

# Agenda



**Metro**

600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting: Regional Waste Advisory Committee  
Date: Thursday, January 19, 2022  
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 10:05 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.*

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- |            |  |  |
|------------|--|--|
| 8:30 a.m.  | <b>Welcome</b>   | Marta McGuire,<br>Metro                                |
| 8:35 a.m.  | <b>Public Comment Period</b>   |  |
| 8:40 a.m.  | <b>Update on disaster debris grant program</b><br><i>Purpose: Consult</i><br>Committee review of guidelines developed for the disaster debris reserve and grant program, which was enacted by the Metro Council in July 2022.  | Jim Quinn,<br>Metro                                    |
| 9:00 a.m.  | <b>Regional Waste Plan Annual Progress Report</b><br><i>Purpose: Consult</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Waste Prevention and Environmental Services staff will share highlights from the second annual Regional Waste Plan progress report and consider how to use the annual report to widely share progress on Plan implementation.</li></ul> | Marta McGuire<br>Rachel Chu<br>Marissa Grass,<br>Metro |
| 9:40 a.m.  | <b>Large Household Item Reuse Market Study</b><br><i>Purpose: Informational</i><br>Update on engagement and research for expanding the capacity of local reuse and repair markets for large household items.   | Carl Grimm,<br>Metro                                   |
| 10:00 a.m. | <b>Consideration and approval of items*</b>  |  |
| 10:05 a.m. | <b>Adjourn</b>   |  |

\* Material will be distributed at the meeting.

Upcoming RWAC Meeting: Thursday, February 16, 2023, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

For agenda and schedule information:

Carly Tabert: [carly.tabert@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:carly.tabert@oregonmetro.gov)

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# Regional Waste Advisory Committee

## Schedule of Topics

### Schedule of Topics | 2023-24

Date	Topic	Regional Waste Plan	Decision Type
January 2023	• Disaster Debris Reserve Fund and Grant Program	Goal 17, 19	Consult/Advise
	• 2030 Regional Waste Plan progress report	Goal 1-196	Consult/Advise
	• Bulky waste reuse project introduction	Goal 10	Informational
February 2023	• Bulky waste policy project research results	Goal 10	Consult/Advise
	• Community collection events	Goal 10	Informational
	• Recycling Modernization Act (SB582)	Goal 15	Consult/Advise
March 2023	• Waste prevention and reuse program efforts	Goal 8	Informational
	• WPES education program update	Goal 6, 9	Informational
April 2023	• Regional Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan	Goal 16	Consult/Advise
	• Metro Budget Update	Goals 1-19	Informational
	• Recycling Modernization Act (SB582)		
May 2023	• Community clean-up initiatives: RID, regional refresh sponsorships, state funding	Goals 2, 8, 10, 11	Informational
	• Bulky waste collection services administrative rules development	Goal 10	Consult/Advise
June 2023	NO MEETING		

July 2023

- Regional Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan

Goal 16

Consult/Advise

*The schedule is subject to change.*

# REGIONAL WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Worksheet

**PRESENTATION DATE:** 1/19/22                      **LENGTH:** 20 min.

**PRESENTATION TITLE:**            Update on disaster debris grant program

**DECISION TYPE:** Input

**RELATED REGIONAL WASTE PLAN GOALS:** Goal #19

**PRESENTER(S):** JIM QUINN (HE/HIM) RESILIENCE PLANNER

### PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

In July of 2022 the Metro Council enacted Metro Code Chapter 5.11, which establishes a grant program to assist local governments with the costs of managing debris after a disaster. Staff has developed guidelines for implementing the program, this presentation will provide an overview of the program and the guidelines, and will provide an opportunity for committee input.

### ACTION REQUESTED

Staff is looking for any input the committee may have on the guidelines, including how equity is addressed in the grant process.

### BACKGROUND

- Staff presented an overview of the proposed grant program at the RWAC meeting in February 2022, and an introduction to the guidelines under development in September 2022.
- The Metro Charter, the Oregon Constitution and Oregon Statutes grant Metro broad authority for planning, managing and overseeing the regional solid waste system to protect public health and safeguard the environment. More specifically, Section 6 of the Metro Charter assigns to Metro the function of "metropolitan aspects of natural disaster planning and response coordination." Part of these responsibilities include disaster debris management and disposal. This work is guided by the Disaster Debris Management Plan that describes Metro's role in managing and coordinating debris operations and the 2030 Regional Waste Plan that establishes Disaster Resilience goals and actions.
- Extreme weather-related disasters are on the increase in our region, including those that generate significant debris. The possibility of wildfires, windstorms, ice storms, floods and other debris-generating disasters necessitates a commitment to planning and preparation for debris management.
- In February 2021, a severe winter weather incident generated a significant amount of debris in the region. Based on the after action report and conversations with local government representatives in the region, Metro staff developed the proposal to establish a disaster debris reserve and grant program.

- A new Metro Code Chapter 5.11 establishing the disaster debris reserve and grant program was adopted by the Metro Council on July 28, 2022.
- As directed by Metro Code 5.11.040, guidelines have been developed detailing how the reserve will be administered and how grants will be awarded.
- FEMA operates a public assistance grant program that identifies impactful disasters and reimburses local governments for at least 75% of eligible post-disaster expenses. The remaining costs must be paid by the local and/or state government, called the local match. In Greater Portland, an eligible disaster is one that causes approximately \$1 million in public infrastructure damage. However, the FEMA program requires significant documentation and has a lengthy reimbursement process that could burden smaller local governments. Strategies that advance racial equity and speed recovery such as temporary debris sites where the public can bring their own debris and vouchers for free disposal at authorized disposal facilities are ineligible for FEMA reimbursement. Metro's disaster debris reserve and grant program will help fill these gaps.
- It is expected that in most cases there will be enough disaster debris reserve funds available to cover local jurisdictions' local match, as well as incurred costs for strategies that are not FEMA eligible. If there are not enough funds, Metro will apply additional criteria to prioritize use of funds consistent with the goals, detailed in the draft guidelines.

#### **QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- Does the committee have any input on the way equity is addressed in the grant process?
- Does the committee have any other input on the guidelines?

#### **NEXT STEPS**

- The WPES Director will sign off on final guidelines.
- Additional preparatory work will be undertaken, so that the grant program may be launched in a timely manner after a disaster occurs.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- Debris reserve and grant program guidelines



# Disaster Debris Management Reserve and Grants

Guidelines

*Draft 1/6/23*

## **PURPOSE**

Metro Code Chapter 5.11 (Disaster Debris Management Reserve and Grants) establishes a program to provide grants to local governments in the region following a disaster, to assist with costs for managing the disaster-generated debris. As enacted in the Metro Code, this program is designed to:

- Reserve funds for Metro’s own post-disaster debris management costs
- Assist with local government’s post-disaster debris management costs
- Speed recovery after disasters
- Maintain public confidence in local and regional governance after a disaster
- Support more equitable disaster debris strategies and services

## **SOURCE OF FUNDS**

Per Metro Code 5.02.060, a reduced regional system fee applies to cleanup material (as defined in 5.00.010) that is transported to any disposal site authorized by Metro to accept that material. Beginning July 1, 2022, the fees collected under this section will be allocated to a Disaster Debris Reserve. This Reserve will be the source of funds to be disbursed through the Disaster Debris Management Grants Program.

Cleanup material fees will be allocated to the Disaster Debris Management Reserve until a total of \$5 million is accumulated in the reserve. If disbursements are then made to the reserve bringing it below \$5 million, cleanup waste fees will again be allocated to the reserve.

## **FUNDING GUIDELINES**

### **A. Qualifying disasters include:**

- 1) Any disaster that has an impact in the Metro region for which the U.S. President issues a major disaster declaration and thereby authorizes the provision of Public Assistance from the federal government; or
- 2) Any disaster declared eligible by the Metro Chief Operating Officer. This determination will be based on:
  - quantity of debris generated
  - impact on the region’s solid waste system
  - impact on marginalized communities
  - other considerations at the time a disaster occurs

In the event the Chief Operating Officer decides to declare a disaster eligible for grant funding, the Chief Operating Officer shall provide the Metro Council with 7 business days notice prior to making the declaration, with a description of the criteria used to make the

determination. Upon notice the Metro Council may elect to require Council hearing and approval prior to the declaration.

- B. Eligible grant applicants.** Any incorporated city or county government located within or partly within the Metro boundary shall be eligible to apply for a disaster debris management grant following a qualifying disaster.
- C. Debris management work that qualifies for a grant.** After a qualifying disaster occurs, an eligible applicant may submit an application for grant funding to cover expenses incurred by the applicant. Debris management work must meet the following criteria to be eligible for grant funds:
- 1) Expenses must be for managing debris generated by the qualifying disaster.
  - 2) Debris must be of the debris types approved for grant funding for that disaster.
  - 3) Expenses must be for debris management work conducted within the Metro jurisdictional boundary, or within the three county watershed outside the Metro boundary if a determination is made by the WPES director that the work provides a benefit to residents of the Metro region.
  - 4) Expenses must be for types of debris management work specified in the grant application process for that specific disaster. In all presidentially declared disasters, Metro will reimburse up to the full local share (that portion not covered by federal funds) of debris management costs. In all qualifying disasters other types of expenses may also be approved, including
    - a) Local government costs for clearing debris on public land, or mitigating imminent hazards posed by debris on any type of property, that are not reimbursable by FEMA
    - b) Local government costs for operation of debris collection sites for consolidation of debris, or sites open to the public at no cost or with subsidized fees.
    - c) Public voucher distribution to assist with debris management, such as taking debris to a facility, debris management tools and supplies, or contractor costs.
  - 5) Expenses for debris management work must meet the following standards:
    - a) For local share of FEMA-reimbursable debris management costs, all debris operations must be in compliance with FEMA debris management standards found in the applicable Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (PAPPG), or applicant must make good faith efforts to comply with those standards.
    - b) All contracted work must be procured in accordance with the jurisdiction's own procurement rules and state procurement law.
    - c) Expenses shall not include budgeted staff costs.
    - d) Other requirements for grant funding may be established following a qualifying disaster. For example, when distribution of vouchers for the public is an allowable expense, restrictions on the uses, expiration date, and other details may be required, or when debris collection sites are an allowable expense, site operations standards or environmentally-preferable debris management methods may be required.

## **USE OF FUNDS FOR METRO'S DEBRIS RELATED EXPENSES**

Funds in the disaster debris management reserve will be available for use by Metro for debris management costs following a disaster, including the following:

- Debris clearing at Metro properties
- Metro operation of debris collection sites
- HHW collection related to disaster recovery

- Administration costs for the debris management grant program
- Other debris management costs following a disaster incurred by Metro, such as activities that provide training opportunities to Metro staff, or that Metro conducts as part of a mutual aid agreement
- May not be used for budgeted staff costs

## **GRANT PROCEDURES**

Following a qualifying disaster, the WPES Director will designate a committee to develop grant application materials, and process and review grant applications. The WPES director will approve details specific to the disaster, including:

- Timeline for applications and awards
- Areas in the region or watershed impacted by the disaster and eligible for grants
- Types of debris management work eligible for grant funds (see C 4 above), and standards that must be followed (see C 5 above)
- Debris types eligible for grant funds
- Amount of funds available for grants, after consideration of Metro's needs and possible set-asides for future disasters.
- Any limitation on the number of applications or amount of awards allowed for each jurisdiction.
- Criteria for prioritization of funds when requests exceed available funds.
- Reporting requirements for grant awards

Metro will then communicate with all affected jurisdictions the grant application timeline and requirements.

### **Application process**

- An eligible applicant must submit a complete grant application in the form and format prescribed by Metro to be considered for funding.
- Each grant application must include: narrative description of debris management work either completed or proposed, and detailed cost records or estimates.
- Metro staff will provide assistance to applicants on how to complete an application.
- Applications received by the submittal deadline date will be reviewed by Metro. Designated Metro staff will review each complete proposal received by the submittal deadline to determine whether the debris management work described in the application meets the guidelines.

### **Grant Awards**

1. Funds in the disaster debris management reserve at the time the disaster occurs will be available for awarding grants, minus funds reserved for Metro's needs up to \$500,000, and any funds set aside for future disasters.
2. When available funds in the disaster debris management reserve exceed the total funds requested, all qualifying grant applications will be awarded funds for all eligible expenses.
3. When qualifying funds requested through grant applications exceed the available amount in the reserve, a prioritization process will be followed to allocate available funds. This could include funding some requests and not others, or awarding partial funding for some or all requests.

