised haulers continue operating and waste gets backed-up.
- More community clean-up events are needed for household hazardous waste and hard-to-dispose-of items. Some local governments have had success with an annual community-wide cleanup day.
- Industrial land availability is limited throughout the Metro region, and this could pose a challenge to building new garbage and recycling facilities.

Other gaps

- Disasters and emergencies like fires and storms create additional waste and hinder collection. This creates additional costs and accumulation, which especially burdens people with low incomes.
- More education is needed about accessing the waste and recycling system, especially for increasing awareness of available services and events, and for people speaking different languages.

Small Group Discussions

Participants were broken into eight small groups to discuss:

- How well do community-identified gaps align with your understanding about what is needed in your jurisdiction to better manage reuse, repair, recycling, composting and garbage? What additional facility or service gaps do you see?
- How do the gaps impact your community? Who benefits from current facilities, who is left out or burdened? Are there nuances or unique needs (based on geography, demographics, land use, etc.) specific to your jurisdiction? How might these efforts align with your agency's values and priorities?

Washington County

- Primary issue is access; physically and economically. Seniors with mobility issues, multifamily residents, and people with low incomes have the highest needs. Another barrier is language.
- Equity is a big issue. Need to communicate with all communities and not burden marginalized communities as changes are made.
- Should work with all levels of government to move forward more quickly.
- Any look at rate increases needs to be transparent to share with community members.
- Western area: need access to an affordable nearby facility due to higher fees at private transfer stations.
- Southern area: No easy access to a facility, for some the closest is in Newberg.
- Are there alternative ways of providing service (e.g. full scale facility vs. accessible collection

events or a network of smaller facilities)?

- Concern for lack of household hazardous waste collection and environmental impacts of improper disposal.
- Household hazardous waste events happen in the area, but they aren't advertised broadly because they are in high-demand already (too popular). This means some cities never hear about these events, like Durham.
- Ridwell and Pride have started filling some of the recycling service gaps.
- Reuse/repair infrastructure is not as developed on the Westside as it is in Portland, which has organizations like the Rebuilding Center. A hub and spoke model for reuse/repair would be beneficial on the west side.

Multnomah County

- Gresham and other East County cities have similar access needs as Washington County.
- There's a need for more communication about holiday facility closures and hours. Some private facilities close on holidays when haulers still operate.
- There's a yard debris/food waste gap for people who live in multifamily housing.
- Need more household hazardous waste events.
- Need disaster planning and coordination among collection facilities during a natural disaster event.
- The garbage doesn't stop for heat, fire or ice emergencies; the people most burdened have low incomes, are not able bodied, or lack transportation.
- Limited access to reuse/repair options.

- Equity concerns for Black, Indigenous, people of color and woman owned companies that collect bulky waste; can needs be aligned to not burden small companies?
- Are depots needed for recycling or should there be expansion of collection services?

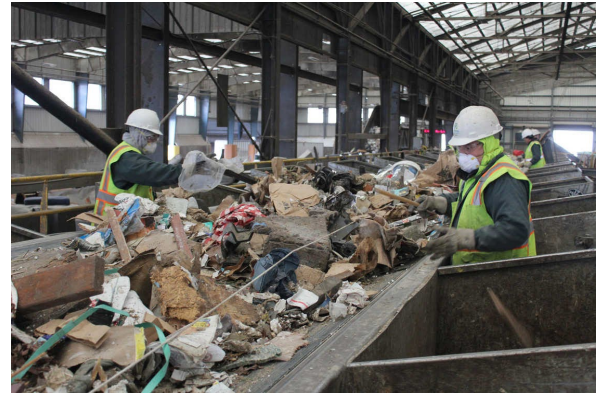
Clackamas County

- Existing system, works well for people that have time and money. Low-income and multi-family residents that need self-haul, special collection services, or want to access reuse are not served well.
- Gaps include: reuse/repair options, consistent route efficiency, sustainable funding for reuse, equitable rate setting to pay for services and extended producer responsibility models that include cost of collection.
- Multifamily residents have some of the biggest gaps in service; storage and access for garbage is not adequate at most multi-family residences.
- Ridwell is currently filling some system gaps. Could private companies open depots around the region?
- Concern about rates and the amount of profit that franchise companies are guaranteed.
- There is inconsistent residential food scrap collection service.
- Need to align the system to better support material recovery and reduce waste.
- Clean-up, collection and bulky waste days are popular and should continue; add household hazardous waste to events.
- Other needs include: more Paint-care locations; disaster planning for garbage service; removal of abandoned RVs; ways to get rid of Styrofoam; more support for illegal dumping.

Private Industry Roundtable Summary

Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan

Metro hosted a roundtable on November 3, 2022 to seek input from local garbage and recycling businesses. The focus of this meeting was to identify infrastructure or facilities needed to support garbage, recycling, reuse, repair, recycling, and composting services in the greater Portland region. The following is a high-level summary of what we heard.



Existing facility gaps

At the roundtable, we heard about existing gaps including:

- There is only one facility in the region that accepts asbestos, and its location in Hillsboro can be a barrier.
- Space and separation from commercial traffic are barriers for some operators in allowing public self-haul.
- A request for a metal drop-off center that could pay for recyclable metal.
- Specialty haulers need more storage space for hard-to-recycle items, as well as coordination on collection of these items to achieve a cost-effective volume and to weather changes in prices for materials.
- Specialty haulers have difficulty finding someone who will accept recyclables like plastic film and pill bottles.
- More centralization of collection sites would benefit specialty haulers so different types of items/materials can be received at a single location.
- It's difficult to find donation centers that will consistently accept large reuse items like couches and mattresses.
- Gaps related to amenities at Metro transfer stations:
 - Request to retain the truck wash at Metro South.
 - Suggestion for expanding reuse options, like adding a reuse room at transfer stations.
 - Specialty haulers would benefit from asbestos testing opportunities at transfer stations.

Other system gaps

Education needed

- Specialty haulers would benefit from knowing where various items are accepted.
- Metro has an important role in providing public education that helps facility operators reduce contamination and hazards - such as from batteries.
- More public education is needed about where customers can take items for reuse.

Policy and regulatory barriers, concerns

- The DEQ classification of a specialty hauler as a transfer station imposes unreasonable requirements.
- Collaboration between Metro and DEQ on sharing required reporting would help lessen the burden on facility operators.
- Private transfer station operators would like to capture more of the waste stream currently processed at Metro-owned facilities and feel they could operate more efficiently than the public sector.
- Transfer station operators need to know the future regulatory environment and markets to make significant investments in their facilities.
- Materials Recovery Facility operators face economic pressures from low or uncertain commodity prices, caps on wet waste, as well as disposal costs for garbage.
- Depots for collecting hard-to-recycle items are not likely to cover the cost to operate.



- Transfer station operators and Materials Recovery Facilities would benefit from increased volume from haulers for different types of materials.
- For wet waste, smaller transfer station operators lack the volume to effectively match Metro's rates.
- If allowed, waste streams from many types of commercial customers with a very small amount of food waste could be processed as dry waste to increase recovery rates.
- There's a role for Metro in helping to provide and/or fund new infrastructure that will be required through the Recycling Modernization Act.

Markets

- Research and development are needed in the industry to create recycling markets and scalability.
- While a new west-side transfer station is needed, operators are concerned about how it will be funded and if a new facility would pull wet waste tonnage from other facilities.
- Unpredictable markets for plastics creates barriers.

Transfer stations

- Some operators do not want public customers to access their facilities because of space, access, and issues with mis-sorting (also applies to Materials Recovery Facilities).
- Some transfer station operators have space to expand while others do not.
- Acquiring insurance is a barrier for facility operators and something that Metro could help with.
- Haulers face a burden in documenting negative asbestos tests and the risk of a load being rejected; would benefit from acceptance of electronic asbestos test results.

Reuse/repair/recycling

- It is not always clear what reuse items will be accepted by donation centers, as this can change daily.
- Acceptance of hard-to-recycle items.
- Given sufficient volume and markets, private haulers can take additional materials that are not currently collected.
- There are not currently good disposal options for used RVs.

- Polypropylene items are expensive to process, which is a barrier to recycling.
- Haulers face a burden when loads are rejected because of contamination (like lumber in yard debris).

Residential self-haul

- Public self-haul access is costly for private facility operators because people dump garbage or materials that are not accepted; would need more staff to operate effectively.
- Partnership from the public sector and/or volunteers (like master recyclers) in staffing depots could help offset rising costs to private industry in making depots available to the public.





Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan

About the project

Metro's 2030 Regional Waste Plan set a vision that centers racial equity to reduce waste, protect health and the environment and provide excellent services for everyone. Creating a Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan will help implement that vision by identifying the places where people lack services, and set a strategy to invest in modernizing the region's reuse, recycling and garbage infrastructure.

The plan will focus on facilities such as transfer stations and repair, reuse and recycling centers that play a key role in managing the things we all throw away. Future investments may include building new facilities, adding new services to existing facilities, and identifying other alternatives.

What is guiding the development of this plan?

The values and racial equity principles of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan guide this work. The plan also includes a new value reflecting Metro's commitment to seek Tribal government consultation. From these values, staff created desired outcomes specific to this new plan. Together, the values and outcomes will steer the development of an investment plan that includes:

- a focus on reducing waste through infrastructure improvements
- improved quality and access to services
- keeping services affordable

These values and outcomes will guide evaluation of service gaps and investment options and will be used to measure the overall success of the plan over the next 20 years.

The values and outcomes were shaped with input from community advisory groups and Metro Council.

A focus on waste reduction

This plan will outline the infrastructure investments necessary to help the region reuse, repair and recycle more materials in order to reduce the negative health and environmental impacts of waste.

New facilities could help the region recover more waste through recycling, composting or energy recovery, instead of sending it to the landfill.

Reusing and repairing materials has even greater benefits by avoiding the negative impacts from landfilling and reducing the need to manufacture new products.



Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan

Summarized Values and Outcomes:



Healthy people and environment

- Minimize the negative health and environmental impacts of facilities by incorporating innovative sustainability practices as outlined in Metro's green building policy
- Develop good neighbor agreements between communities and facilities



Resource conservation

- Identify the items the plan needs to target for reuse, repair, recycling or composting – and the infrastructure needed to manage them
- Increase access to donate and buy used items
- Provide workspace, reclaimed materials and other types of support to regional reuse and repair initiatives



Environmental literacy

- Provide learning opportunities at facilities through tours, displays, exhibits, viewing rooms
- Develop programming with organizations focused on waste prevention and environmental justice



Economic well-being

- Provide jobs with living wages, benefits, and safe work environments
- Recruit and retain workers who are underrepresented in the garbage and recycling industry
- Create opportunities within the garbage, recycling, reuse and repair sectors for people with barriers to employment



Excellent service and equitable system access

- Develop a network of facilities to provide equitable system access
- Establish direction for Metro transfer stations and Metro solid waste facilities
- Keep facility-based services affordable for low-income customers
- Make public facilities accessible for people with disabilities and people who rely on transit
- Develop multilingual and culturally relevant communication tools for facilities



Operational resilience, adaptability, and sustainability

- Develop funding options that advance waste reduction and affordability goals
- Design efficient facilities to serve people quickly and recover useful materials
- Identify facility investment needs for natural hazard resilience
- Shape garbage and recycling system with key elements from regional transportation and land use planning efforts



Community restoration

- Evaluate potential facility benefits and burdens using a climate justice lens
- Incorporate the needs of marginalized communities in the planning process



Community partnerships

- Create a Community Advisory Group that works with staff to develop the plan
- Involve community-based organizations in decision-making of facility projects
- Partner with Black, Indigenous, People of Color Communities and immigrant-led organizations to support reuse and repair projects at new facilities



Community investment

- Develop Community Benefits Agreements to ensure benefits are equitably shared and address community needs
- Provide community gathering spaces such as parks and meeting rooms at public facilities that serve residential customers



Tribal consultation

- Seek to consult with Tribal governments to advance shared priorities such as cultural and historic resource protection, environmental protection and resources conservation.
- Establish partnerships with Tribes through government-to-government engagement

For more information, visit
[oregonmetro.gov/
systemfacilitiesplan](https://oregonmetro.gov/systemfacilitiesplan)

REGIONAL WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Worksheet

PRESENTATION DATE: December 15, 2022

LENGTH: 20 minutes

PRESENTATION TITLE: Upcoming Investment and Innovation grants solicitation

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 an overview of the 2023 cycle of Metro's Investment and Innovation grants cycle, which will launch in early January with a solicitation for proposals.
- Staff will share an opportunity to participate on a I&I grant review committee next year.

ACTION REQUESTED

- None (informational)

BACKGROUND

Overview of the Investment and Innovation grant program

The Metro Council initiated the Investment and Innovation (I&I) program in 2018 as a three-year pilot to invest in the efforts of private companies and nonprofit organizations to prevent waste and reduce the negative impacts of materials discarded in greater Portland. These include improvements to the regional reuse and repair, recycling and composting systems. At the same time, the grants are intended to provide economic opportunities and other benefits for communities of color and other marginalized groups. The I&I program helps Metro achieve the overarching objectives of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan by reducing the environmental impacts of products and advancing racial equity. Specifically, the grants are helping advance 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.

Since 2018, the program has funded 65 grants totaling \$10.7 million. These funds have so far leveraged \$10.2 million in grantee contributions to these projects. Grant projects have ranged from robots that use artificial intelligence to sort recycling, to community events in underserved neighborhoods to collect hard-to-recycle items, to a network of parent and student advocates tackling food waste at schools. More details on the cumulative impacts of these investments are in the 2023 Investment and Innovation annual report coming soon.

Overview of the 2023 grant cycle

The next cycle will launch the first week of January with a call for proposals. Metro anticipates awarding up to \$2 million in new grants in June 2023. As with the last cycle, capital grants will be up to \$500,000 for infrastructure and equipment, and program grants will be up to \$100,000 for personnel, materials and supplies, and smaller equipment. Eligible applicants will continue to be nonprofit organizations, private businesses, and institutions of higher education.

The upcoming solicitation will prioritize the following types of projects for funding: (1) Reuse and repair; (2) Food waste prevention and rescue, and transition to reusable service ware/packaging; and (3) Recycling infrastructure. An excerpt of the solicitation containing descriptions of these funding priorities (“Priority Focus Areas”) are attached as Attachment 1. These priorities are similar to the 2022 solicitation but adapted to align with policy work underway. This includes the Recycling Modernization Act implementation, and the System Facilities Plan that is identifying gaps in the region’s garbage and recycling infrastructure.

Projects that fit within one of the I&I Priority Focus Areas are automatically awarded additional scoring points. However, other projects that qualify based on overall program objectives and criteria (e.g., alignment with I&I objectives, projects take place in Metro region or directly benefit the region, etc.) are also eligible for funding.

The 2023 grants solicitation will also include the following elements:

- In 2022 the I&I program implemented an equity threshold, an enhanced requirement for applicants to demonstrate how their proposed grant projects would advance equity. We saw a notable increase in efforts around equity demonstrated in the proposals and will continue building on this strategy. I&I staff will continue to provide applicants with opportunities for coaching and to explore potential ways of advancing equity tailored to each applicants’ unique circumstances.
- Projects related to collection and hauling services and related materials/supplies (containers, bins) that are basic “costs of business” will continue to be ineligible for I&I funding, regardless of whether the material is destined for recycling, composting or landfill.
- To focus and reduce the number of funding requests, which far exceed the available funding each year, applicants will be limited to submitting a single proposal.

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- None

NEXT STEPS

- Committee recruitment underway: We are recruiting for local government, business and community members to serve on the capital and program grant review committees. This is an exciting opportunity to collaborate with others passionate about waste prevention to develop funding recommendations on a range of funding proposals. RWAC members are invited to serve in this role, please contact Suzanne Piluso (Suzanne.piluso@oregonmetro.gov) for more information.
- Investment and Innovation annual report: The I&I program is developing its first annual report, which will be published in mid-December. This ongoing, cumulative report will share the impacts from completed grants using performance measures to demonstrate progress toward meeting specific Regional Waste Plan goals. It will provide accountability for the public funding and highlight the inspiring achievements of grant recipient businesses and organizations working to reduce waste and make better use of discarded materials. The report will be distributed to stakeholders, including RWAC, at the end of each calendar year.

ATTACHMENT

- Attachment 1: Priority Focus Areas descriptions (excerpt of 2023 I&I grant solicitation)

2023 Investment and Innovation Grants **Priority Focus Areas**

Reuse and Repair

Projects that increase the reuse, repair and donation of materials and consumer products. Specifically, this focus area includes sustaining and expanding the region's reuse and repair infrastructure that helps residents and businesses extend the lifespan of products and materials already in circulation through effective collection, processing and resale/redistribution.

Grants for purchase, lease or rent of real property are limited to nonprofit applicants, in this focus area only.

Desired outcomes:

- Creation or expansion of markets for reuse, repair and share of electronics, building materials, textiles, bulky waste (mattresses, furniture, etc.) and other high impact products and packaging.
 - *Example projects include:* "Value added" applications of building materials such as repurposing into furniture; Supply chain improvements to allow contractors to order larger quantities of reused dimensional lumber in one place; Replacement of single-use packaging with reusable packaging used to transport or distribute goods for a collaborative/consortium of like business types.
- Build capacity and employment opportunities within the region's reuse and repair organizations and businesses.
 - *Example projects include:* Coalition building to develop shared strategies and training opportunities (DEI, trauma-informed care, business skills, marketing and cross-promotion, etc.); Specific skills training or pre-apprenticeship courses; Expansion or retrofitting facilities for additional space for processing donations, off-season storage, accessibility improvements and education/workshop spaces.
- Improved customer knowledge, repair skills, and adoption of best practices for extending the lifespans of projects and materials already in circulation.
 - *Example projects include:* Targeted educational and outreach campaigns informed by data to increase the quantity of high-value materials that are kept in use rather than disposed; Projects to reduce barriers to reuse/repair such as language translation to enable greater access to reuse opportunities.

Exclusions:

- Projects that involve repair of automobiles.

Food waste prevention and rescue; transition to reusable service ware/packaging

Projects that establish or expand food waste prevention efforts to reduce the amount of food being disposed in landfills or composted, and projects that encourage the transition from disposable to reusable service ware and packaging.

Desired outcomes:

- Prevention of food waste from being generated at the source (i.e., before excess food is created).
 - *Example projects include:* Modifications to production, manufacturing or distribution processes to prevent loss or waste of food and ensure food goes to its highest and best purpose; Implementation of technology to support food waste tracking, inventory management and other practices shown to reduce food waste; Creating or expanding education and training to a consortium of chefs and food service staff on food waste prevention practices across multiple food service sites.
- Rescue of high-quality, edible food that would otherwise be disposed, and redistribution of that food to people experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, hunger. Projects that demonstrate collaboration with other organizations and culturally responsive food distribution services to diverse populations will be most competitive.
 - *Example projects include:* Purchase of refrigerated trucks or other capital equipment to expand transportation and distribution capacity; Technology and program solutions to connect food donors with recovery organizations;
- Creation of value-added food products from surplus food and food byproducts.
 - *Example projects include:* Production of marketable baked goods from spent grains or sauces from produce scraps.
- Investments in transitioning from using disposables (including compostable/biodegradable materials) to durable service ware and packaging materials. Must impact more than just a single business.
 - *Example projects include:* Developing infrastructure and systems for a collaborative or consortium of like businesses, or a large campus, to transition from disposable service ware to reusable materials.

