



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Agenda

Meeting: Regional Waste Advisory Committee
 Date: Thursday, January 18, 2024
 Time: 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
 Place: Zoom virtual meeting
 Purpose: *The purpose of the Regional Waste Advisory Committee is to provide input on certain policies, programs, and projects that implement actions in the 2030 Regional Waste Plan, as well as to provide input on certain legislative and administrative actions that the Metro Council or Chief Operating Officer will consider related to the implementation of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan.*

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|------------|--|-------------------------|
| 8:30 a.m. | Welcome and Introductions | Marta McGuire
Metro |
| 8:40 a.m. | Meeting Agreement Follow-up
<i><u>Purpose:</u> Consult</i>
<i>Approve proposed updates for meeting agreements.</i> | Marta McGuire
Metro |
| 9:10 a.m. | Investment and Innovation grant program assessment and update
<i><u>Purpose:</u> Informational</i>
<i>Preview of a staff recommendation to Metro Council at work session on January 23, 2024, to do an assessment and update of the I&I grant program funding to clarify funding priorities for strategic investment in the private sector.</i> | Suzanne Piluso
Metro |
| 10:00 a.m. | Consideration of meeting minutes | |
| 10:20 a.m. | Public Comment | |
| 10:30 a.m. | Adjourn | |

Upcoming RWAC Meeting: Thursday, February 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

For agenda and schedule information:

Carly Tabert: carly.tabert@oregonmetro.gov

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

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Regional Waste Advisory Committee Schedule of Topics

Schedule of Topics | January to March 2024

Date	Topic	Regional Waste Plan	Decision Type
January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Committee Working Agreements• Investment and Innovation Grants	Goals 2, 8, 15	Consult
February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget Priorities• Regional System Fee Program Overview• Food Scraps Requirement Implementation• Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan	Goals 1-19 Goals 7, 12, 15 Goal 16	Consult Consult Informational
March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposed Budget• Community Enhancement Grant Program	Goals 1-19 Goal 2	Consult Consult

The schedule is subject to change.

Regional Waste Advisory Committee

Attachment A: WORKING AGREEMENT

The Metro Regional Waste Advisory Committee will:

1. Provide input on certain legislative and administrative actions that the Metro Council or Chief Operating Officer will consider related to the implementation of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan
2. Provide input on certain policies, programs, and projects that implement actions in the 2030 Regional Waste Plan
3. Review and provide input on the status of implementation of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan.

Committee participation

1. Be on time for committee meetings and commit time to attend the full meeting.
2. Review materials before the meeting to be prepared to participate.
3. Participate and be present; resist the urge to use cell phones during the meeting except for meeting purposes.
4. Recognize when you are and are not talking; ensure everyone participates in group discussions.
5. Listen and ask questions to understand, not just to respond.
6. Commit to building an understanding of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan and the equity guiding principles.
7. Share your own perspective on the topic at hand.
8. We will value each person's perspective, experiences and skills.

9. Virtual meeting considerations:

- o Keep cameras on during the meeting so committee members and the audience know you are in attendance. Cameras can be turned off during presentations.

- o Use the meeting chat understanding that the audience cannot see that chat.

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Expectations for Metro staff

1. When providing context for committee discussions, do include:
 - a. A description of the garbage and recycling system structure (who, what, where, why);
 - b. The roles of all of the players (don't assume committee members know this context);
 - c. Break down complex concepts, avoid jargon and expand acronyms;
 - d. Support the committee's application of a racial equity lens as adopted by Metro

Regional Waste Advisory Committee

Council¹ during committee discussions and decision-making;

- e. How communities are impacted or benefit from the topic being discussed;
 - f. Historical context, particularly on the front end of these committee meetings rather than later in the process;
 - g. Where relevant, a map of the affected system/facilities with affected communities noted; and
 - h. Identify decision-makers responsible for changes being pursued and options for how the committee can influence decision-making.
2. When building agendas for committee meetings:
 - a. Build small group work into meeting agendas to facilitate dialog;
 - b. Be clear about what Metro seeks from the committee on each agenda item;
 - c. Include the purpose of each discussion item and whether a decision is requested;
 - d. Build adequate discussion time into agendas;
 - e. Create agendas that balance flexibility for discussion and active facilitation so that items at the end of meeting aren't cut short; and
 - f. Work with the committee to develop an annual committee meeting calendar with topics and upcoming Council decisions noted.
 3. Tie topics being discussed to the goals of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan and other Metro plans to advance racial equity.
 4. Prioritize actions and make sure committee understands priorities.
 - ~~5.~~ Provide materials one week in advance of committee meetings.
 - ~~6.5.~~ Provide reminders for upcoming meetings to committee members.
 - ~~6.~~ Provide a minimum of two weeks' notice for meeting date or time changes.
 7. Provide a yearly opportunity for all committee members to reflect and share their experience serving on the committee with Metro staff.