#### **Prioritization of funds**

- As prescribed in the program goals laid out in the Metro Code, the prioritization process will be designed to "Support more equitable disaster debris strategies and services.", and in accordance with the principles in the 2030 Regional Waste Plan the process will be geared toward "Equitably distributing costs and benefits, taking into account historical and system impacts."
- In addition, when multiple jurisdiction request funds the process will focus on fair distribution of funds across the requesting jurisdictions.
- Funds will be set aside cover Metro's incurred post-disaster debris management expenses, up to the \$500,000 maximum.
- To allocate available funds, requests will be scored by a review committee. Numerical criteria to be applied will be developed for each grant award process following a qualifying disaster. Sample criteria:
  - Meets program goal 2 (pass/fail)
  - Speeds recovery after disasters (up to 5 points)
  - Program is designed to reduce barriers and serve historically marginalized communities (up to 5 points)
  - Disaster impact area coincides with equity focus area (up to 5 points)
  - Disaster's severity on the requesting jurisdiction (up to 5 points)
  - Jurisdiction does not have the financial resources to manage post-disaster debris (up to 5 points)

4. WPES Director makes the final decision on all grant awards.
5. Metro will enter into an intergovernmental agreement with each successful applicant. This will serve as a contract and will specify the amount granted, and all conditions that the applicant must comply with to receive funds.
6. Upon award and after the contract has been signed:
  - a. For work that has been completed and award conditions met, including reporting requirements, Metro will process payment immediately.
  - b. For work that has not been completed, Metro will immediately distribute 50% of the estimated total award. After the work is complete and award conditions are met, including reporting requirements, Metro will distribute the remaining 50%.

#### **REPORTING TO COUNCIL**

Following an eligible disaster after which one or more grants are awarded, Metro staff will produce a report documenting the grants awarded and grant outcomes. That report will be presented to the Metro Council.

# REGIONAL WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Worksheet

**PRESENTATION DATE:** 01/19/2023      **LENGTH:** 40 minutes

**PRESENTATION TITLE:** Regional Waste Plan annual progress report

**DECISION TYPE:** Informational

**RELATED REGIONAL WASTE PLAN GOALS:** All goals

**PRESENTER(S):** Marta McGuire, Rachel Chu, Marissa Grass

### PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

Waste Prevention and Environmental Services staff will share highlights from the second annual Regional Waste Plan progress report and consider how to use the annual report to widely share progress on Plan implementation.

### ACTION REQUESTED

This presentation is informational. Staff is seeking feedback on how best to make the results in the report accessible and available to different audiences on an ongoing basis.

### BACKGROUND

This report is the second in a series of annual reports that measure progress on implementation of the Regional Waste Plan. The report covers the year 2021. It presents overall progress on all 108 actions in the Plan. It shares results in the form of success stories and numeric indicators.

The first progress report was presented to RWAC in January 2022. It covered progress made between 2019, when the Plan was adopted, and the first part of 2021.

### QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Please come prepared to share one of the four A's about the progress report:
  - an Aha moment
  - an Appreciation
  - an Aspiration
  - an Area for improvement
- What results are you most excited to share with others? Who would you want to share it with? How can Metro staff make that easy for you?

### NEXT STEPS

- Staff will share a written update on the progress report to Metro Council in February 2023.
- The report will be published on Metro's website and staff will launch a roll-out to partners and the public in February/March 2023, to be updated throughout 2023.

### ATTACHMENTS

- Second Annual Regional Waste Plan Progress Report



Metro



*Photo taken at St Johns Landfill*

**Waste Prevention & Environmental Services**

# **Regional Waste Plan Progress Report**

**January 2023**

**Public service**

We are here to serve the public with the highest level of integrity

**Excellence**

We aspire to achieve exceptional results

**Teamwork**

We engage others in ways that foster respect and trust

**Respect**

We encourage and appreciate diversity in people and ideas

**Innovation**

We take pride in coming up with innovative solutions

**Sustainability**

We are leaders in demonstrating resource use and protection

**Metro's values and purpose**

We inspire, engage, teach and invite people to preserve and enhance the quality of life and the environment for current and future generations.

If you picnic at Blue Lake or take your kids to the Oregon Zoo, enjoy symphonies at the Schnitz or auto shows at the convention center, put out your trash or drive your car – we’ve already crossed paths.

**So, hello. We’re Metro – nice to meet you.**

In a metropolitan area as big as Portland, we can do a lot of things better together. Join us to help the region prepare for a happy, healthy future.

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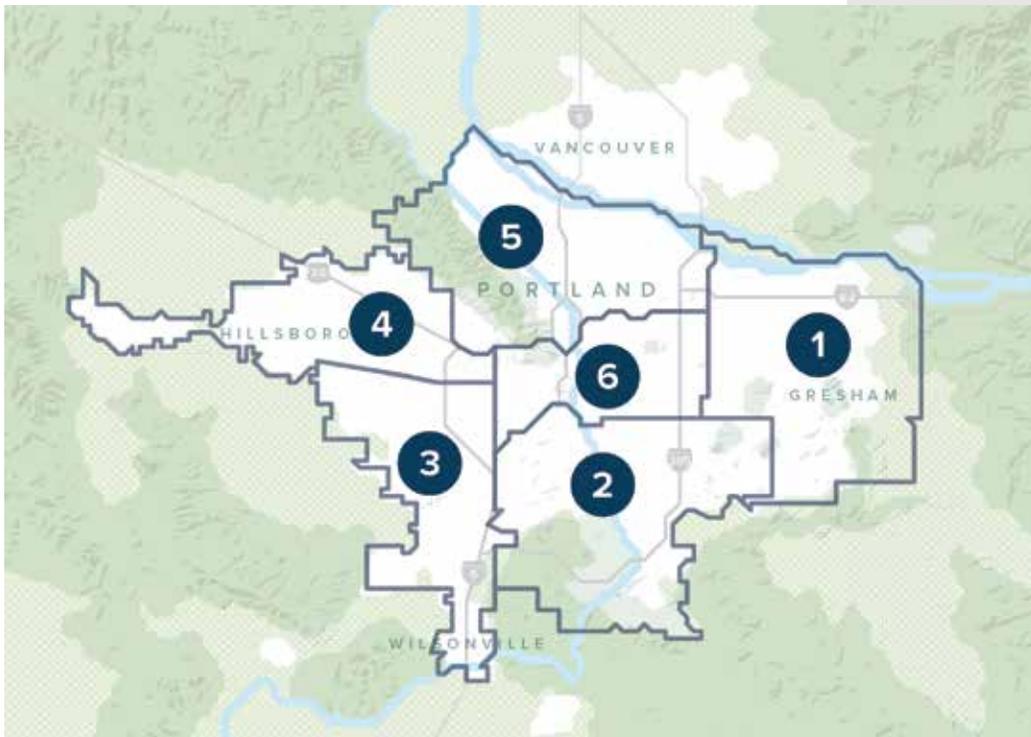
Juan Carlos González, District 4

Mary Nolan, District 5

Duncan Hwang, District 6

**Auditor**

Brian Evans



# Introduction

The [2030 Regional Waste Plan](#) is both a vision for greater Portland's garbage and recycling system and a blueprint for achieving that vision. It was created in partnership with cities, counties, local businesses and community leaders to set direction for how we manage and improve the system between 2019 and 2030.

From the community-driven process that created the plan to the goals and actions in it, the plan acknowledges past and present inequities across the garbage and recycling system and is designed to address these inequities by building a more inclusive system. The plan includes a regional call-to-action for a more proactive approach to reducing negative impacts on human health, climate and the environment caused from the full life cycle of a product and considering solutions for both consumers and producers.

True success of the Regional Waste Plan relies on partnerships built on trust and mutual respect. Three years in, the work to implement the plan continues to elevate collaboration between Metro, city, county and state governments, community-based organizations and private sector service providers.

## Navigating the plan and progress report

The Regional Waste Plan sets out goals in five areas of work. Goals in each area focus on addressing the impacts of materials – from production to disposal – and addressing community needs within the garbage and recycling system. Action items within each goal represent concrete steps being taken to help reach the goal. More information on goal areas and the full list of goals and actions within each goal can be found on the following pages of this report.

Goal Areas	Pages
Shared prosperity	6 - 9
Product design and manufacturing	10 - 11
Product consumption and use	12 - 14
Product end-of-life management	15 - 21
Disaster resilience	22 - 24

The Regional Waste Plan evaluates progress toward each goal by monitoring the status of action items and by measuring indicators over time. Indicators at the goal level measure on-the-ground outcomes of programs, policies or investments linked to each goal. Key indicators are broad, long-term metrics that demonstrate progress overall. A full list of indicators can be found in the appendix. More information on actions and indicators can be found in the first [Regional Waste Plan Progress Report](#).

This report is the second in a series of annual progress reports and covers the year 2021. It is a streamlined version that highlights overall progress on actions and indicators as well as positive impacts and opportunities for improvement within each goal area. For each goal, the report provides a progress update on actions and shares success stories. It then presents results for the indicators selected for this progress report.

# Executive Summary

Greetings,

We live in a place where people care deeply about protecting our lands and waters, conserving resources, keeping people healthy and ensuring that everyone has access to the range of opportunities that contribute to our quality of life. There is a strong connection between our ability to achieve these values and the decisions made about managing waste.

Three years ago, our region adopted the 2030 Regional Waste Plan, an exciting and ambitious blueprint for how our region plans for and manages the impacts of the products we use and when we throw them away. This innovative plan in many ways is unique in our nation, just like our garbage and recycling system operates like no other. It is the result of a community-driven process that centered racial equity, collaboration and partnership.

In the pages that follow, we report out the many accomplishments achieved this past year to move this Plan forward. These are not Metro's successes alone to celebrate, but rather ones that we share with our local government, community and industry partners. Together, we ensured that dumped waste is quickly cleaned up and that we are keeping hazardous products out of landfills. We worked to improve systems for recycling and recovery. We provided culturally responsive education in schools and communities about the connections between consumer products, people and nature. We also worked to advance more equitable collection standards and services to meet the needs of all residents.

We recognize there is still much work to be done. I am grateful for and humbled by the energy, innovation and commitment of the many people that work hard every day to make our communities and region a great place to live today and for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Marta

Marta McGuire, Ph.D. (she/her)  
Director, Waste Prevention & Environmental Services

## Progress on all actions



## Actions advancing racial equity



■ On track or Completed

■ Not started

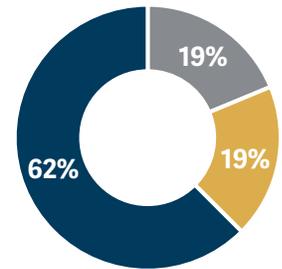
■ In process but facing obstacles

## 2021 Snapshot of Goal Area Progress

### Shared Prosperity

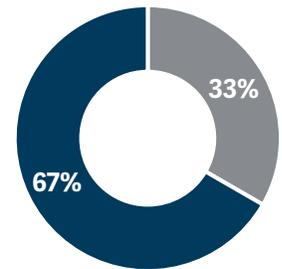
The greater Portland area increased the representation of people of color in engagement, planning and leadership opportunities. Funding for regional cleanup and reuse, repair and waste reduction programs centered racial equity. Efforts to remove systemic barriers to participation, like language support, continued. Metro, local governments and service providers also made progress on workforce equity goals, incorporating “good jobs” provisions into contracts and regulatory instruments. Work not yet started includes establishing a living wage and benefits standard for the solid waste industry and a career pathways strategy for all solid waste occupations. Data collection, training and engagement that took place in 2021 will support future efforts to address these actions.

### Goal Area Status



### Product Design and Manufacturing

In 2021, Metro, cities and counties participated in committees and work groups supporting the development and implementation of the statewide Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act (RMA). They also successfully advocated for legislation establishing a statewide mattress recycling program and began work on product stewardship legislation for other materials. Work not yet started includes development of incentives for green manufacturing techniques for products and packaging and advocacy for legislation reducing use of toxic building materials. Work to implement the RMA will help guide future work on these actions.