Exclusions:

- Projects relating to designing, engineering or building a food de-packaging facility.
- Projects related to compostable or biodegradable service ware and packaging.
- Projects related to collection equipment or improving on-site collection areas at food waste-generating businesses.

Recycling Infrastructure

Projects that strengthen and build resiliency into the recycling system that serves residents and businesses in the Metro region, to ensure that materials collected now and in the future are as marketable as possible.

Desired outcomes:

- Expanded capacity for local processors of recyclables and manufacturers of recycled content products, to encourage development of local end markets (including attracting new entrants) that produce a consistent and reliable supply of high-quality feedstock.
- Opportunities to increase recovery of materials that are not collected curbside from residents and businesses, such as depots or collection events located in underserved communities where residents can drop materials for recycling or reuse for free.
- Expanded capacity for new entrants to the recycling system, particularly small businesses and community-based organizations that are providing neighborhood-level services.
 - *For example:* Planning and/or consulting efforts that help small businesses and community-based organizations develop the qualifications needed to be able to participate in the future funding opportunities provided by the Recycling Modernization Act.
- Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) are set up to maximize effective sorting of recyclables and removal of contaminants, so that the region's recyclables are clean and can meet the specifications of markets. This includes investments in modern sorting technologies to more effectively remove contaminants or sort recyclables into higher grade commodities.

Exclusions:

- Only mechanical recycling projects are eligible for funding. "Mechanical recycling" means a form of recycling that does not change the basic molecular structure of the material being recycled. Projects that employ non-mechanical technologies or projects that intend to deliver material to non-mechanical technologies are not eligible for funding.
- Additionally, mechanical recycling projects that intend to prepare material to be used in the preparation of fuel are not eligible for funding.

Recycling Modernization Act funding implication

Oregon's new Recycling Modernization Act (RMA) will leverage the resources of producers of packaging, paper products and food service ware to pay for many of the necessary improvements to the statewide recycling system to ensure these materials are recycled successfully. Producers will fund these necessary upgrades through Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs).

DRAFT

Commingled processing facilities that are certified by the state of Oregon under the new law will be eligible to receive fees from PROs to compensate them for the cost of removing covered products that are contaminants to the recycling system and to support the increased costs associated with processing and marketing of recyclables. Small businesses and community organization may have opportunities to contract directly with PROs to operate community collection events or recycling drop-off locations. Rulemaking is underway to develop details related to this funding, which is anticipated to become available in 2025-2026.

Investment and Innovation (I&I) grants are intended to fund efforts to prevent waste and the disposal of materials where there are not producer-funded opportunities to pay for costs associated with those efforts. I&I grant contracts for 2022-23 grant awards may include a condition requiring certain grant recipients to pursue PRO funding if it becomes available during the grant term and the grant budget includes expenses that could be paid for with PRO funding instead of I&I funds.

For more RMA information:

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/recycling/Pages/Modernizing-Oregons-Recycling-System.aspx>

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/recycling/Pages/Commingled-Processing-Facilities.aspx>

REGIONAL WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Worksheet

PRESENTATION DATE: 12/15/22 **LENGTH:** 30 mins (15 presentation / 15 Q&A)

PRESENTATION TITLE: Multifamily Service Improvements: background and current related projects

DECISION TYPE: Informational

RELATED REGIONAL WASTE PLAN GOALS: Goal 10, Provide regionally consistent services for garbage, recyclables, and other priority materials that meet the need of all users.

PRESENTER(S): SARA KIRBY; LAUREN BALLINGER

PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

- The 2030 Regional Waste Plan outlines goals, actions and measurements to address garbage and recycling issues at multifamily homes. This presentation will provide an overview of work done to date as well as introduce current projects.

ACTION REQUESTED

- None, informational only.

BACKGROUND

- Starting in 2015 Metro and local governments have worked together to better understand and address the issues and challenges associated with multifamily garbage and recycling services.
- Local government and Metro staff made recommendations to address the identified challenges. The challenges and recommendations identified by local governments and Metro were echoed in 2030 Regional Waste Plan (RWP) engagement with communities throughout greater Portland, and became actions 10.2, 10.3, 10.5 and 10.6 under Goal 10 of the Plan. Additionally, one of the six key indicators in the plan, the “share of multifamily communities with adequate collection services” tracks implementation of the multifamily related actions.
- Implementing the RWP multifamily focused actions and measures happens through related projects and efforts.
 - As a first step, in December of 2020, Metro Council adopted updates to the multifamily Regional Service Standard, creating the structure to add prescriptions to collection services to be provided to multifamily customers including: per unit volume requirements, a weekly minimum collection frequency, establishing a stream-based color standard for multifamily collection bins and the use of regional stream (garbage, recycling, glass) decals. In April of 2021 administrative rules to specifying these changes went into effect.
 - Local governments are in the process of adopting and implementing these code and rule changes at the city and county level.
 - In consultation with local governments, and informed by community feedback, Metro led the redesign of the identification decals for garbage, recycling and glass

bins, and garbage and recycling area signs at multifamily properties. Additionally, Metro is leading the implementation of those decals and signs at more than 6,000 sites across the greater Portland. Currently, implementation is at 60% completed and on track to meet the Dec. 31, 2023, implementation deadline established in administrative rule.

- In 2022 Metro completed the baseline measurement of the RWP Multifamily Key Indicator and plans additional future measurements to track implementation of the multifamily actions.
- To meet the July 1, 2025, deadline established in administrative rule, local governments and Metro are collaborating to identify challenges and opportunities specific to bulky waste collection service to implement action 10.5, regularly occurring bulky waste collection services.
- Metro staff are identifying opportunities for increased reuse of bulky materials through the Large Household Item Reuse Market Study.
- Metro staff are working with stakeholders to create a vision of desired outcomes for the Mattress Extended Producer Responsibility program and participating in the Department of Environmental Quality legislation rulemaking process. Mattresses make up a visible portion of the bulky waste stream.
- Staff presented on updates to the multifamily and general education sections of Regional Service Standards (actions 10.2 and 10.3) in May 2020, June 2020 and July 2020 as well as previously presented on multifamily background work in Nov. 2019.

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- N/A

NEXT STEPS

- In January Metro staff will provide informational presentation on the Large Household Item Reuse Market Study.
- In February Metro staff will provide an informational presentation on findings, understanding of the current landscape, from the Bulky Waste Policy Project, phase one work.

ATTACHMENTS

- Multifamily Key Indicator Summary
- Fact Sheet for Residents Regional Service Standards



Metro is proposing changes to garbage and recycling services.

Metro works with communities, businesses and residents in the Portland metropolitan area to create a plan for the future while protecting the things we love about this place. If you take your kids to the Oregon Zoo, picnic at Blue Lake or drive your car, you've already met us.

We also like to talk about trash. Since 2015, Metro has worked with people living in apartments and condos (what we call "multifamily homes"), local government officials, property managers and owners, and companies that collect garbage and recycling, to better understand garbage and recycling at multifamily homes. We heard that our services for multifamily homes are not fully providing what people need.

We worked with our partners to propose changes to Metro Code and Administrative Rule to create better services and fill in gaps for residents of apartments and condos.

Our proposed changes will do two things:

1. All garbage and recycling bins will have new signs, stickers and colors that tell you which is for garbage, recycling or glass. They will be the same across the greater Portland area. No matter where you are, you will know what goes where.

Later this year, you will see new stickers that use pictures to help identify what goes in the trash and what is recyclable. Right now, there are some bins that don't have any stickers. There are also some bins that have confusing stickers, or really old ones.

We will also replace trash and recycling bins with ones that are color-coded. No matter where you move, the garbage bin will be grey, the recycling bin will be blue, and the glass bin will be orange. The bins will always stay the same colors, so people who move a lot don't have to learn new colors.

The first change you will see is new stickers on your garbage and recycling bins. The new bin colors will be changed slowly over several years. The changes should not change your garbage bill right away or very much.

2. Garbage and recycling will be **collected more often**, so your bins won't be overloaded.

Metro is setting a minimum level of service for garbage, mixed recycling and glass recycling. This will increase recycling service at most multifamily properties.

These are just the first steps we are taking. In the future, we will provide better service for bulky items, like furniture and mattresses. We will also look at how we can improve the garbage and recycling areas at multifamily homes to make them cleaner and safer.

These changes are meant to address concerns that Metro heard from residents, property managers, local governments and garbage collectors.

In March 2019, Metro created a [2030 Regional Waste Plan](#). This plan set the policy direction for the region’s garbage and recycling. This plan reflects the needs and ideas from members of our community who have not had a strong voice in the development of environmental plans, policies or programs before.

As part of this work, Metro [researched how garbage and recycling](#) was collected in apartments and condos across greater Portland. Here are some specific things we heard:

- There is **not enough access** to mixed recycling and glass recycling service at many multifamily homes.
- The current collection **bins are very different and confusing** (different carts, containers, colors, stickers and signs).
- A lot of **garbage is put in the recycling bin**.
- It is really hard to throw away **bulky waste** in the right way.

The changes Metro is proposing will help address some of these issues and provide you with better, safer and easier garbage and recycling services. These changes also center the voices, values and needs of communities of color and historically marginalized groups in our region’s solid waste and recycling system.

Lend your voice.

Does this meet your needs? Let us know. Before these code and rule changes are presented to the Metro Council for a vote, we are seeking comments from the public. The full language of these proposed changes and a document that has answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at www.oregonmetro.gov/servicestandards.

Between September 15 and October 15, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/servicestandards to share your thoughts via a quick form. You can also email us at ServiceStandards@oregonmetro.gov or mail written comments to:

Metro
Attn: Service Standards WPES
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

Key dates:
September 14: Draft of code and rule posted
September 15 – October 15: Public comment period
October 27: Final draft of code and rule posted

Multifamily Properties with Adequate Collection Services

Regional Waste Plan Value

Provide excellent service and equitable system access.

Indicator

Share of multifamily properties with adequate collection services.

Why is this indicator important?