Decision-making

1. This committee may use one of the following decision-making processes and will depend on the decision on the table. Options include:
 - a. Consensus – The committee will strive for consensus on a topic.

¹ To address the barriers experienced by people of color, the Metro Council adopted the Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in June 2016. This plan concentrates on eliminating the disparities that people of color experience, especially in areas related to Metro's policies, programs, services and destinations. This strategic direction allows Metro the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged communities while also improving the region's quality of life. See Attachment B for details on this policy.

Regional Waste Advisory Committee

- b. Vote – The committee will call for a vote of all members for or against a topic.
 - c. Consultative – Metro will consult the committee for input (consensus or vote) and Metro makes a decision using that input.
 - d. Delegated – Metro delegates a certain decision to the committee.
2. *Use the red-yellow-green color cards whereby all committee members have an opportunity to express themselves during discussions. Use this method to check for agreement among committee members, then facilitate discussion as needed to reach consensus or before voting.*
- a. *Green – I agree with the statement/proposal/decision*
 - b. *Red – I do not agree with the statement/proposal/decision*
 - c. *Yellow – I need more information or have more questions*
3. Sub-committees can be utilized as an option for complex or highly technical content. Committee may
- a. Decide to form a sub-committee to liaise with Metro staff and experts.
 - b. Information will be brought back to the main committee for consideration.
4. Committee decisions will be transparent by doing the following:
- a. Metro will notate expectations of the committee on the monthly agendas with:
 - i. Inform/informational
 - ii. Input requested
 - iii. Vote/consensus
 - b. Metro will preserve any committee vote in the meeting minutes which exists as a permanent record once committee has approved meeting minutes. Approved minutes will also be accessible on the Metro website.
 - i. Any dissenting opinions or opposition votes should be recorded in the minutes. Committee members should still speak up regardless of status in the majority or minority opinion.
 - c. Committee may opt to create a report or written memo of its opinions. This may also include an option of a minority report for any opinions or votes in the minority.

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Regional Waste Advisory Committee

Attachment B: Metro adopted policy guidance on advancing racial equity

From the 2030 Regional Waste Plan, page 30: Metro policy guidance on advancing equity

To address the barriers experienced by people of color, the Metro Council adopted the Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in June 2016. This plan sets five goals for advancing regional equity:

- A. Convene and support regional partners to advance racial equity
- B. Meaningfully engage communities of color
- C. Hire, train and promote a racially diverse workforce
- D. Create safe and welcoming services, programs and destinations
- E. Prioritize resource allocation that advances racial equity

To accomplish these goals, this plan concentrates on eliminating the disparities that people of color experience, especially in areas related to Metro's policies, programs, services and destinations. This strategic direction allows Metro the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged communities while also improving the region's quality of life.

From 2030 Regional Waste Plan, page 45: Equity guiding principles

This plan provides Metro and local governments a powerful opportunity to advance racial equity, diversity and inclusion. The following principles were developed by the Equity Work Group in collaboration with Metro staff. Their purpose is to help address historical and disproportionate impacts of the waste system on marginalized communities and to define how the plan may advance racial equity.

Community restoration: Take action to repair past harms and disproportionate impacts caused by the regional solid waste system. In practice, this means:

- Acknowledging historical impacts passed from generation to generation within communities.
- Actively including communities that have been historically marginalized from decision-making processes.
- Equitably distributing costs and benefits, taking into account historical and system impacts.
- Valuing indigenous and cultural knowledge about using resources sustainably.
- Committing to building a greater awareness of equity among providers of garbage and recycling services.

Community partnerships: Develop authentic partnerships and community trust to advance the plan's vision. In practice, this means:

- Prioritizing historically marginalized communities within the delivery of programs and services.
- Expanding voice and decision-making opportunities for communities of color.
- Supporting resilient community relationships by creating ongoing opportunities for leadership development.