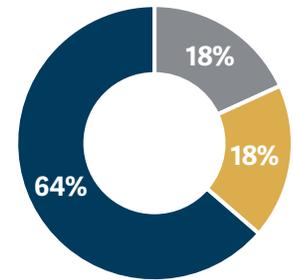
■ Not started      ■ In process but facing obstacles      ■ On track or Completed



## Product Consumption and Use

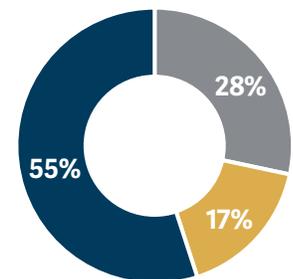
## Goal Area Status

In 2021, Metro, cities and counties continued youth and community education about products' environmental impact and waste reduction through school-based programs, social media, online tools and apps. They advanced efforts to provide culturally responsive education and outreach. Work not yet started includes promoting procurement and policies that reduce single-use products and prioritize purchase of products with low environmental and human health impacts.



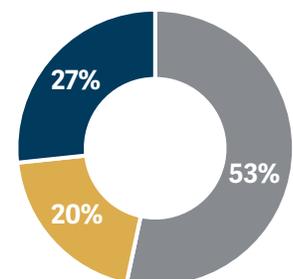
## Product End-of-Life Management

In 2021, Metro and local governments activated partnerships with community organizations and businesses to share resources and expand the region's access to services for reuse and repair, bulky waste collection, cleanup of dumped trash and hazardous waste collection. Regional work continued to implement collection service standards and education, including the roll out of an improved signage system for containers at multifamily properties. Washington County worked toward a reduced rate program for garbage collection (introduced in 2022). Work on a number of actions is still gearing up, such as regulatory tools for promoting reuse, accessible collection of bulky waste and consistent solid waste fees across the region. Planning of engagement and research to inform new systems for facilities, regularly occurring bulky waste collection and markets for recycling and reuse began in 2021 and will support future work to address these actions.



## Disaster Resilience

In 2021, work focused on establishing partnerships between Metro, local governments and community organizations as the foundation for developing regional frameworks for emergency management response and recovery. These include strategies to maximize access to critical solid waste infrastructure during disruptions and agreements with service providers to ensure rapid response during emergencies. There is additional work to be done on creating a regional database of, and strategies for, infrastructure capabilities and vulnerabilities as well as prioritizing reuse and recycling of disaster debris.



■ Not started

■ In process but facing obstacles

■ On track or Completed

## Indicators Snapshot

Indicators measure the impact of the plan over time. Key indicators demonstrate overall performance and goal indicators measure progress toward the plan's goals. In 2021, many indicators have baseline data established to compare future years of data against. Where data is available, this second progress report also shows the direction indicators are trending.

		Most recent data	Trend
Key Indicators	Annual tons of waste generated	<b>2.61M tons</b>	-
	Youth reached through education programs	<b>6,160</b> students <b>3,120</b> BIPOC	- +
	Median wage in Metro's solid waste workforce	<b>\$27.60</b>	+
	Greenhouse gas consumption based emissions	<b>41M</b> MTCO <sub>2</sub> e	○
	Multifamily properties with adequate collection	<b>32%</b>	○
	Recycling contamination	<b>9%</b> Single family <b>21%</b> Multifamily <b>14%</b> Commercial	○ ○ ○
Goal Indicators	Diversity in Metro's garbage and recycling internship program	<b>88%</b> BIPOC <b>100%</b> Women	● ●
	Diversity in solid waste committees	<b>50%</b> BIPOC <b>55%</b> Women	● ●
	Temporary workers in Metro's solid waste workforce	<b>21%</b>	●
	Diversity in Metro's solid waste workforce	<b>33%</b> BIPOC <b>36%</b> Women	+ ○
	Priority materials collected by a product stewardship program	<b>3.4%</b>	+
	Online interactions with education resources	<b>1,126,450</b>	+
	Dumped garbage in most impacted communities	<b>663</b> tons <b>59%</b> sites in equity focus areas	- +
	Private facilities with rates at or near Metro's transfer station fees (varies by waste type)	<b>14%-57%</b> Collection companies <b>0%-17%</b> Self-haul	● ●
	Recycling materials sent to Oregon or other domestic markets	<b>76%</b>	+
	Jurisdictions with disaster debris plans	<b>42%</b>	○

Sources for individual indicators can be found in the indicator section of this report on pp 25-33.

+ Positive     
 - Negative     
 ● New indicator     
 ○ No change/baseline only

# Shared Prosperity

## Goal Area Progress

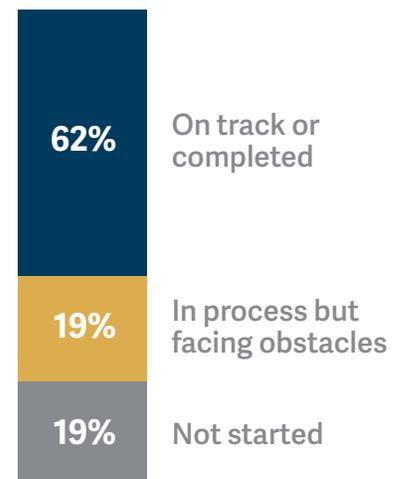
### Summary

This area of work is addressing barriers faced by communities of color and those who have been disproportionately impacted by the garbage and recycling system. Through the goals and actions in this section, Metro and local governments are making progress toward a future where all people have equitable access to the benefits of the garbage, recycling, reuse and repair economies.

### 2021 highlights include:

- Oregon Green Schools activates climate and sustainability leadership by providing an inclusive network and resources for students, schools and communities. City of Gresham redesigned their Oregon Green Schools board recruitment process to better incorporate equity.
- Washington County provided language support to members of the community applying to advisory committees at the local and state levels.
- Metro's Investment & Innovation Grant Program awarded roughly \$2 million to businesses and organizations with creative ideas for reducing waste and advancing equity.

### 4 Goals | 16 Actions



### Regional Refresh Fund

Launched in 2021, Metro's Regional Refresh Fund supports community-led efforts to promote livability and increase garbage and recycling service equity in the Metro region by providing flexible, low-barrier funding for immediate cleanup needs in underserved communities.

Nonprofits, public agencies, schools and business district associations can request up to \$5,000 in funding per cleanup project or event. As one example, Woodlawn Neighborhood Association organized a two-day event that combined bulky waste collection, neighborhood litter pick-up and document shredding followed by a celebration.

“ We saw it as a community-building opportunity. A way to support local businesses, an easy and low-cost or free way for neighbors to get rid of trash, and to work together to beautify the neighborhood. ”

- Rick Reynolds  
Woodlawn Neighborhood Association

## Goal 1

Increase engagement of youth and adults historically marginalized from garbage and recycling decision-making by enhancing civic engagement and leadership opportunities.

Action	2020 Status	2021 Status
1.1 Increase representation of historically marginalized community members, including youth, on advisory committees, such as Metro and local government solid waste advisory committees		
1.2 Evaluate and refine a public sector paid internship program to increase engagement of youth and adults in garbage and recycling careers and decision-making, with an emphasis on communities of color and other marginalized communities.		
1.3 Partner with organizations to engage youth in leadership opportunities for social, economic and environmental issues related to garbage and recycling.		

Not started
  In process but facing obstacles
  On track
  Completed

### Youth Internship and Leadership Program

Metro’s [garbage and recycling internships](#) provide young people with a supportive and professional learning community to explore careers in garbage and recycling, with an emphasis on youth of color and youth from other historically marginalized communities. The program uses a two-year cohort model focused on youth development, amplifying youth voices and supporting youth as bridges between Metro and their communities. This is a paid internship opportunity for youth ages 16-20 that runs three days per week in the summer with the opportunity to continue with reduced hours during the school year.

“ My favorite moments of this internship have been the extensive exposure to the multiple career options that Metro has to offer. As an intern I have had the opportunity to shadow and learn from people whose jobs are not typical jobs you learn about at school. Being exposed to these new series of jobs has helped me on the journey of figuring out what kind of work I want to do in the future. ”

- Nayely Interian, Intern Alumni



## Goal 2

Increase the percentage of garbage and recycling system revenue that benefits local communities and companies owned by people of color and other historically marginalized groups.

Action		2020 Status	2021 Status
2.1	Develop Metro and local government procurement policies to increase the amount of spending on solid waste-related services that goes to locally owned companies, with an emphasis on minority-owned and woman-owned businesses.	In process but facing obstacles	In process but facing obstacles
2.2	Implement strategies in consultation with community organizations that can be adopted by local governments to ensure greater racial equity in the ownership and management of collection service providers.	On track	On track
2.3	Utilize grant programs to invest in businesses and non-profit 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.	On track	On track

## Goal 3

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

Action		2020 Status	2021 Status
3.1	Establish a living wage and benefits standard for the lowest-paid positions in the solid waste industry and update the standard on a regular basis.	Not started	Not started
3.2	Incorporate "good jobs" provisions regarding wages, benefits, workforce diversity and career pathways into public sector solid waste investments, operations contracts, franchises, licenses and other procurement and regulatory instruments.	In process but facing obstacles	On track
3.3	Conduct baseline and regular follow-up studies of wages and benefits in the greater Portland area's solid waste sector to inform "good jobs" provisions.	On track	On track
3.4	Reduce the use of temporary and contract workers in the region's solid waste industry	Not started	In process but facing obstacles
3.5	Evaluate the use of Metro employees to fully operate Metro-owned transfer stations	On track	On track

## Goal 4

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

Action	2020 Status	2021 Status
4.1	Implement a workforce development and readiness program for garbage and recycling industry jobs.	
4.2	Develop a career pathways strategy that aims to increase the diversity of workers in all solid waste occupations.	
4.3	Conduct baseline and regular follow-up studies of workforce diversity in the regional garbage and recycling industry, including an assessment of barriers to hiring and retaining people of color, women and other historically marginalized groups.	
4.4	Work with private garbage and recycling service providers and community-based organizations to design and implement programs that address safety, bullying and harassment in the workplace throughout the solid waste industry.	
4.5	In partnership with community-based organizations, create workforce development programs within the reuse sector that focus on people with barriers to employment.	

■ Not started   ■ In process but facing obstacles   ■ On track   ■ Completed



# Product Design and Manufacturing

## Goal Area Progress

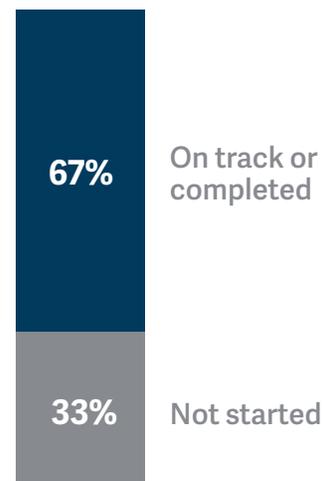
### Summary

Through this goal area, we are working to influence the design and manufacturing of products and packaging by advocating for changes in public policy. The goal is for manufacturers to become more responsible for the impacts of their products. The actions focus not only on reducing the amount of waste, but also shifting what's in it.

### 2021 highlights include:

- Metro, cities and counties supported the State of Oregon's Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act (2021) and participated in various committees, taskforces and meetings related to the legislation. 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.
- Washington County staff participated as an appointee on the Truth in Labeling Taskforce, which delivered a report to the legislature in 2022 on misleading labeling about the recyclability of products.

1 Goal | 6 Actions



### Successful legislative advocacy for mattress recycling

Metro and local jurisdictions worked to support a new law establishing a statewide [mattress recycling program](#). Senate Bill 1576 (2022) requires mattress manufacturers to help establish a program that will make it easy for consumers to recycle their unwanted mattresses. The law aims to increase mattress recycling, establish new convenient locations in every county for residents to drop off their mattresses, reduce illegal dumping and create recycling-sector jobs. The program will be funded by a small assessment collected at retail sales of mattresses.

“Historically in Oregon, unwanted mattresses that were still highly recyclable ended up in landfills. Now, we can establish systems to more thoughtfully reuse or recycle those mattresses - benefiting our environment and our communities. I am excited to see this work move forward to create mattress stewardship programs statewide.”

- Anna Kurnizki  
Executive Director, Community Warehouse

## Goal 5

Reduce the environmental and human health impacts of products and packaging that are made, sold, used or disposed in Oregon.