This indicator tracks the share of apartment and condominium homes in the greater Portland area with adequate garbage and recycling collection services. Adequate service is defined as meeting the Multifamily Regional Service Standard, which was updated in 2020 for the first time since it was established almost 30 years ago. Providing adequate garbage and recycling services at multifamily homes is important because it allows for more equitable access to services for all residents of the region.

The updated service standard established prescriptive language for:

- The amount and frequency of garbage and recycling (effective 2020)
- Signage on bins and in multifamily collection areas (effective 2023)
- Collection of large items (effective 2025), and
- A bin color standard (effective 2028).

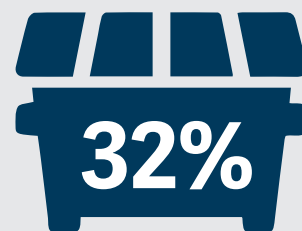
This indicator will include and report on the standards as they become effective.

Share of properties that meet the current Multifamily Regional Service Standard

The chart on the right shows the share of properties that met the regional multifamily service standards for garbage, recycling and glass in 2021. This was based on a study of gallons provided per unit per week for all three streams and in the future will include color standards

The values for garbage, recycling and glass are higher than the 32% of properties that met all service standards. This indicates many apartment and condominium homes have one or two services at or above standards, but only 32% meet all three service standards.

Baseline Data

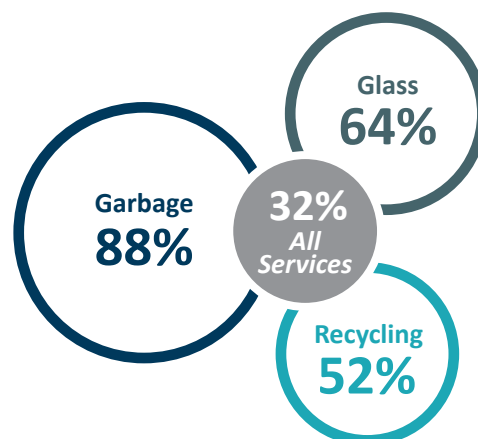


Properties with adequate services in 2021

Properties with adequate services are those that meet the current Multifamily Regional Service Standard (effective 2020), defined as:

Garbage and recycling, at least 20 gallons per apartment unit per week.

Glass, at least 1 gallon per apartment unit per week.



Multifamily Properties with Adequate Collection Services

The baseline data for this indicator was collected through a study of multifamily properties. Apart from the baseline data, the study looked at other aspects of multifamily collection services, in particular:

- Whether large items such as sofas and mattresses were found in garbage bins or collection areas.
- What colors are used for garbage and recycling bins at different multifamily properties.

These results will help implement future elements of the Multifamily Regional Service Standard that will require multifamily properties to have regular collection of large items (effective 2025) and follow a bin color standard (effective 2028).



25% of multifamily properties had large items in or around garbage bins

Large garbage items

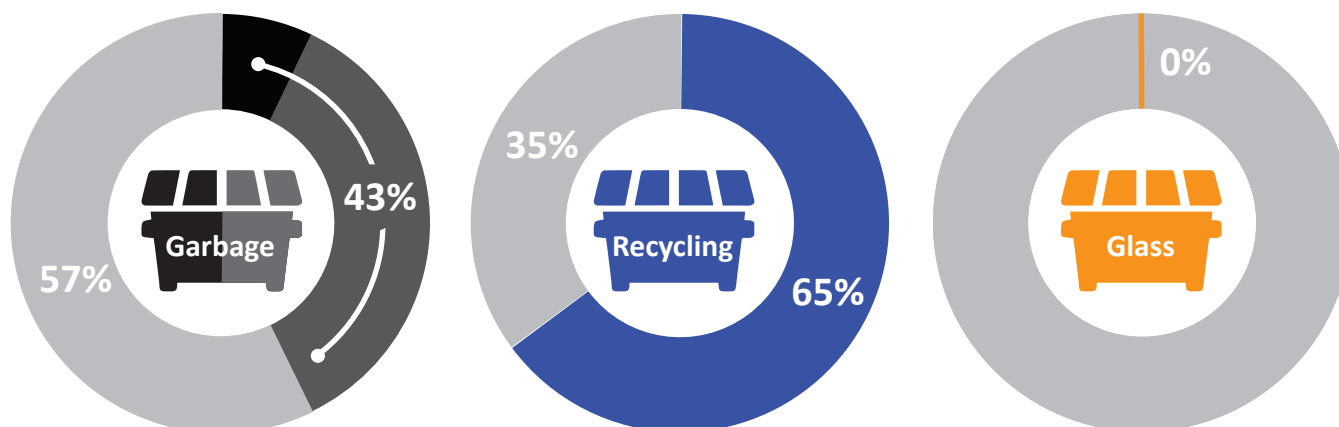
The study results show that large items were found at 25% of all the multifamily properties surveyed.

Bin colors and standards

To meet the bin color standard, garbage bins will have to be gray or black, recycling bins blue, and glass recycling bins orange.

The study results show that currently, an estimated 43% of garbage bins are black or gray and 65% of recycling bins are blue.

The study did not find, and did not expect to find, any orange glass recycling bins at the multifamily properties visited. The most common color for glass recycling bins found was blue (48% of bins).



Note: It is not unlikely that glass bins would be at zero because the standard for orange bins has not yet been established.

Multifamily Properties with Adequate Collection Services

2020-2021 Multifamily Garbage and Recycling Services Study and Standards

The data for this indicator come from a study by Metro with the help of Portland State University and information from cities, counties and collectors. The study surveyed 308 randomly selected multifamily sites across the region between October 2020 and April 2021.

Future studies will continue to evaluate the current Multifamily Regional Service Standard, as well as additional elements of that standard as they become effective.

The Regional Waste Plan prioritizes multifamily garbage and recycling services because people living in apartment and condominium homes often have less space for garbage and recycling than those living in single family homes and bins and collection areas can be confusing to navigate, making proper disposal and good recycling practices more difficult.

The updated standards aim to create an improved and more consistent garbage and recycling collection experience, with consistent bin colors, signage, and instructions from building to building. Consistency between multifamily sites is an important consideration to address recycling contamination, as half of renters move each year.



About the indicator

Data Year: 2021

Source: Metro

Data Frequency: Every 2-3 years

Scope: Clackamas County, Multnomah County and Washington County

Investment and Innovation grants

Presentation to RWAC:
2023 grants solicitation overview

December 15, 2022



Program history

- Started in 2018, four funding cycles to date
- Awarded \$10.7M (65 grants), leveraged \$10.2M of grantee investments so far



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

2023 grant cycle (up to \$2M)

Solicitation starts January 3, awards June/July



Grant types

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

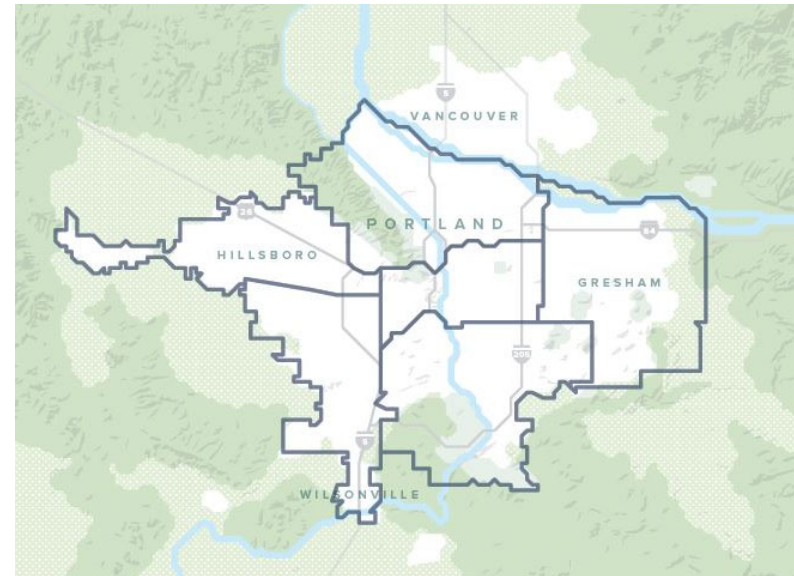
- Personnel, operations and smaller equipment
- 20% match for businesses and universities

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

- Equipment and facility infrastructure
- 100% match for businesses and universities

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



Equity in I&I

- Threshold equity criteria in application (impacts evaluated at end of grants)
- Outreach to new potential applicants
- Grant review committees include community



Funding priorities in 2023

- Three Priority Focus Areas (automatically awarded extra scoring points)
- Other types of projects still qualify if meet eligibility criteria

Reuse and repair



Food waste prevention and rescue; Transition to reusables



Recycling infrastructure



Direct Recycling



Full Recovery

How are grants decided?

- Two committees review proposals and collaborate to develop funding recommendations
- Members: Local government, Metro, and community reps; capital committee also has a non-solid waste business rep and a Metro Councilor. *Could be you!*

oregonmetro.gov





Multifamily services – background and current projects

Multifamily related projects and efforts

Completed and in-progress work

- Multifamily Recycling Report (completed)
- Updated Metro Multifamily Regional Service Standards (completed)
 - Updated local government standards (in progress)
- Decal/sign redesign (completed) decal/sign implementation (in progress)
- Multifamily Key Indicator baseline study (completed)
- Bulky Waste Policy Project (in progress)
- Large Household Item Reuse Study (in progress)
- Mattress Extended Producer Responsibility (in progress)
- Multifamily enclosure design (not yet started)

Multifamily Recycling Report 2017

Collaborative work between local governments and Metro

Comprehensive look at multifamily garbage and recycling

Included a finding on bulky waste

New data and measures

Informed actions in the 2030 RWP – all recommendations in the report became RWP actions



Multifamily Recycling Report 2017

Findings and options to improve recycling at apartments and condos in the greater Portland area

2030 Regional Waste Plan

Goal 10 - Provide regionally consistent services for garbage, recyclables, and other priority materials that meet the need of all users.