Action	2020 Status	2021 Status
5.1 Advocate for legislation that minimizes chemicals of concern in products and packaging and requires the disclosure of product chemical data to consumers.		
5.2 Assist the Oregon Health Authority in implementing the 2015 Oregon Toxic-Free Kids Act, which requires manufacturers of children's products sold in Oregon to report products containing high-priority chemicals of concern.		
5.3 Partner with the State of Oregon to provide incentives to manufacturers for developing sustainable manufacturing techniques, including green chemistry, for products and packaging sold in Oregon.		
5.4 Advocate for product stewardship legislation and other policy approaches that can achieve the greatest reduction in environmental and human health impacts from products and packaging made, used or disposed in the region.		
5.5 Advocate for legislation that would require building products sold and used in Oregon to be free of highly toxic materials.		
5.6 Advocate for standards for high-impact products, including phase-outs or bans.		

■ Not started   ■ In process but facing obstacles   ■ On track   ■ Completed



# Product Consumption and Use

## Goal Area Progress

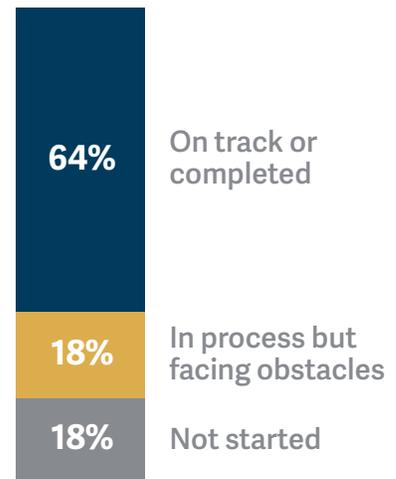
### Summary

Goals in this area focus on reducing environmental and health impacts of what we buy. Actions emphasize education and policy efforts to reduce impacts and support better purchasing choices. Education prioritizes culturally responsive efforts, with programs and services implemented in partnership with community organizations to reach historically marginalized groups. Policy actions in this area provide safer, lower-risk products and reduce the use of single-use items.

### 2021 highlights include:

- Clackamas County partnered with the Lake Oswego School District to pilot the Oregon School Food Share Guide, which helped the school district as they established a donation relationship with their onsite food pantry, Hunger Fighters.
- City of Portland participated in the Pacific Coast Food Waste Commitment, which includes many local partner businesses and several pilot projects for food waste reduction.
- Washington County and City Cooperative provided collection calendars, their multifamily recycling guide, and other tools in their Safe Harbor languages: Arabic, Chinese (simplified and traditional), Farsi/Persian, Japanese, Khmer/Cambodian, Korean, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog/Filipino and Vietnamese.
- City of Beaverton provided residents and businesses with tips to reduce their use of single-use products through social media posts, newsletter articles, website resources and in-person engagement.

### 2 Goals | 11 Actions



## Recycle or Not: We'll help you sort it out

Recycle or Not is a community resource created by Metro and local government partners. This program works to reduce waste and protect the environment by sharing information about how to recycle right. In 2021, the Recycle or Not Instagram site had 7,000 followers! Posting information and photos of confusing items helps to reduce "wish cycling" and contamination in the region. In April, KGW news aired a segment regarding general residential recycling which included information on common mistakes and local tools and resources.



## Goal 6

Reduce product environmental impacts and waste through educational and behavioral practices related to the prevention and better purchasing choices.

Action	2020 Status	2021 Status
6.1 Provide culturally responsive and developmentally appropriate school-based education programs about the connections between consumer products, people and nature.	On track	On track
6.2 Provide culturally responsive community education and assistance about the connections between consumer products, people and nature.	On track	On track
6.3 Provide and increase accessibility to education and tools to help residents and businesses reduce their use of the single- use products with the greatest negative environmental impacts.	On track	On track
6.4 Partner with communities of color and others to increase awareness about high-risk chemical products, reduce their use and decrease people's exposure to them.	Completed	Completed
6.5 Assist households and businesses in the adoption of practices that prevent the wasting of food and other high-impact materials.	On track	On track
6.6 Support implementation of Oregon State University's (OSU) SolvePestProblems.org as a primary tool for education and resources on integrated pest management.	On track	On track
6.7 Implement recognition programs for business efforts to prevent waste and minimize environmental impacts of the products they purchase.	On track	On track

Not started
  In process but facing obstacles
  On track
  Completed

## Goal 7

Reduce product environmental impacts and waste through policies that support prevention practices and better purchasing choices.

Action		2020 Status	2021 Status
7.1	Implement procurement policies for Metro and local governments that prioritize the purchase of products and services with low environmental and human health impacts.	In process but facing obstacles	In process but facing obstacles
7.2	Implement policies that will reduce the use of single-use products such as single-use plastic bags.	On track	In process but facing obstacles
7.3	Advocate for the reclassification of high-risk nonagricultural pesticides to restricted use status in Oregon.	Not started	Not started
7.4	Implement policies and programs that lead to construction of buildings that use fewer resources, including improvements to Oregon Reach Code and baseline building codes to address material selection preferences and restrictions, incentives for space-efficient homes and removal of barriers to adopting lower impact materials.	Not started	Not started

Not started

In process but facing obstacles

On track

Completed



# Product End-of-Life Management

## Goal Area Progress

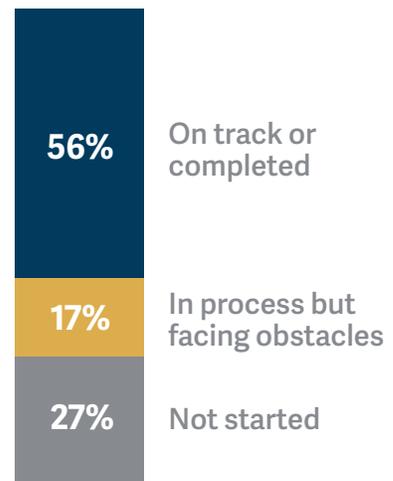
### Summary

While the ultimate goal is to prevent waste to begin with, the Portland region still needs a system that safely and conveniently manages products at the end of their useful life. The goal is to ensure that the programs and services not only protect human health and the environment, but that they do so in a way that meets the needs of all residents and all communities today and into the future.

### 2021 highlights include:

- Clackamas County hosted four repair fairs in Estacada, Lake Oswego, Sandy and West Linn. The county also participated in the Regional Repair Fair workgroup to share resources and lessons learned among different groups engaged in repair efforts.
- Local government partners provided bulky waste collection events across the region. Gresham, Fairview and Troutdale organized centralized drop-off events or routine pick up. Unique features in each jurisdiction included complimentary collection for multifamily residents in Fairview, collection of bicycles and pet supplies for reuse in Troutdale and swapping of durable goods in partnership with Trash for Peace in Gresham.
- Metro partnered with Growing Gardens to provide Spanish and English language healthy homes and natural gardening classes. This partnership includes racial equity training for volunteers.
- City of Beaverton created a streamlined garbage and recycling enclosure design review process for businesses and multifamily complexes within the Allen Boulevard District.
- Metro's RID Patrol continued providing cleanup services of dumped garbage on public lands. The City of Portland also coordinated similar efforts, including work by its Homelessness and Urban Camping Impact Reduction Program, Portland Parks and a partnership with SOLVE.

### 9 Goals | 60 Actions



## Goal 8

Increase the reuse, repair and donation of materials and consumer products.

Action		2020 Status	2021 Status
8.1	Support efforts to ensure that surplus edible food desired by agencies serving communities experiencing hunger in the region is made available to them.	On track	In process but facing obstacles
8.2	Implement strategies to increase the salvage of building materials for reuse, without increasing exposure to toxics.	On track	On track
8.3	Advocate for research-informed changes to building codes and other regulations to increase use of reused and deconstructed materials.	Not started	Not started
8.4	Expand the collection of reusable items at public and private transfer stations, in partnership with reuse and repair organizations.	On track	Completed
8.5	Invest in neighborhood-scale reuse and repair services and infrastructure.	On track	On track
8.6	Support implementation of Oregon DEQ's Reuse, Repair and Extended Product Lifespan Strategic Plan.	On track	On track

Not started
  In process but facing obstacles
  On track
  Completed

### Investment and Innovation Grants supports projects like reducing wood waste

The Investment and Innovation (I&I) grant program funds for-profit businesses, nonprofit organizations, and universities and colleges for new or expanded efforts to prevent waste and make better use of discarded materials through reuse and repair, composting and recycling.

Sankofa Lumber launched in 2019 with an ambitious business mission to process and supply reclaimed wood waste to construction and manufacturing markets at a commercial scale. Finding sustainable solutions for discarded wood is challenging in the Metro region, with few opportunities for large-scale reuse. With support from an I&I grant, Sankofa worked with local haulers, construction firms, and sales distribution partners to streamline supply and processing logistics. This allowed Sankofa to capture a high volume of framing lumber and other clean wood products for commercial-scale reuse.

Valerie Carey, Sankofa's owner and founder, has worked most of her life in a white male-dominated construction industry. As a woman of color, she prioritizes hiring members of underserved communities in order to provide valuable skills and hands-on work experience needed in a range of high-paying green-collar jobs.

“
*The program is a great way for public funds to be invested in things that are important to all of us – economic development, the creation of green jobs, environmental justice. It offers a really local solution to materials management, and it is responsive to the types of waste generated here in the greater Portland region.*
”

- Valerie Carey  
 Sankofa Lumber

## Goal 9

Increase knowledge among community members about garbage, recycling and reuse services.

Action			
9.1	Provide culturally responsive education and assistance for garbage, recycling and reuse services to residents and businesses.		
9.2	Utilize Metro's Recycling Information Center to serve all residents and businesses in the region as a clearinghouse for prevention, reuse, recycling and disposal information.		
9.3	Ensure that community education and volunteer development courses, such as Master Recycler, are relevant, accessible and culturally responsive to all communities.		

## Goal 10

Provide regionally consistent services for garbage, recyclables and other priority materials that meet the needs for all users.

Action		2020 Status	2021 Status
10.1	Provide comprehensive collection services and supporting education and assistance for source-separated recyclables, source-separated food scraps and garbage, in compliance with state, regional and local requirements, including the Regional Service Standard, Business Recycling Requirement and Business Food Waste Requirement in Metro Code.		
10.2	Implement minimum service levels or performance standards for all collected materials for multifamily and commercial tenants.		
10.3	Implement regional standards for collection container colors, signage and other related informational materials for single-family, multifamily and commercial services.		
10.4	Provide convenient, accessible and equitable collection of hazardous waste from households and Conditionally Exempt Generators, prioritizing communities with greatest need.		
10.5	Provide regularly occurring bulky waste collection service, with particular emphasis on multifamily communities and lower-income households.		
10.6	Establish standards for collection areas for existing and newly constructed multifamily properties to ensure residents have adequate access to garbage, recyclables and food scraps collection containers.		
10.7	Partner with community health organizations to expand options for collection of hypodermic needles and other types of medical waste, prioritizing individuals with the greatest barriers to service.		
10.8	Advocate for statewide legislation or implement regional policies to increase the types of products and packaging for which manufacturers and retailers provide environmentally sound, convenient and accessible take-back programs.		

Not started
  In process but facing obstacles
  On track
  Completed

## Community engagement for multi-family service improvements

Community Services and Education staff are leading the implementation of applying new regional garbage and recycling decals and signage at multifamily properties. The goal is to partner with organizations (Junk-It Removal, Trash for Peace and PSU’s Community Environmental Services) to remove and replace old signage with new ones at over 6,000 multifamily properties by December 2023. Decals and signage design were based on findings from Metro’s 2018-19 recycling behavior research that showed leading with visuals, strong color contrast and wayfinding for easier sorting. Designs and translations were then consulted and approved by community partners Trash for Peace, Centro Cultural and Environmental Promoters. Local government staff were instrumental along the way in the design criteria and process. Once decal designs were finalized, staff developed accompanying educational materials that mirror the design and followed design principles for consistency.



## Goal 11

Address and resolve community concerns and service issues.

Action	2020 Status	2021 Status
11.1 Provide cultural competence training to customer service representatives at Metro, local governments and collection service providers.	Not started	Not started
11.2 Improve feedback loops between haulers, local governments and Metro to address collection service issues for households and businesses.	Not started	Not started
11.3 Provide inclement weather notifications to customers in multiple languages and through a variety of media.	Not started	In process but facing obstacles
11.4 Provide services to clean up illegal dumps on public property, prioritizing communities with greatest need.	On track	On track
11.5 Research the root causes that contribute to illegal dumping and how they can be addressed.	Not started	Not started
11.6 Implement garbage and recycling collection services for people experiencing homelessness.	In process but facing obstacles	In process but facing obstacles
11.7 Evaluate the need to expand and improve access to public collection containers to reduce litter and illegal dumping	Not started	Not started

Not started
  In process but facing obstacles
  On track
  Completed

## Goal 12

Manage all garbage and recycling operations to reduce their nuisance, safety and environmental impacts on workers and the public.

Action		2020 Status	2021 Status
12.1	Minimize the health and safety impacts of solid waste operations on employees, customers and neighboring communities, with particular focus on low-income communities and communities of color, and identify methods for repairing past harm.		
12.2	Implement consistent and enforceable nuisance and safety standards for all solid waste facilities within the system.		
12.3	Implement environmental and safety standards for all on-road and off-road solid waste fleet vehicles.		
12.4	Implement sustainability practices in the operation of public and private solid waste facilities to reduce energy use, utilize renewable energy, reduce equipment emissions, maximize the use of safe alternatives to toxic materials and achieve other environmental objectives.		
12.5	Regulate collection of solid waste materials by collectors not otherwise regulated by local governments and illegal dumping.		
12.6	Regulate facilities accepting garbage, recycling, food scraps, yard debris and other solid waste generated from the region to advance progress toward achieving this plan's goals.		
12.7	Require post-collection material recovery for marketable materials that will advance progress toward achieving this plan's goals and targets.		
12.8	Evaluate on a continuing basis, the need to regulate different types of solid waste facilities not covered under current Metro regulation based on their actual and potential impacts on human health, the environment and neighboring communities. These facilities include, but are not limited to, dismantlers, wood waste grinding operations, landscapers, sludge processors, and specific or single material recyclers.		

## Goal 13

Invest in communities that receive garbage and recyclables from Metro region so that those communities regard solid waste facilities as an asset.

Action		2020 Status	2021 Status
13.1	Expand the host community enhancement program to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>include all solid-waste-handling facilities that impact neighboring communities;</li> <li>increase funding;</li> <li>prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion elements in grant funding criteria.</li> </ul>		
13.2	Implement annual volunteer projects and collection/recycling events in neighborhoods affected by solid waste facilities.		
13.3	Require each solid waste facility to work toward a good neighbor agreement with its host		
13.4	Evaluate Community Benefit Agreements as a potential tool for garbage and recycling facilities to invest in host communities.		

Not started
  In process but facing obstacles
  On track
  Completed

## Goal 14

Adopt fees for all services that are reasonable, responsive to user economic needs, regionally consistent and well understood.

Action		2020 Status	2021 Status
14.1	Implement transparent and consistent annual rate-setting processes for all collection service providers.		
14.2	Implement transparent and consistent annual rate-setting processes for all facilities.		
14.3	Establish fees across the region that are consistent for like services.		
14.4	Implement a low-income rate assistance program for residential collection services.		
14.5	Evaluate alternative models for collection, processing and transfer services to identify which would deliver the best environmental, financial, efficiency and equity outcomes		
14.6	Implement strong financial performance reporting standards to provide greater certainty on the financial viability of facilities serving the Metro region.		
14.7	Require that local governments annually provide information to residents about the components of their garbage and recycling collection rate.		

## Goal 15

Improve the systems for recovering recyclables, food scraps and yard debris to make them resilient to changing markets and evolving community needs.

Action		2020 Status	2021 Status
15.1	Implement regionally consistent contamination reduction efforts to improve material quality, including education, sorting instructions, collection equipment changes, and customer feedback methods		
15.2	Regularly assess the list of recyclable materials collected in the residential and business programs in the region relative to end-markets, life cycle environmental benefits, community needs and forecasting of future materials in the waste stream.		
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 fees and/or other mechanisms.		
15.5	Facilitate the permitting of composting facilities to process mixed residential yard debris and food scraps, while ensuring minimal impacts on neighboring communities.		
15.6	Implement stronger linkages between recycling collection programs and material recovery facilities through processing performance standards, supply agreements, regulatory oversight or other means.		
15.7	Identify and implement changes to recycling collection programs and material recovery facility operations to meet the specifications of a broad range of markets.		
15.8	Advocate for statewide policies or implement regional policies that create a preference, incentive or requirement for use of recycling end-markets in Oregon and the Northwest.		
15.9	Advocate to expand the statewide bottle bill program to include additional containers		
15.10	Evaluate whether a policy to increase garbage tip fees would further incentivize waste prevention and recovery without harming ratepayers or providing revenue windfalls to transfer station operators.		

Not started
  In process but facing obstacles
  On track
  Completed

**Washington County works to design reduced rate program for garbage and recycling services - the first kind in Oregon**

Starting January 1, 2023, unincorporated Washington County community members living at or below 185% of the federal poverty level who subscribe to garbage and recycling service from one of the county’s nine franchised companies will be eligible for a new reduced rate. Reduced rate program participants will have their garbage and recycling bills cut by 75%, which means the standard 32-gallon per week garbage and recycling service will cost just \$7 per month.

“ Ensuring that essential services provided by the county are accessible to all community members is a top priority for our board. Since this board adopted the county’s first equity resolution in 2020, we have been working to build new systems and remove barriers that have negatively impacted our historically underserved neighbors. This reduced rate program for garbage and recycling services is an exciting step forward. ”

- Kathryn Harrington  
Washington County Board Chair

**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.

Action	2020 Status	2021 Status
16.1 Locate garbage transfer stations and allocate material tonnage to them in a way that benefits the public, emphasizing geographic equity, access to service and a reduction in environmental and human health impacts.	In process but facing obstacles	In process but facing obstacles
16.2 Locate recycling and food scraps transfer and recovery facilities to best benefit the public relative to geographic equity and access to service, and to reduce environmental and human health impacts.	In process but facing obstacles	In process but facing obstacles
16.3 Improve interagency and community collaboration on siting and authorizing proposed solid waste facilities to reduce potential impacts on neighboring communities.	On track	On track
16.4 Maintain public ownership of facilities to ensure that a range of services are accessible to residents at equitable and affordable fees.	On track	On track
16.5 Evaluate the feasibility of establishing a publicly owned facility in Washington County to accept and transfer garbage, recycling, food scraps, household hazardous waste and other materials.	Completed	Completed
16.6 Expand and improve access to services provided at Metro South Transfer Station.	In process but facing obstacles	In process but facing obstacles
16.7 Implement the Metro Transfer System Configuration policy.	On track	On track

Not started
  In process but facing obstacles
  On track
  Completed

# Disaster Resilience

## Goal Area Progress

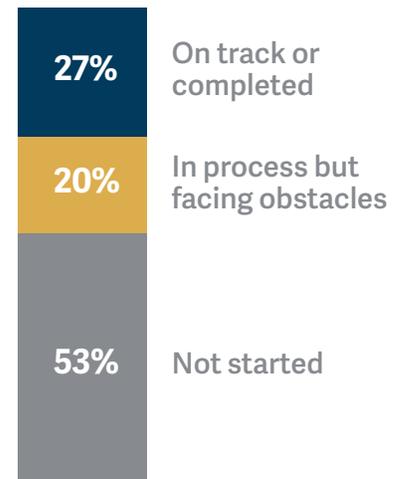
### Summary

The region's garbage and recycling system must be resilient and prepared to recover quickly after a disaster, and the recovery process should minimize harmful impacts to local communities. The goals and actions ensure the region will be ready to implement the debris operations before a disaster happens.

### 2021 highlights include:

- Cities of Beaverton, Gresham, Hillsboro, Portland and Troutdale as well as Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties, and the Tualatin Valley Water District participated in the Disaster Preparedness work group in collaboration with Metro.
- In 2021, Metro initiated an update to Metro's Disaster Debris Management Plan.

### 3 Goals | 15 Actions



### Goal 17

Effectively coordinate public and private partners in planning for the impact of disasters on the solid waste system.

Action	2020 Status	2021 Status
17.1 Develop a regional solid waste emergency management response and recovery framework in partnership with local governments and community organizations that prioritizes those most vulnerable in a disaster.	On track	On track
17.2 Conduct periodic exercises to test and practice the implementation of disaster debris plans.	On track	On track
17.3 Develop a coordinated preparedness and response messaging program that is accessible and culturally responsive.	On track	On track
17.4 Develop a database of existing public and private solid waste infrastructure capabilities that can be integrated with other public databases.	Not started	Not started

## Goal 18

Ensure routine garbage and recycling collection, processing, transport and disposal operations can be restored quickly following a system disruption.

Action		2020 Status	2021 Status
18.1	Implement strategies to maximize access to critical solid waste infrastructure during disruptions.		
18.2	Implement requirements for solid waste system service providers to prepare and maintain emergency operations and continuity of operations plans.		
18.3	Prioritize the use of the current solid waste infrastructure for the processing of normal garbage and recycling, rather than for disaster debris, following a debris-generating incident.		
18.4	Develop disaster resiliency standards for the design and construction of new facilities or when existing facilities are renovated.		
18.5	Develop engineering and financing strategies to facilitate the seismic retrofit of existing public and private solid waste infrastructure.		
18.6	Conduct periodic assessments of solid waste system facilities for vulnerabilities to different hazards.		

Not started
  In process but facing obstacles
  On track
  Completed

### Partnering for disaster resilience

The Solid Waste Disaster Preparedness Workgroup began meeting in mid-2021. This workgroup is tasked with guiding the implementation of Regional Waste Plan goals focused on resilience and preparedness in the solid waste system. The group is composed of both solid waste staff and emergency management staff from the counties and larger cities in the greater Portland area. The group’s work focuses on two areas: coordinating regional planning for management of disaster debris, and planning for continuity of operations for the region’s solid waste system following a disaster.

“
*The Solid Waste Disaster Preparedness group brings local governments together to plan for regional natural disaster response and recovery. Implementing climate resiliency strategies will ensure our system is prepared to provide essential services during extreme weather events.*
”

- Shannon Martin  
 Solid Waste & Sustainability Manager, City of Gresham

## Goal 19

Plan disaster debris response operations to expedite the clearance and removal of debris, making the best use of locally-based services and materials and maximizing recovery.

Action		2020 Status	2021 Status
19.1	Identify and pre-authorize debris management sites throughout the region.		
19.2	Develop incentives for debris management contractors to prioritize purchasing services and materials from locally owned companies, with an emphasis on minority-owned and woman-owned businesses.		
19.3	Develop agreements and contracts with service providers and partner jurisdictions to ensure rapid mobilization of regional and out-of-region resources during emergency response operations.		
19.4	Develop strategies for the safe reuse, recycling and disposal of materials following a debris-generating incident.		
19.5	Create incentives or requirements for debris management contractors to collect and separate debris materials for reuse and recycling.		

■ Not started    ■ In process but facing obstacles    ■ On track    ■ Completed



# Key Indicators

The 2030 Regional Waste Plan includes a robust measurement framework to evaluate progress towards the plan's vision and goals. The framework allows Metro and local governments to demonstrate the positive impacts the plan's activities are having on the region, highlight opportunities for improvement and evaluate which programs and projects are helping the region achieve its desired outcomes.

Key indicators are linked to the values in the plan and demonstrate overall performance. Goal indicators help measure progress towards each of the plan's goals.

This report covers 16 indicators in total. It includes 11 indicators reported previously, and tracks progress on 8 of those. It also establishes baseline data for five additional indicators, which will be used to compare progress against in future years.

## Key Indicators

### Annual tons of waste generated

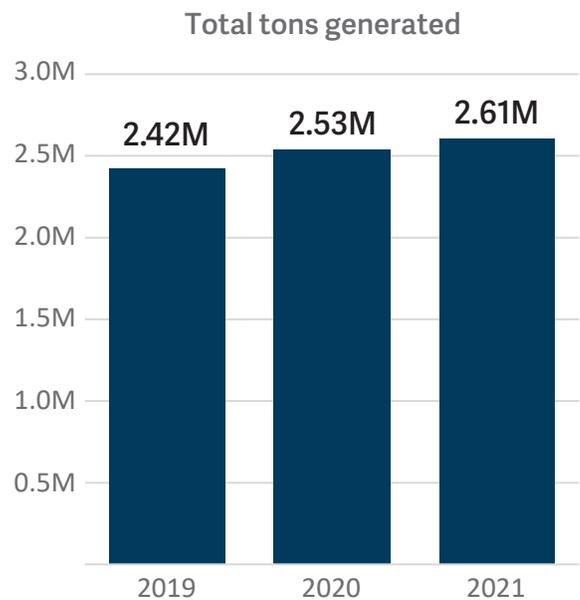
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**Plan value:** Conserve natural resources

This indicator measures the total amount of waste materials generated by people and businesses each year in all of Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties. It includes garbage, as well as materials collected for recycling, composting and energy recovery.