Actions

10.1 – Comprehensive services

10.2 – Minimum service levels

10.3 – Regional standards for collection container colors and signage

10.5 – Regularly occurring bulky waste service

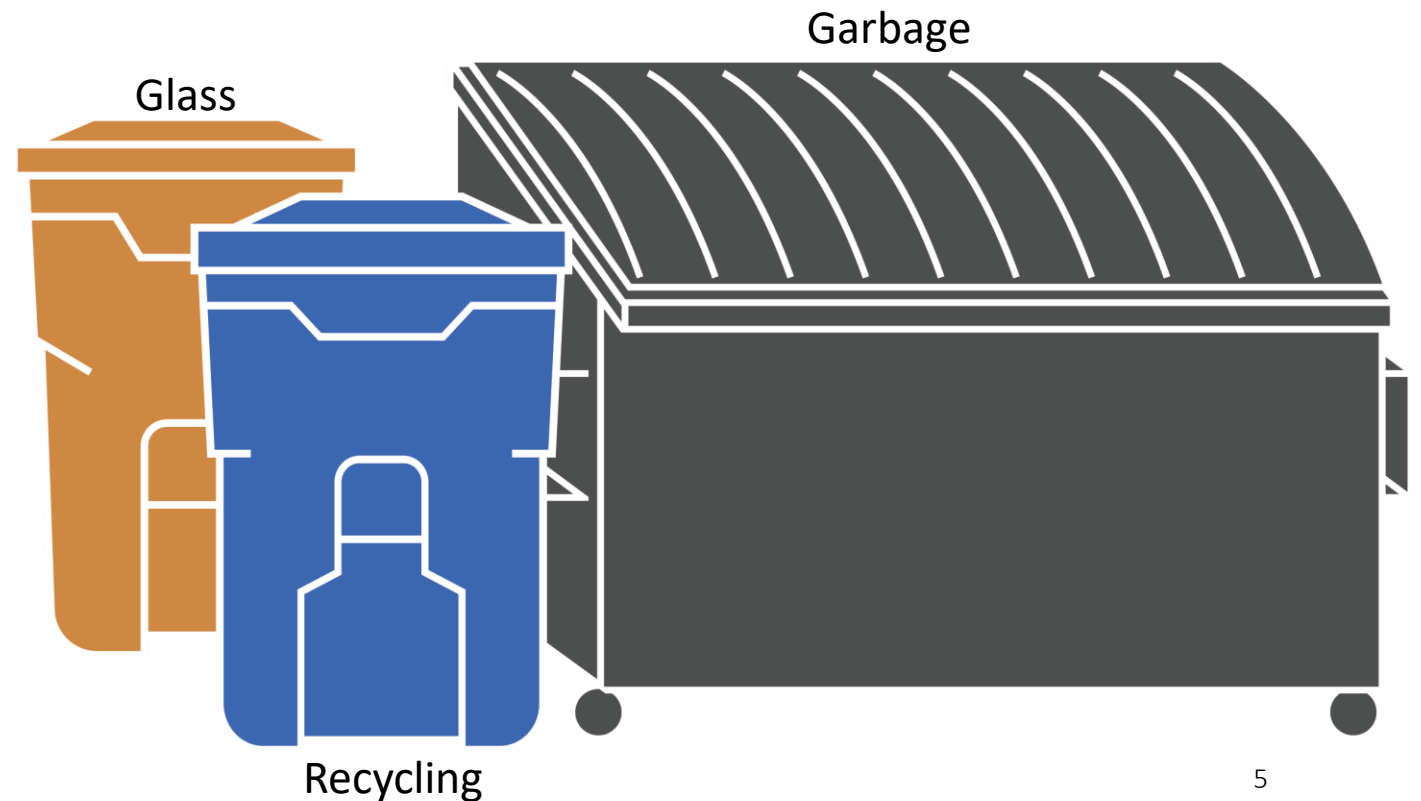
10.6 – Standards for collection areas

Key Indicator – Share of multifamily communities with adequate collection services

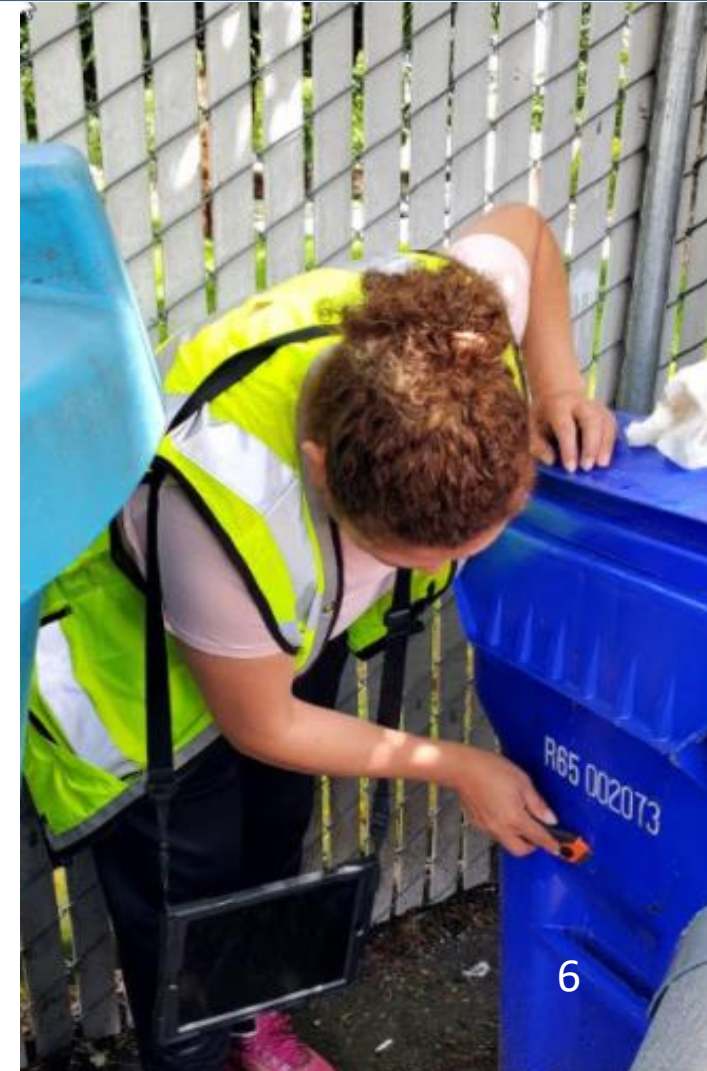
Multifamily Regional Service Standard (10.2, 10.3)

Update included

- Per unit volume minimums
- At least weekly pickup
- Decal/signs
- Color standard



Updated decals, signs and implementation (10.3)



Multifamily Service Key Indicator (2021 baseline)



Properties with adequate services in 2021

Properties with adequate services are those that meet the current Multifamily Regional Service Standard (effective 2020), defined as:

Garbage and recycling, at least 20 gallons per apartment unit per week.

Glass, at least 1 gallon per apartment unit per week.

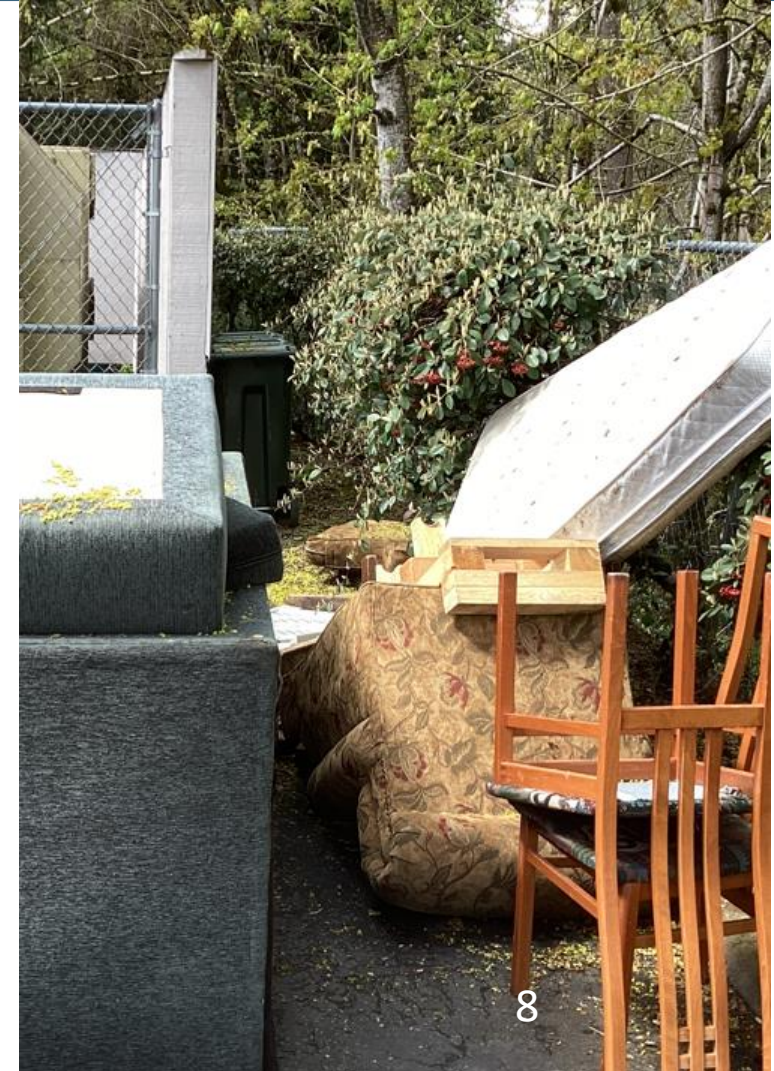
- Baseline study of service levels completed in 2021
- Raising multifamily garbage and recycling service to level of key RWP indicator demonstrates Metro's commitment to actions
- Measuring progress as RSS components are phased in over time allows us to track implementation

Bulky Waste Policy Project (10.5)

Regularly occurring bulky waste service

Emphasis on multifamily and households experiencing lower incomes

Convenient, accessible and consistent

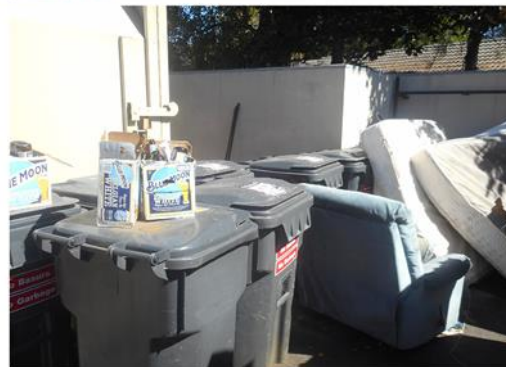


Large Household Item Reuse Study



Mattress Extended Producer Responsibility

Program established by legislation passed in 2022, to be implemented by 2025.



Multifamily Enclosure Design (10.6)



Thanks!

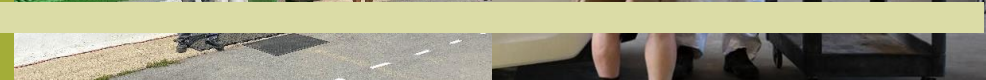




Metro

Garbage & Recycling System Facilities Plan

Regional Waste Advisory Committee
Phase 2 Gap Analysis Summary (DRAFT)
December 15, 2022



Agenda

Project overview (recap)

Summary of identified gaps & needs

- What we heard through engagement efforts

- What we found through initial technical analysis

Next steps and questions



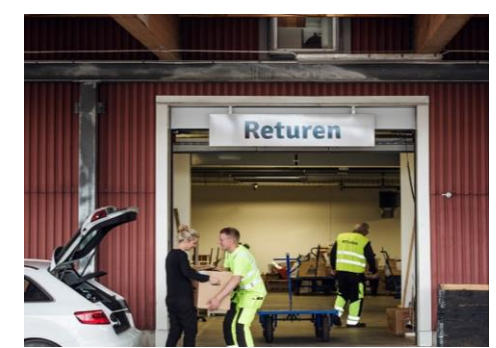
What will be in the plan?

Assessment of how the current system is working and existing gaps and opportunities

Capital improvement strategy to address gaps and modernize the system

A financing strategy for system improvements and building new facilities

System metrics to measure outcomes of the plan



Project Timeline



Values guiding the plan



Healthy people and environment



Resource conservation



Environmental literacy



Economic well-being



Excellent service; equitable system access



Operational resilience



Community restoration



Community partnerships



Community investment



Tribal consultation



What we did for Phase 2 engagement

- Reviewed previous studies and engagement

- Hosted 4 roundtable meetings

Reuse and repair businesses	October 4 (19 businesses)
Community partners (CBOs)	October 6 (12 attendees)
Local government staff/elected	October 31 (28 attendees)
Private industry businesses	November 3 (30 attendees)

- Organized other meetings and conversations

Community Advisory Group	October 18(8 members)
Metro WPES program & policy staff	4 team meetings in Oct & Nov
Facility/site-based staff	9 on-site meetings in October

What we heard: Previous studies and engagement

Gaps:

- Self-haul capacity has been a defined gap for over a decade
- Self-haul at existing stations is creating traffic congestion and some unsafe conditions
- Critical facility repairs and upgrades needed for employee and customer safety, hazard resilience, and improved operational efficiency were identified for Metro South and Metro Central in various reports for over a decade
- Limited capacity of facilities that receive commercial organics
- Limited access to HHW across region

“Approximately 70% of the trips made to regional solid waste facilities are made by customers who are self-hauling their own waste, and yet these loads account for only 25% of the total solid waste tonnage delivered to these facilities.”

“The facilities available for these self-haul customers are generally better equipped to handle commercial haulers bringing in large amounts of waste in fewer loads.”

“Small loads delivered in small vehicles impact traffic safety and the ability to recover material –particularly at Metro South Station in Oregon City.”

Impact of Self-Haul Customers on the Regional Solid Waste System, 2009



What we heard: 2030 Regional Waste Plan

Gaps:

- Access and affordability for multifamily and low-income communities
- Food waste and composting access
- Garbage and recycling services for seniors and people with disabilities
- Opportunities to dispose of items like batteries, needles, hazardous waste and Styrofoam
- Lack of access to bulky waste disposal services

Other concerns:

- Illegal dumping
- Rate transparency
- Need for regional policies that exist in some cities/states, like banning plastic bags
- Support for incentivizing recycling and reuse
- Facility impacts that disproportionately fall on people in lower-income neighborhoods



What we heard: Reuse and Repair

Infrastructure gaps:

- Physical space for warehousing, sorting and storage of reuse materials
- Centralized locations for people to drop off or shop for reuse materials
- Transportation of large items for customers or donors
- Places or hubs to share tools and equipment

Other needs:

- Communications support for reuse campaigns
- Education for regional residents about where to take reuse materials
- Support capacity-building for reuse organizations (staffing, equipment, volunteer match-making)
- Policy support for producer accountability and “right to repair”



What we heard: Community Partners

Infrastructure gaps:

- Access to facilities that provide affordable services (garbage, recyclables, reuse, hazardous waste)
- Bulky waste (large items) transport or disposal for people without vehicles (trucks)
- Facilities in the right locations to manage expanded residential food waste

Other needs:

- Accessible information on how and where to dispose of items
- Culturally specific services
- Concerns about illegal dumping
- Cost and transportation are common barriers in the system
- Residential food waste collection in parts of the region



What we heard: Local Governments

Infrastructure gaps:

- Access to facilities that provide affordable services for residents, especially in Washington & east Multnomah Counties
- Facilities equipped to handle debris from emergencies and natural disasters
- Facilities that support material recovery and reduce waste

Other needs:

- Accessible information on how and where to dispose of items
- Low-income and multifamily food waste and bulky item collection
- More community clean-up events
- Concerns about illegal dumping
- Address the variance of fees & service levels between public & private facilities
- Rate transparency



What we heard: Private Industry

Infrastructure gaps:

- More facilities that accept asbestos
- Facilities that accept large reuse items like couches and mattresses
- Physical space for warehousing, sorting & storage of hard-to-recycle items
- Physical space constraints at existing private facilities make accommodating public self-haul difficult
- Infrastructure that will be required by the Recycling Modernization Act

Other needs:

- Accessible information on how and where to dispose of or donate reusable items (for specialty haulers & consumers)
- Collaboration between Metro and DEQ to lessen reporting burdens
- Better knowledge of the future regulatory environment to guide future investments
- Private facilities would benefit from increased volumes of wet waste
- Market development for recyclable materials



What we heard: Community Advisory Group

Infrastructure gaps:

- Better infrastructure for garbage and recycling at multifamily residences
- Facilities that offer repair services & storage for reusable items
- Places to take residential organics for composting for those without collection service
- Transport to/from transfer stations for those without cars or trucks

Other needs:

- Information (in multiple languages) on where to take waste/recycling (construction, HHW, styrofoam, etc.)
- Education for youth and families on overconsumption, reuse, recycling
- Workforce development programs that support previously incarcerated to work in reuse, repair, recycling industry
- Collection events in more parts of the region on a regular basis



What we heard: WPES Staff (facility & program)

Infrastructure gaps:

- Additional facilities for convenient & affordable self-haul of bulky waste and HHW materials, especially in west & east of region
- Facilities and partnerships that support reuse, repair, recovery and recycling of materials
- Facility improvements, redevelopment, or re-siting of existing Metro transfer stations & Metro Paint, to address safety, efficiency, resiliency
- Facilities that take food waste for composting

Other needs:

- Desire for smaller, distributed facilities (hub & spoke model) to collect materials for recycling, reuse, HHW across the region
- RID would like to be able to pick up reusable and repairable items for distribution to orgs/people-in-need, rather than all waste going to garbage
- High-need residents (disabled, elderly, low-income, houseless) need help with moving and transporting bulky items (for reuse, repair or landfill)



Reviewing the engagement data



800
Comments



24+
Themes

Bulky waste, reuse/repair drop-off

Hard-to-recycle items

General residential self-haul

Reuse/Repair warehouse hubs



Reviewing the engagement data

Initial analysis of comments shows **top themes** as:

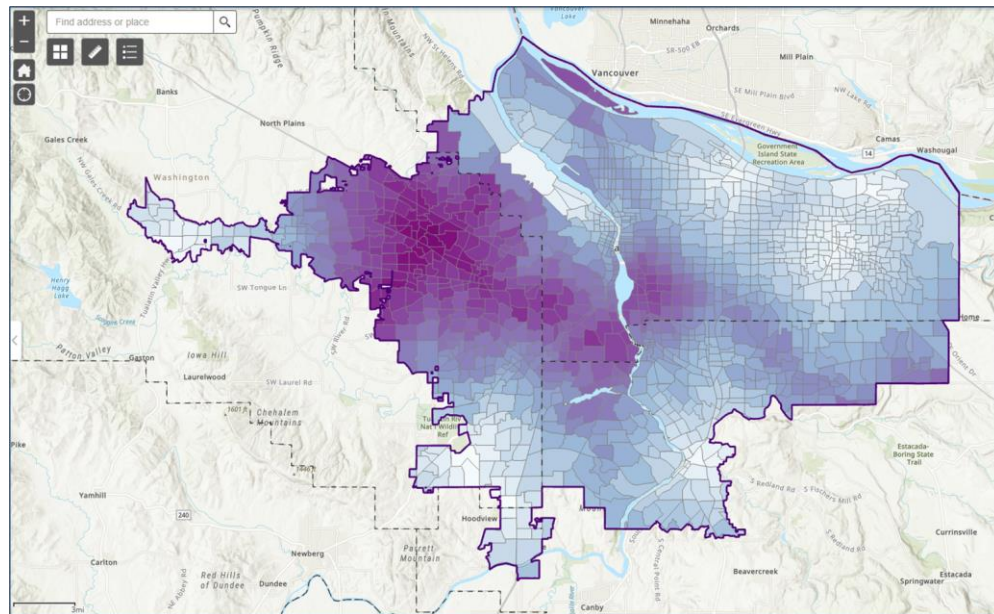
- **Bulky waste, reuse/repair drop-off:** Need for centralized locations with adequate space to drop-off large household items (furniture, appliances) and other items for reuse/repair
- **Hard-to-recycle items:** Need for more places throughout the Metro region to take hard-to-recycle items, such as old clothes, medicines, sharps, construction waste.
- **General residential self-haul:** Need for more places throughout the Metro region for self-haul household waste.
- **Reuse/Repair warehouse hubs:** Need for centralized locations with adequate warehouse space for sorting and storing reuse/repair items (also for shared tools and equipment and conducting repair fairs).