In 2021, the region generated an estimated 2.61 million tons of waste materials. This represents an increase of almost 8 percent compared to the baseline year. Of all the waste generated in 2021, 53% was disposed mostly in landfills, with a small percentage going to incinerators. The rest (47%) was recovered for recycling, composting or producing energy.

To fulfill the 2030 Regional Waste Plan value of conserving natural resources, this indicator should decline or stay the same over time.



Source: Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), Metro (2021 estimates)

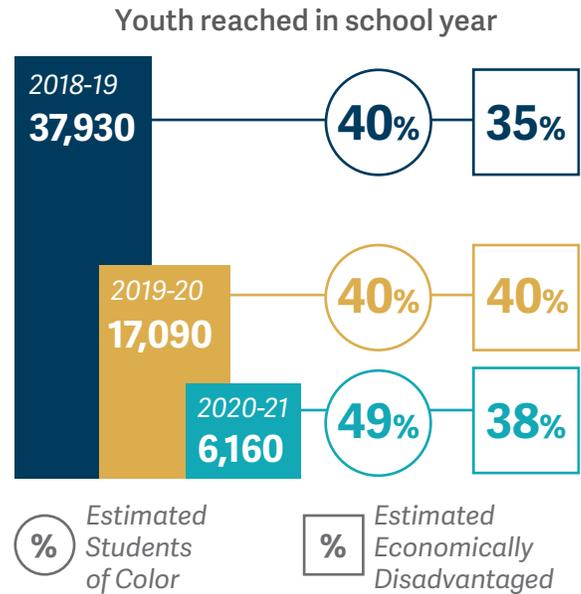
## Youth reached through education programs

**Plan value:** Advance environmental literacy

The COVID-19 pandemic led to cancellation of in-person waste reduction programming for part of the 2019-20 school year and all of 2020-21. Program staff adapted their curriculum to be delivered virtually through remote presentations, videos and kits for teachers and communities.

Though fewer than pre-pandemic years, 2019-20 and 2020-21 school-based programming by Clackamas County and Metro served many students in the region and maintained, if not grew, its reach to underserved communities. Future reports will return to tracking in-school and Outdoor School waste prevention education programming offered by Metro and partner agencies.

Source: Metro, Clackamas County



## Median wage in Metro’s solid waste workforce

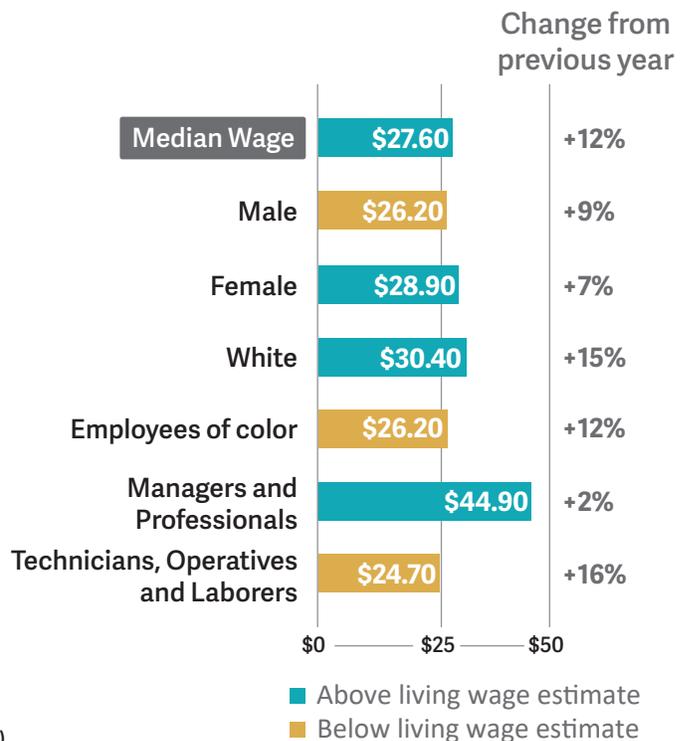
**Plan value:** Foster economic well-being

Between 2020 and 2021 the median wage rose by \$3.00, from \$24.60 to \$27.60.

Compared to the living wage estimate\* for a household that has two working adults and two children (\$26.90 in 2021), 49% of workers earned less than this standard in 2021. This represents an increase from 45% in 2020 (when the living wage estimate was \$23.70). Workers earning below this standard tend to be employees of color and hold frontline positions.

The goal is for the median wage of employees of color and the lowest paid workers to be at or above a standard living wage for the Metro region.

Source: Metro, Recology



\* Glasmeier, Amy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2022). Living Wage Calculator, available at [livingwage.mit.edu](http://livingwage.mit.edu).

## Greenhouse gas consumption based emissions

**Plan value:** Protect and restore the environment and promote health for all

This indicator was not updated this year and is showing the baseline data from 2015. It tracks the estimated emissions generated locally, nationally and internationally as a result of the goods and services consumed by people in the Metro region. Most of these emissions (71%) are not generated in the region. The majority (99%) of emissions are generated when we make, consume and use materials and products; managing products at the end of their useful lives accounts for a very small fraction of emissions.



Metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MT CO<sub>2</sub>e) in 2015

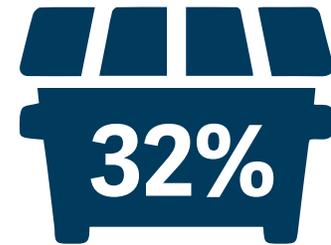
*Source: Consumption-Based Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for the Metro Region. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (2018)*

## Multifamily properties with adequate collection services

**Plan value:** Provide excellent service and equitable system access

This indicator is showing the baseline data from the previous progress report. It 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 (RSS), 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.

For this indicator meeting the RSS is defined as providing 20 gallons per apartment unit per week for both garbage and recycling and 1 gallon per apartment per week for glass collection.



Properties with adequate services in 2021

*Source: Metro, Multifamily Garbage and Recycling Services Study (2021)*

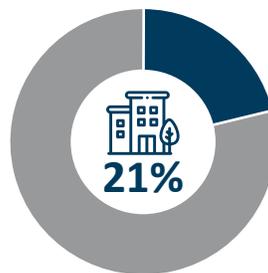
## Recycling contamination

**Plan value:** Ensure operational resilience, adaptability and sustainability

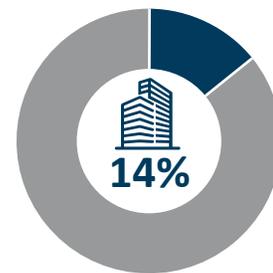
This indicator is showing the baseline data and tracks recycling contamination by sector. These sectors are: single family homes; multifamily apartment and condominium homes; and the commercial sector (which includes businesses and institutions such as hospitals and schools). The contamination rate ranges from 9-21% with the multifamily sector having the highest contamination rate.



Single Family (2015)



Multifamily (2017)



Commercial (2019)

*Source: Metro, Regional Waste Characterization Studies*

## Goal Indicators

### Diversity in Metro’s garbage and recycling internship program

**Goal 1:** Increase engagement of youth and adults historically marginalized from garbage and recycling decision-making by enhancing civic engagement and leadership opportunities.

In 2021, this indicator covers the Metro garbage and recycling Youth Internship and Leadership program, a paid internship opportunity for youth ages 16-21. The program focuses on exploring careers in garbage and recycling, engaging youth voices and building community, with emphasis on reaching youth of color.

Almost all participants in the Metro program in 2021 (the baseline year for this indicator) identified as youth of color and all identified as female. The program is more diverse than the Metro region overall.



Source: Metro, American Community Survey (2020)

### Diversity in solid waste committees

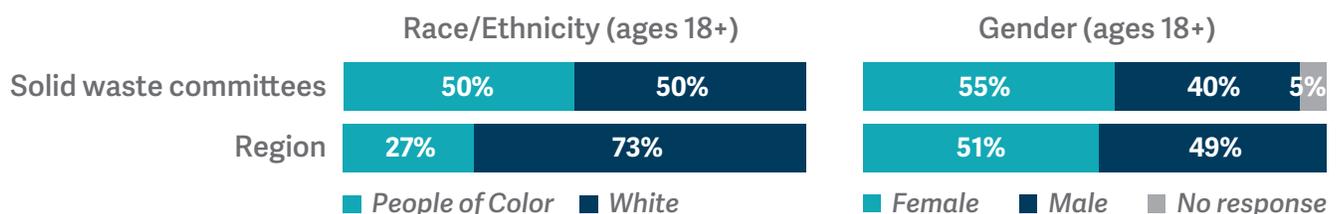
**Goal 1:** Increase engagement of youth and adults historically marginalized from garbage and recycling decision-making by enhancing civic engagement and leadership opportunities.

In 2021, this indicator covers two solid waste advisory committees in the Metro region:

- The Regional Waste Advisory Committee, comprised of community, government and industry representatives, advises the Metro Council on implementation of the Regional Waste Plan.
- Washington County’s Garbage and Recycling Advisory Committee assists the Board of Commissions in ensuring safe, equitable, economical and efficient collection, storage, transportation and disposal of garbage and recycling. The committee consists mainly of representatives of the public.

People of color represent 50% of membership on the two committees, combined, and women, about 55%. These ratios are higher than the Metro region population overall, where people of color represent 27% of adults (ages 18+) and women, 51%.

Increasing the share of people of color and women on solid waste advisory boards means greater representation of historically marginalized voices in decision-making on the regional garbage and recycling system.



Source: Metro, Washington County, American Community Survey (2020)

### Temporary workers in Metro’s solid waste workforce

**Goal 3:** Ensure that all jobs in the garbage and recycling industry pay living wages and include good benefits.

In 2021, about 1 in 5 solid waste workers at Metro (or Metro’s contractor) were temporary or variable hour employees (meaning, they don’t have a set schedule and are eligible for fewer benefits than regular workers, who are hired for a budgeted position). Temporary workers were more likely to identify as people of color (40%) and female (48%) than Metro employees overall (33% identify as people of color and 36% as female).

Among temporary workers at Metro, 95% earned less per hour than a living wage estimate for a household that has two working adults and two children (\$26.90 in 2021\*).

The goal for this indicator is to limit the share of temporary workers in the solid waste workforce and to ensure temporary positions with good wages and benefits are available for people who want them, along with the opportunity to become regular employees.



Sources: Metro Waste Prevention and Environmental Services, Recology; Data as of June 2021

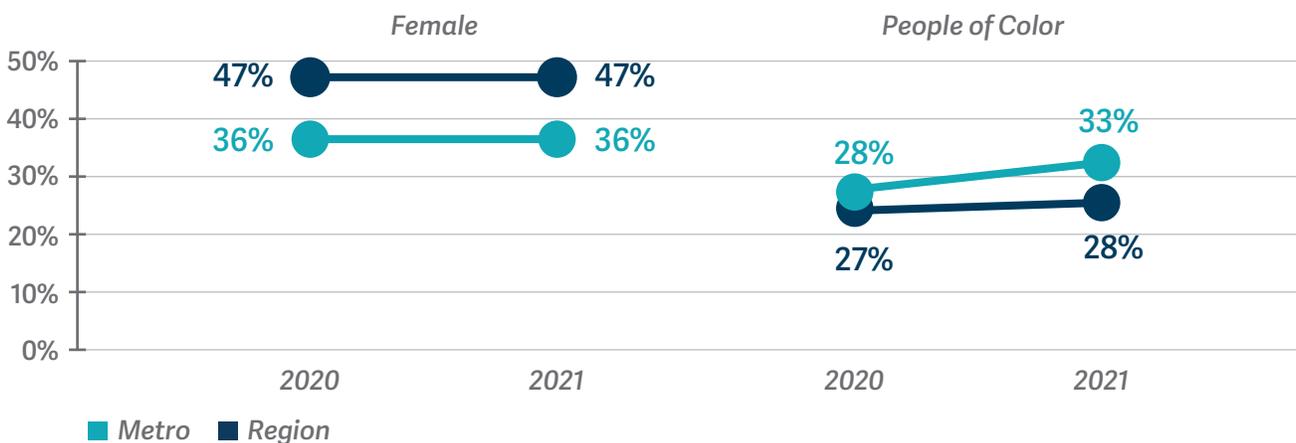
\* Glasmeier, Amy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2022). Living Wage Calculator, available at [livingwage.mit.edu](http://livingwage.mit.edu).

### Diversity in Metro’s solid waste workforce

**Goal 4:** Increase the diversity of the workforce in all occupations where people of color, women and other historically marginalized communities are underrepresented.

Compared to the regional workforce overall, people of color are slightly overrepresented in Metro’s solid waste workforce, while women are underrepresented.

People of color continue to be overrepresented in frontline positions (37%) compared to managerial and professional positions (24%). The share of people of color in managerial and professional positions did rise in 2021 compared to the previous year (from 19% to 24%).



Source: Metro Waste Prevention and Environmental Services, Recology, American Community Survey (2020)

## Priority materials collected by a product stewardship program

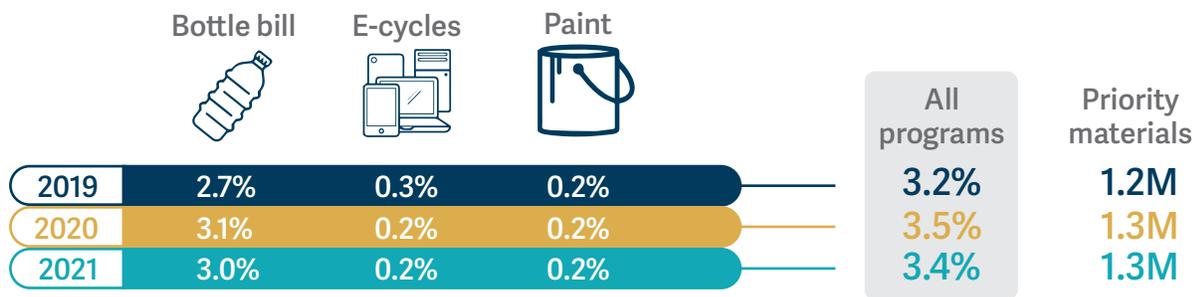
**Goal 5:** Reduce the environmental and human health impacts of products and packaging that are made, sold, used or disposed in Oregon.

Product stewardship programs seek to ensure that those who design, manufacture, sell and use products take responsibility for reducing the negative environmental and health impacts of those products and their packaging.

Under these programs, producers are assigned financial responsibility for managing products at the end of their useful life and provided incentives for reducing product impacts through better design and manufacturing processes.

For many years, Oregon has had product stewardship programs for three types of products. The Bottle Bill (1971) covers most beverage containers. The E-Cycles program (2009) covers televisions, computers and monitors. The paint program (2009) covers architectural paint. During 2019-2021, these programs accounted for around 3% of all waste generated in the Metro tri-county area (in terms of weight) that can be considered priority materials for product stewardship programs. That amount is equivalent to about 6,000 garbage trucks full of waste.

### Share of priority materials collected by a product stewardship program



Priority materials are those in the garbage and recycling streams that are being or could be managed under a product stewardship program. Excludes food scraps, yard debris, wood waste, medical waste and construction debris like rocks, dirt, concrete and bricks.

Sources: Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative, Manufacturers Recycling Management, National Center for Electronics Recycling, PaintCare, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Metro. Estimates of priority materials generated in the Metro watershed for 2021 produced by Metro.

One important limitation of this indicator is that it is based on the weight of materials, which does not capture the environmental impact of the materials covered. Safely managing hazardous products like paint, electronic devices and medicines through product stewardship programs can help protect the environment and human health and lead to more and safer recycling.

Since 2019, the Oregon legislature has passed laws creating three additional product stewardship programs. The Recycling Modernization Act will create a program where producers of packaging, paper products and food serviceware will cover the cost of improving the state’s recycling infrastructure for those materials.

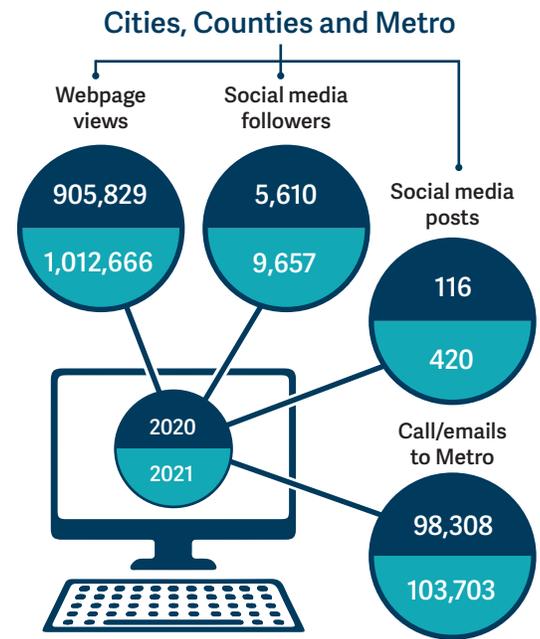
The other new product stewardship programs are for mattresses (2022) and prescription and over-the-counter medicines (2021). As these programs are implemented, data on materials processed through the programs will be added to this indicator.

### Garbage, recycling and reuse education

**Goal 9:** Increase knowledge among community members about garbage, recycling and reuse services.

Cities, counties and Metro share information with people and businesses about the garbage, recycling and reuse services available throughout the region. The education is provided in a variety of ways, including social media, websites, email, phone, outreach events and visits. For this indicator, use of these education resources is measured in terms of regional web traffic, social media interaction and hotline use.

Metro and local governments are working to provide culturally responsive and relevant education and outreach. One example is the regionally developed Recycle or Not community resource (Reciclar o No in Spanish), which provides accessible and culturally relevant information on what can go in the recycling bin, and engages participants to share ideas for reduce and reuse. In 2021, the resource had a total of 24,094 webpage views and 7,894 Instagram followers.



2020 combines data from Metro and Recycle or Not; 2021 combines data from Metro, Recycle or Not, Washington County (2021 only). Data from other counties and cities will be added over time.

### Dumped garbage in most impacted communities

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

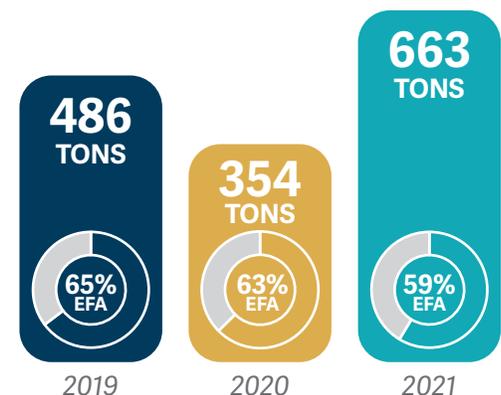
Metro’s Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) program cleans up dumped garbage reported on public property. Data on the dumped garbage collected by RID crews are indicative of the scale of dumped garbage in the Metro region overall and on communities disproportionately impacted by it.

This indicator tracks the total tons of dumped garbage within RID crew service areas. It also monitors the percentage of sites cleaned up by RID that occur in equity focus areas (EFA), as one measure of impacted communities. EFAs represent communities with a higher than average density of people of color, people with limited English proficiency or people with incomes equal to or less than 200% of the federal poverty level.

In 2021, the tons of dumped garbage documented through the RID program increased compared to pre-pandemic levels (2019), with a decrease in 2020 when the pandemic reduced available cleanup resources. Over the past three years, the majority of sites that RID crews cleaned up were located in EFAs.

Cleaning up dumped garbage is a priority of Metro and local jurisdictions, with resources dedicated to expanding cleanup efforts in 2021 and 2022. Over the long term, however, the goal of this indicator is to see a decrease in the amount of dumped garbage collected in the region as a reflection of adequate garbage, recycling and reuse services.

Annual tons disposed by RID crews and % of sites occurring in EFAs



Source: Metro

### Solid waste facility rates

**Goal 14:** Adopt rates for all services that are reasonable, responsive to user economic needs, regionally consistent and well understood.

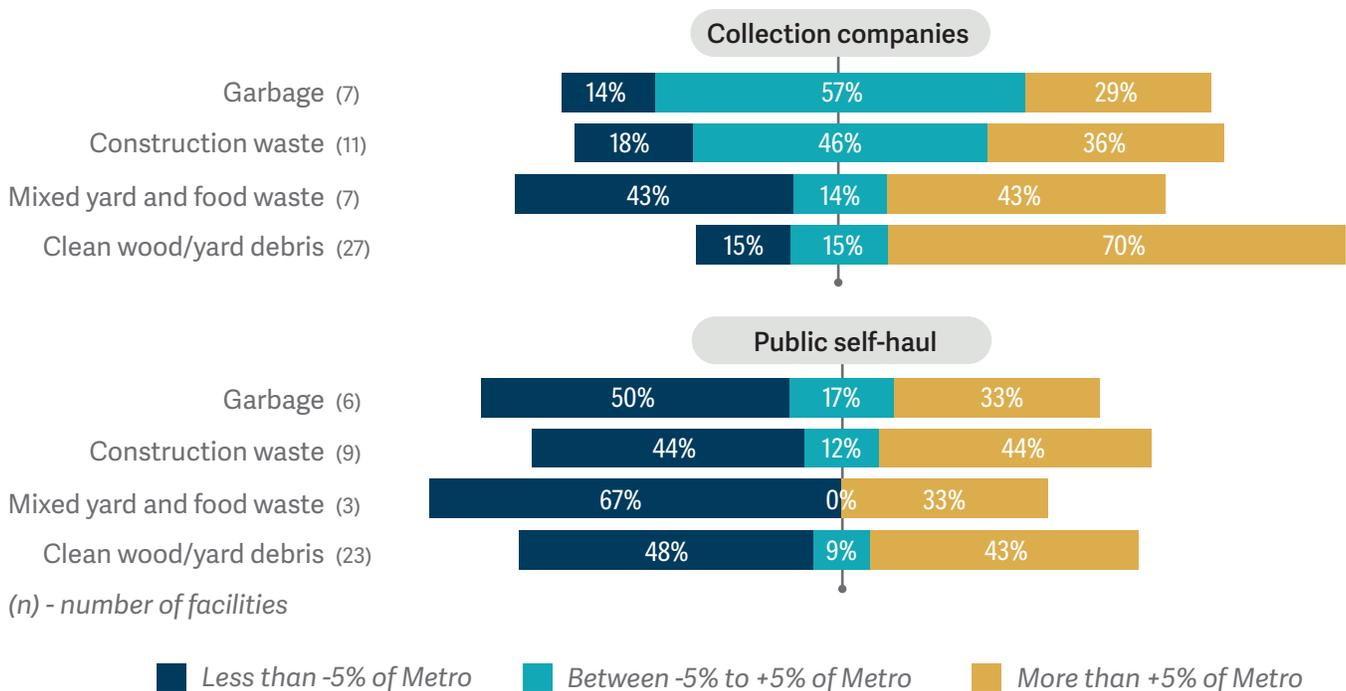
This indicator tracks the rates charged to collection companies and public customers who self-haul garbage and other waste to a solid waste facility. It compares rates charged at private facilities that receive waste from the Metro region, including transfer stations, material recovery facilities and compost facilities, to the region’s two publicly owned facilities (Metro Central and Metro South). It identifies the share of facilities with rates that are within 5% of Metro’s transfer station fees for four major material types.

This indicator is based on data reported by private solid waste facilities to Metro. Rates of private facilities are measured using the transactions reported by each facility over the course of the year. The charges for each facility are compared to what a Metro transfer station would charge for the same transaction. For facilities that do not report charges to Metro, their posted rate for each material type was compared to Metro’s.

As of 2021, rates charged by facilities are not consistent across the region. For garbage and construction waste loads received from collection companies, around half of private facilities charge rates within 5% of Metro’s. Fewer than 20% of facilities taking organics (food and yard waste), clean wood and yard debris fall within that range. Looking across material streams, a third or more of facilities charge more than 5% higher than Metro’s transfer station fees. Considering self-haul customers, only a small portion of facilities accepting these loads have rates that are within 5% of Metro’s.

The following shows the percentage breakdown of private facilities based on how much they charged to collection companies and public self-haul customers compared to Metro from July 2021 to June 2022.