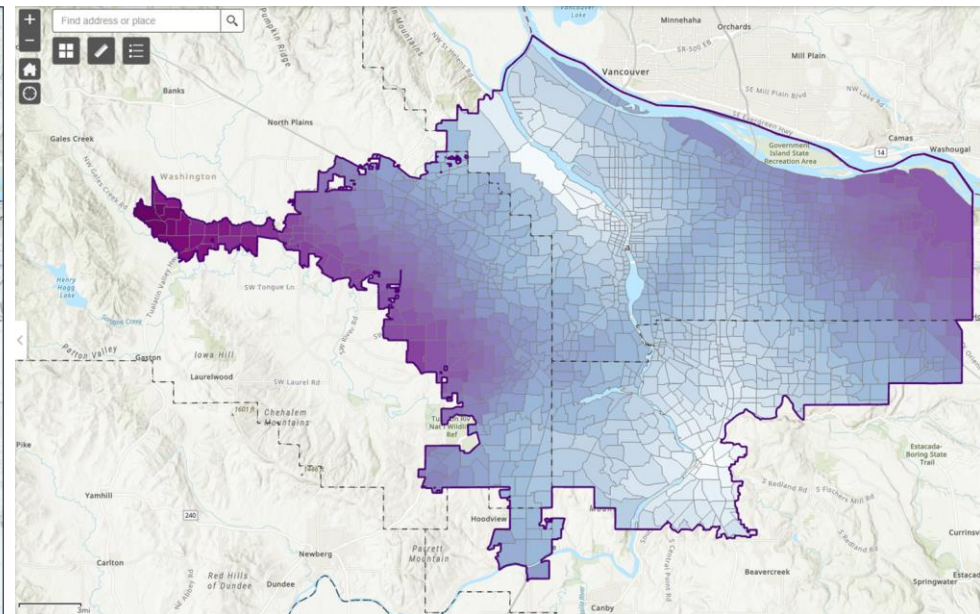
Incorporating the technical analysis (access)

- Using geospatial analysis to determine geographic distribution of facilities, travel times, services offered, and materials accepted at those facilities, and environmental justice concerns

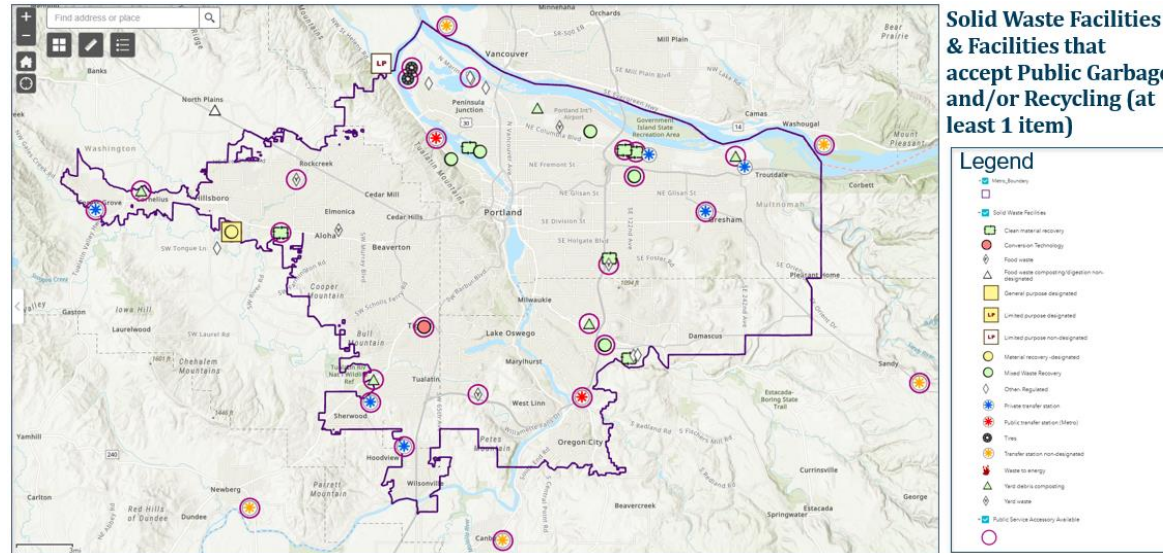
Travel Times to Transfer Facilities (in minutes)



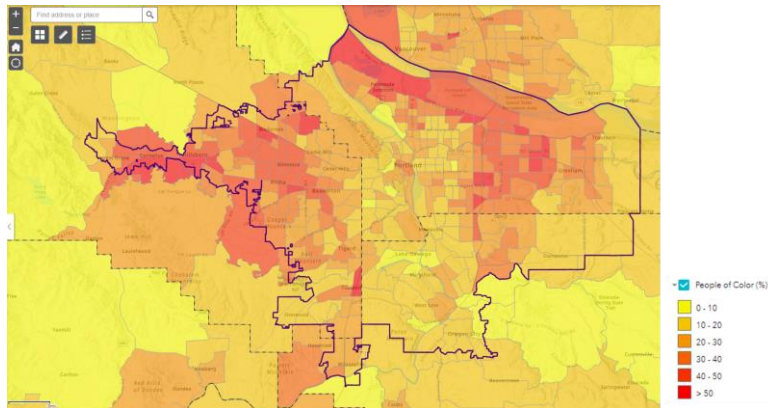
Travel Times to HHW Facilities (in minutes)



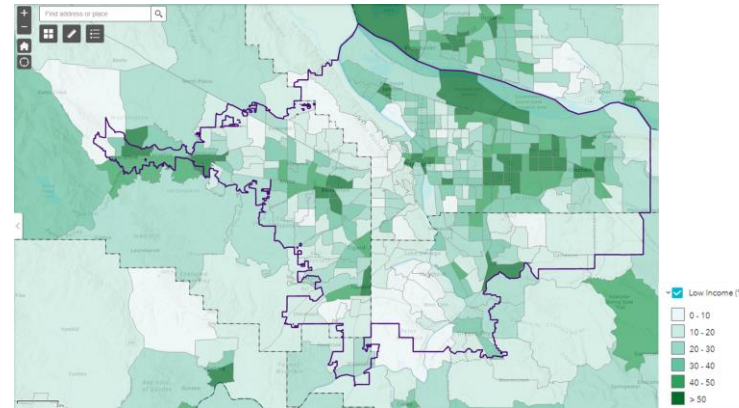
Incorporating the technical analysis (potential impacts/access)