#### Private facilities compared to Metro facilities based on charges to collection companies and public



Source: Metro

### Recycling materials sent to Oregon and other domestic markets

**Goal 15:** Improve the systems for recovering recyclables, food scraps and yard debris to make them resilient to changing markets and evolving community needs.

In 2021, an estimated 76% of all recyclable materials collected from homes and businesses in the Metro region was sold to markets in the U.S. This is 8 percentage points higher than in the 2019 baseline year.

There are wide variations in destination markets depending on the materials. All glass and most metal and cardboard went to domestic markets in 2021. In contrast, most plastic and paper are exported. Compared to 2019, the share of plastic exports increased in 2021 (from 58% to 64%). Almost half of those plastic exports went to Canada, while the rest was shipped abroad, mostly to Asian countries. Paper exports remained the same as in 2019; almost all paper exports in 2021 went to Asian countries.

	 <b>Cardboard</b>			 <b>Paper</b>			 <b>Plastic</b>		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
All U.S. Markets	82%	81%	87%	42%	52%	42%	41%	37%	36%
Oregon	30%	25%	31%	9%	5%	2%	4%	3%	3%
Exports	18%	19%	13%	58%	48%	58%	59%	63%	64%

	 <b>Metal</b>			 <b>Glass</b>			 <b>All materials</b>		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
All U.S. Markets	96%	98%	99%	97%	100%	100%	68%	73%	76%
Oregon	91%	87%	66%	76%	72%	72%	32%	28%	29%
Exports	4%	2%	1%	3%	0%	0%	32%	27%	24%

Source: Metro

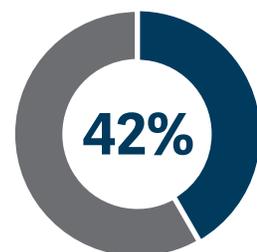
### Disaster resilience planning

**Goal 17:** Effectively coordinate public and private partners in planning for the impact of disasters on the solid waste system.

15 complete plans out of 36

This indicator counts the number of local governments in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties that have adopted a disaster debris management plan.

The 15 cities and counties that have disaster debris management plans accounted for 73% of the population in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties.



Source: Metro, Washington County

# APPENDIX

# Plan indicators

*The plan includes a robust measurement framework to evaluate progress toward its vision and goals. This will allow Metro and local governments to demonstrate the positive impacts the plan's activities are having on the region, highlight opportunities for improvement and evaluate which programs and projects are helping the region achieve its desired outcomes.*

## Key indicators

Key indicators communicate the overall trajectory of progress to a broad audience. They draw from the plan's values and demonstrate overall performance. A number of the key indicators are new measures that would require investment to implement.

VALUE	KEY INDICATOR	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS
	Greenhouse gas emissions associated with the products and services consumed in the Metro region (Environment and Health value)	Metro	In progress
	Annual tons of waste generated (Resource Conservation value)	Metro	In progress
	Number, geographic location and demographics of youth reached through education programs (Environmental Literacy value)	Metro	In progress
	Share of multifamily communities with adequate collection services (Service Excellence and Equity value)	Metro Cities Counties	Investment needed
	Recycling contamination by sector (Operational Resilience value)	Metro	Investment needed
	Median wage in the waste management industry by race, ethnicity and gender (Economic Well-Being value)	Metro Cities Counties	Investment needed

## Goal indicators

Indicators at the goal level are designed to measure the progress of specific programs, policies or investments that are linked to attaining the 2030 Regional Waste Plan's goals. A number of the goal indicators will also inform the key indicators.

GOAL	INDICATOR	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS
Goal 1: Increase engagement of youth and adults historically marginalized from garbage and recycling decision-making by enhancing civic engagement and leadership opportunities.	Number and demographics of youth and adults participating in solid waste internship or leadership programs	Metro	Investment needed
	Demographics of committee members serving on Metro and local government solid waste advisory boards	Metro Cities Counties	Investment needed
Goal 2: Increase the percentage of garbage and recycling system revenue that benefits local communities and companies owned by people of color and other historically marginalized groups.	Share of solid waste spending that goes to locally owned, minority-owned and woman-owned businesses and to community organizations.	Metro Cities Counties	Investment needed
Goal 3: Ensure that all jobs in the garbage and recycling industry pay living wages and include good benefits.	Median wage in waste management industry by race/ethnicity, gender and occupation type	Metro Cities Counties	Investment needed
	Share of solid waste workforce that is temporary workers	Metro Cities Counties	Investment needed
Goal 4: Increase the diversity of the workforce in all occupations where people of color, women and other historically marginalized communities are underrepresented.	Share of solid waste work force that is people of color and women	Metro	Investment needed
Goal 5: Reduce the environmental and human health impacts of products and packaging that are made, sold, used or disposed in Oregon.	The number of children's products with chemicals of concern that are sold in the region	Oregon Heath Authority	Investment needed
	Share of priority products covered in Oregon by a product stewardship framework	Metro	Investment needed

GOAL	INDICATOR	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS
Goal 6: Reduce product environmental impacts and waste through educational and behavioral practices related to prevention and better purchasing choices.	Number, geographic location and demographics of youth reached through school-based education programs (Key Indicator 3)	Metro	In progress
	Annual tons of waste generated (Key Indicator 2)	Metro Oregon DEQ	In progress
Goal 7: Reduce product environmental impacts and waste through policies that support prevention practices and better purchasing choices.	Environmental impacts associated with high-impact products and product categories purchased by Metro and local governments	Metro Cities Counties	Investment needed
Goal 8: Increase the reuse, repair and donation of materials and consumer products.	Growth in sales and/or employment in the reuse sector	Metro	Investment needed
Goal 9: Increase knowledge among community members about garbage, recycling and reuse services.	Metro and local government calls, web hits and community survey responses	Metro Cities Counties	Investment needed
Goal 10: Provide regionally consistent services for garbage, recyclables and other priority materials that meet the needs of all users.	Tons of illegally dumped waste overall and in the most impacted communities	Metro Cities Counties	In progress
	The environmental impacts associated with the recovery rate for the Metro wasteshed	Metro Oregon DEQ	Investment needed
Goal 11: Address and resolve community concerns and service issues.	Share of Metro, local government and solid waste service providers that have gone through cultural competency training	Metro Cities Counties	Investment needed
Goal 12: Manage all garbage and recycling operations to reduce their nuisance, safety and environmental impacts on workers and the public.	Tons of key pollutants, including particulates and CO2 emissions, from on-road and off-road solid waste fleet vehicles	Metro Cities Counties	In progress
	Number of worker injuries that occur at solid waste facilities	Metro	In progress
Goal 13: Invest in communities that receive garbage and recyclables from the Metro region so that those communities regard solid waste facilities as assets.	Share of community enhancement grant dollars awarded to projects that benefit marginalized communities	Metro	Investment needed

GOAL	INDICATOR	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS
Goal 14: Adopt rates for all services that are reasonable, responsive to user economic needs, regionally consistent and well understood.	Share of solid waste facilities with rates that fall within 5% of the tip fee charged at publicly owned facilities for each material type (garbage, mixed dry waste, etc.)	Metro	In progress
	Share of jurisdictions that offer a low-income rate assistance program for residential collection services	Metro Cities Counties	In progress
Goal 15: Improve the systems for recovering recyclables, food scraps and yard debris to make them resilient to changing markets and evolving community needs.	Share of the region's recoverable materials, by material type, that is sent to markets in Oregon and the U.S.	Metro	Investment needed
	Contamination rates for in-bound and out-bound recyclables at source-separated Material Recovery Facilities located in the region	Metro	Investment needed
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.	Geographic proximity: Of cities/ county urbanized areas to facilities that accept garbage, recyclables, food scraps and other curbside materials; Of the population, by geographic area, to services for household hazardous waste and other prioritized, non-curbside materials	Metro Cities Counties	In progress
Goal 17: Effectively coordinate public and private partners in planning for the impact of disasters on the solid waste system.	Establishment of Metro, County and City plans that delineate jurisdictional roles in managing disaster debris	Metro	Investment needed
Goal 18: Ensure routine garbage and recycling collection, processing, transport and disposal operations can be restored quickly following a system disruption.	Capacity and geographic distribution of solid waste facilities that meet seismic standards	Metro	Investment needed
Goal 19: Plan disaster debris response operations to expedite the clearance and removal of debris, making the best use of locally-based services and materials and maximizing recovery.	Capacity and geographic distribution of pre-authorized debris management sites	Metro	Investment needed

# REGIONAL WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Worksheet

**PRESENTATION DATE:** 1/19/23

**LENGTH:** 20 min

**PRESENTATION TITLE:** Large Household Item Reuse Market Study Update

**DECISION TYPE:** Informational

**RELATED REGIONAL WASTE PLAN GOALS:** Goal 8, Goal 10, Goal 16

**PRESENTER(S):** Carl Grimm

### PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

- Provide an update on the Large Household Item Reuse Market Study including key findings and draft recommendations. Provide an opportunity for questions and discussion.

### ACTION REQUESTED

- This item is informational

### BACKGROUND

- Reuse and repair of large household items can deliver a wide range of benefits to our environment, communities and economy. This is documented in part in the 2030 Regional Waste Plan which guides us in Goal 8 to increase the reuse, repair and donation of materials and consumer products. Actions identified in the plan to achieve this include establishing partnerships with reuse and repair organizations and investing in neighborhood-scale reuse and repair services and infrastructure.
- The Large Household Item Reuse Market Study, led by Start Consulting Group, conducted in-depth interviews with eight leading nonprofit reuse and repair organizations. The goals of the project were to identify opportunities for expanding reuse markets for large household items and for strengthening relationships between Metro and reuse organizations and businesses.
- The findings and recommendations from this study will provide information for the Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan and the work of the local government-Metro led Bulky Waste Policy Project that is identifying opportunities for collection system improvements. What is unique about this reuse study is its primary focus on reuse market development for large household items to help achieve Regional Waste Plan Goal 8 for increasing reuse, repair and donation in our region.

### STUDY FINDINGS

- Usable discarded large household items are particularly difficult to return to the economic stream for reuse. Community organizations and businesses in our region have a long history of delivering reuse and repair services supported in part by grants and fundraising. The key gaps Study participants identified in their ability to deliver and expand reuse services, particularly for large household items, are: 1) facilities for processing, storage and retail, 2) collection, delivery and repair services, 3) funding to increase equitable access to reuse and

repair services and reusable items and 4) public awareness. These and other issues and opportunities are identified and described in the Study along with an assessment of 2021 sales, tonnage, employment and waste disposal in the nonprofit reuse sector of our region.

- Participants in the Study reported selling or distributing an estimated 14,000 tons of large household items for reuse in 2021. Several participants also reported high demand for more of these items from their customers and clients indicating an opportunity for market expansion. Collectively, these organizations employed 1,600 people in reuse and repair, managed 97,000 hours of volunteer work, and generated an estimated \$19M in large household item sales in 2021.

### **Draft recommendations**

These draft recommendations to Metro and local governments highlight the need for public investment and support to close gaps and scale up services and facilities for collection, processing, selling and donating large household items in our region.

1. Prioritize reuse and repair opportunities in culturally relevant public communications and marketing.
2. Provide leadership and coordination and continue to meaningfully engage and partner with reuse organizations, community members, local governments, regulated and third-party haulers to inform program and policy development.
3. Continue to support the expansion of reuse and repair market capacity through Investment and Innovation grants and expand investment through disposal fee waivers and identification and implementation of best options for funding collection for reuse, operations and workforce development.
4. Support and invest in the provision of facilities for storage, processing, retail and distribution spaces for reuse and repair. Explore options for establishment of distributed hubs or centers for reuse and repair organizations and businesses to share resources and deliver services.
5. Advance policy and research including the following.
  - Establish a standard for reusability and repairability for initial use by the Bulky Waste Policy Project's collection model pilot to assess generation of reusable and repairable items.
  - Explore legislative opportunities to establish producer responsibility for furniture and other large household items and support right to repair legislation.
  - Explore and implement best options to ensure collection of large household items for reuse achieves the highest possible standards for service equity, affordability, convenience, safety, climate pollution reduction and environmental health while opening opportunities for local BIPOC- and women-owned businesses.

### **QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- No specific questions for consideration

### **NEXT STEPS**

- When the Study is completed, it will be shared with this Committee.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- None