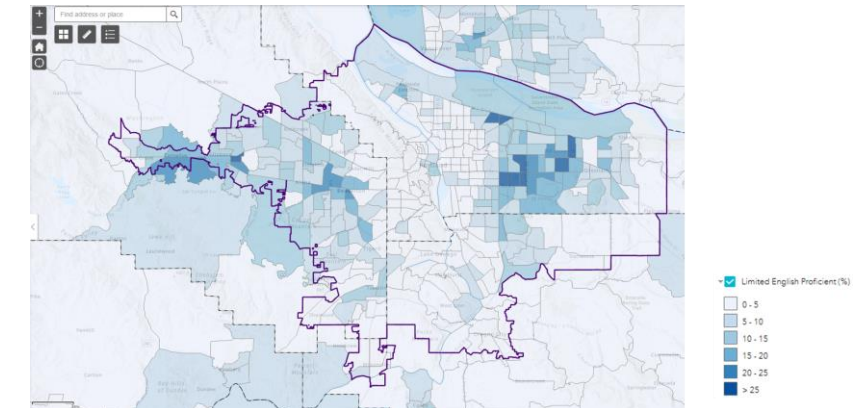
Percentage People of Color



Percentage Low Income



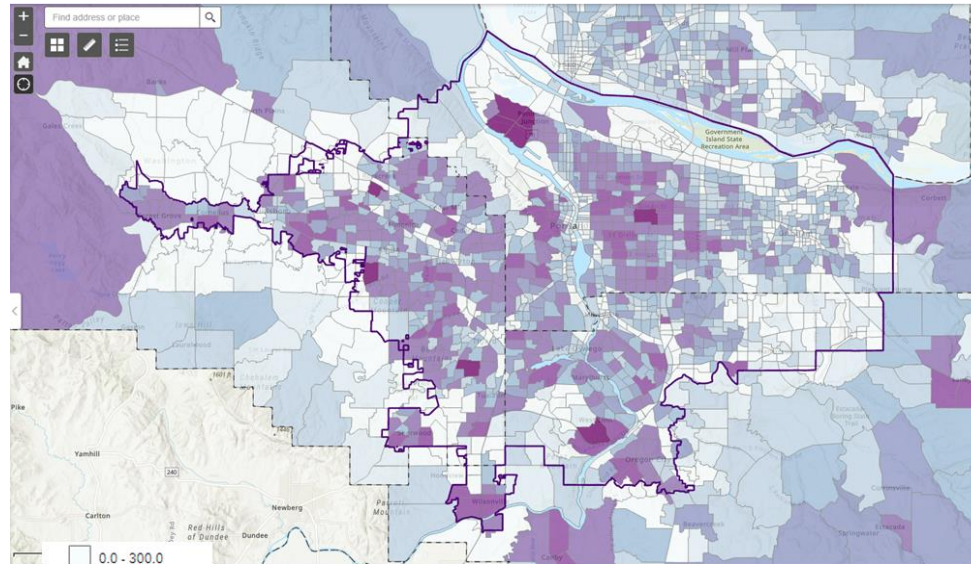
Percentage Limited English Proficiency



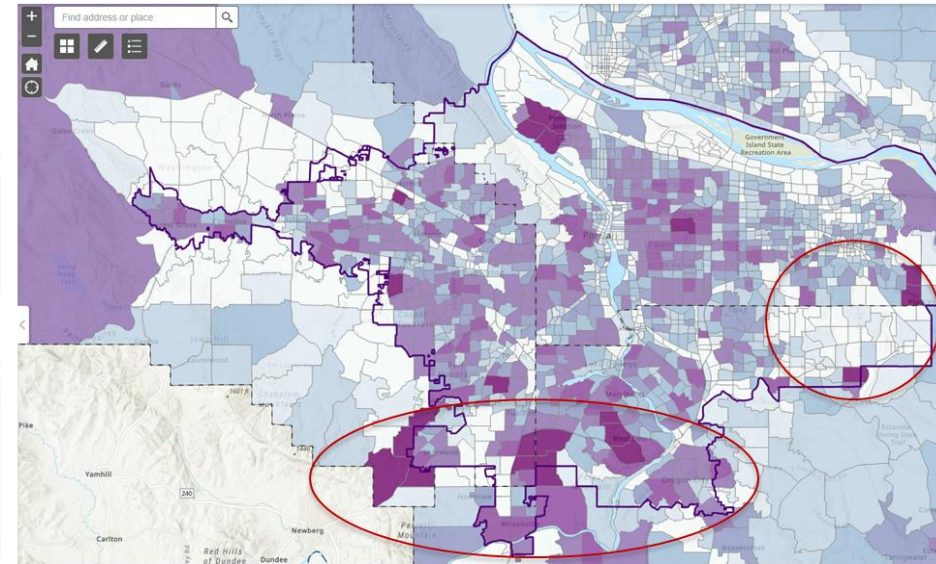
Incorporating the technical analysis (growth)

- Perform high-level assessment of what future materials/population will look like (also tying into RMA); what happens if the projected growth happens?

2020 Population



2045 Population



These projections show an increase in population in the two locations shown above.

Incorporating the technical analysis (review of other jurisdictions)

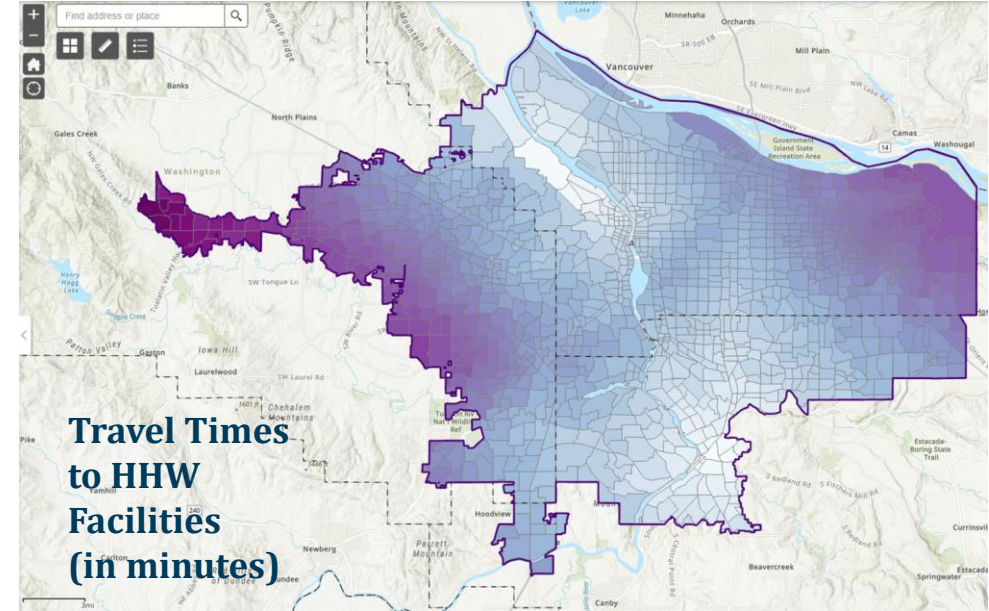
- Review peer jurisdictions to identify best practices for accomplishing similar results for facility planning as well as level of financial commitment and funding options



Incorporating the technical analysis (materials)

From engagement we have heard improvements are needed for:

- Household hazardous waste
 - Batteries
 - Sharps
- Mattresses
- Food waste/commercial organics
- Hard to recycle items
- Bulky waste/large furniture



Technical analysis will assess these material management needs through geospatial analysis (e.g. travel time, geographic distribution).

Developing Scenarios - General Process

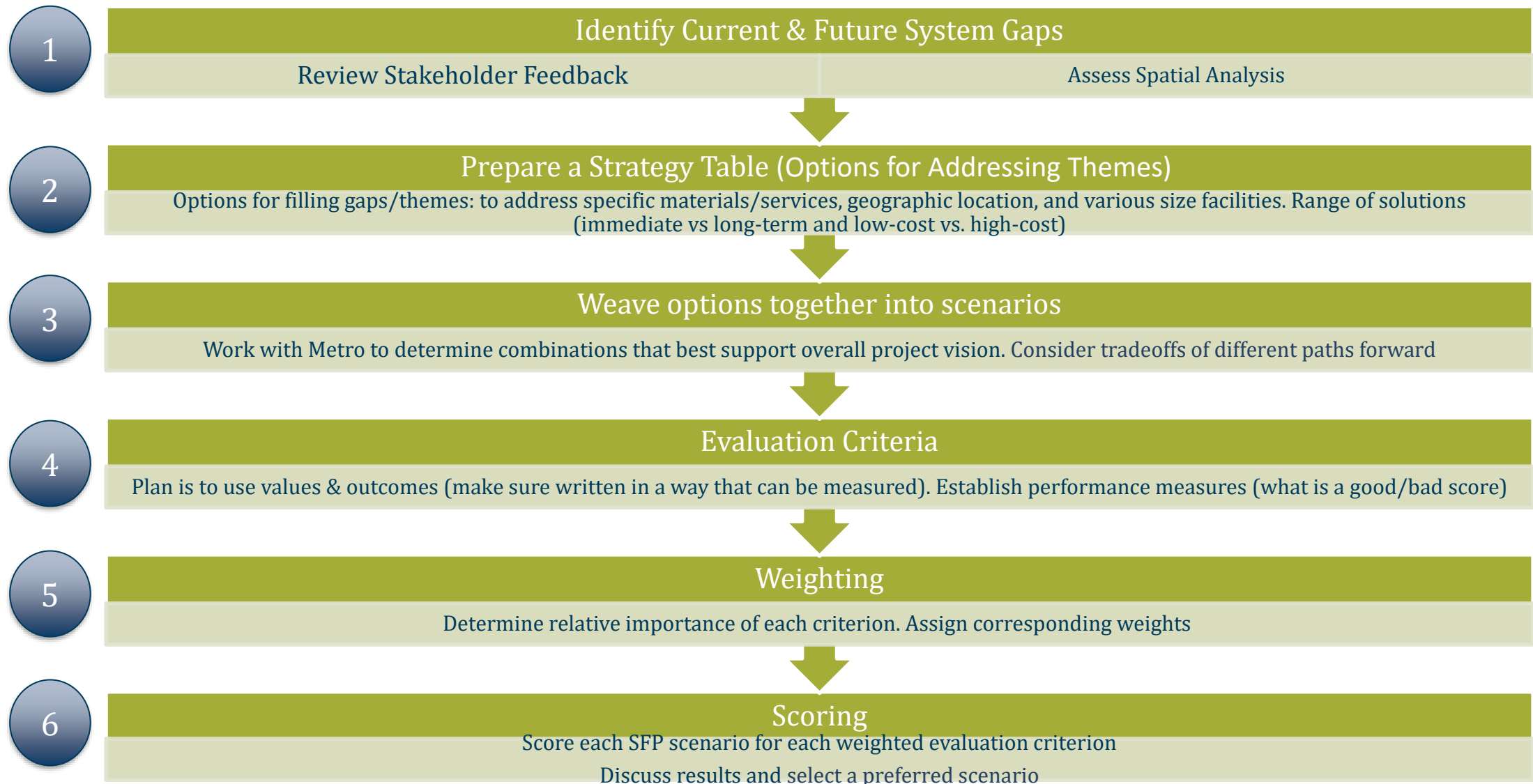


- Stakeholder feedback
- Collect information and data on existing system and how it supports now and future growth (ongoing)
- Develop themes from gaps
- Review findings with Metro advisory committees

- Prepare a strategy table to identify options that could fill the gaps (connects with the themes)
- Develop scenarios that combine different options to align with the values & outcomes

- Evaluation criteria – Values & Outcomes
- Weight criteria and develop method for scoring (who scores)
- Scoring, financial evaluation & Results

Using Gaps to Develop Scenarios, then Selecting a Preferred Scenario



Next steps

- Complete analysis of engagement and technical work
- Prepare a draft Phase 2 Gaps Summary Report
- Share draft report with Metro Advisory Committees
- Present Gaps Summary Report to Metro Council, Jan 31
- Return to RWAC in March or April 2023 with draft scenarios



Discussion/questions

- Do you have questions about anything we covered?
- What gaps, needs or themes should be highlighted for Metro Council and/or addressed in developing scenarios in Phase 3?