Community investment: Emphasize resource allocation to communities of color and historically marginalized communities. In practice, this means:

- Making investment decisions in partnership with communities.
- Investing in impacted communities and youth through education and financial resources.
- Eliminating barriers to services and employment.

REGIONAL WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Worksheet

PRESENTATION DATE: January 18, 2024 **LENGTH:** 20 minutes

PRESENTATION TITLE: Investment and Innovation Grant Program Assessment and Update

DECISION TYPE: Inform

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

PRESENTER(S): Suzanne Piluso, she/her, Investment and Innovation program manager

PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

Staff will provide an overview of a proposed project to assess and update Metro's Investment and Innovation (I&I) grant program. The Metro Council will consider this topic at a work session on January 23, 2024. The I&I grant program is at a juncture where Metro needs to clarify funding priorities considering the growing demand for the funding and changes in the funding landscape since the program was created. At the Metro Council Meeting on Sept. 14, 2023, the Waste Prevention and Environmental Services (WPES) Director identified the I&I grant program as an area for further Council discussion.

ACTION REQUESTED

No action requested at this stage. RWAC will be engaged as key stakeholder in the program assessment and update project later this year.

BACKGROUND

The Metro Council established the I&I grant program in 2018 to invest in private and nonprofit sector efforts to reduce the harmful impacts of waste generated in greater Portland, in ways that advance racial equity. Over five funding cycles, the I&I grant program has awarded 84 grants totaling \$12.7 million. The grants have ranged in size from \$10,000 program grants to over \$700,000 capital grants. The program is advancing 2030 Regional Waste Plan goals by reducing waste and providing benefits to underserved groups through expanded services, new programming and jobs, and community-building.

The I&I program initially launched as a three-year pilot. After conclusion of the pilot and an evaluation of program outcomes, staff engaged stakeholders (including RWAC, the Committee on Racial Equity, and local governments) and sought Council direction in April 2021 on whether to continue the program and on performance metrics to measure the program's equity impacts. The pilot evaluation noted the I&I grants are advancing the following Regional Waste Plan actions:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Council directed the program to continue beyond the pilot, and asked staff to make enhancements to the program's racial equity strategy and to identify Priority Focus Areas each funding cycle. Starting with the next grant cycle, staff implemented a minimum equity threshold to ensure that all applicants demonstrated a commitment to equity to be eligible for a grant. Staff also identified three Priority Focus Areas: recycling infrastructure improvements, reuse and repair, and food waste prevention and rescue.

After the program transitioned out of the pilot phase, the program began publishing annual reports to provide an overview of the individual grants and the cumulative impacts of completed projects. The 2023 Investment and Innovation report was recently published and is attached.

Proposed assessment and update

At the January 23 Metro Council work session staff will recommend a project to assess the grant program and clarify its funding priorities. An equity-focused program assessment and strategic planning process will update the program with more tailored outcomes and funding priorities. It will increase transparency and improve the applicant and grant reviewer experience.

Two primary factors are driving the need for the project: The increased demand on the funds, and changes to the funding landscape. Since 2018, the demand for the funding has increased significantly. In the 2023 grant cycle Metro received over \$13 million in funding requests for \$2 million available, with proposals outlining a wide variety of strategies to address a range of types of waste. Almost all applicants met current eligibility criteria and proposed projects fell within Priority Focus Areas. In the last two funding cycles grant reviewers struggled to prioritize among such a large volume and diversity of funding requests using the current evaluation criteria. Both applicants and reviewers have asked Metro for clarification on the program's funding priorities.

Additionally, the landscape in which the grant program exists has changed significantly, with new legislation, funding streams, research, and policy work that is clarifying the highest priority needs and opportunities for investing in the private side of the region's garbage and recycling system. For example, the Recycling Modernization Act will provide recycling facilities substantial funding that can be used for infrastructure upgrades and equipment to improve the material sorting, and Metro will need to evaluate if grants should be paying for those upgrades when new funding streams are about to come online. At the same time, the System Facilities Plan is highlighting where the needs and opportunities are for investing in the private sector that may inform future funding priorities.

The proposed project will utilize Metro's Racial Equity Framework, a tool that helps Metro rethink how programs are designed and for whom, assess how decisions are made with an equity lens, and center marginalized communities. Key stakeholders that will be engaged in the project include

local governments and potential applicants such as industry, community organizations, and local colleges and universities.

The project will:

- Identify and evaluate the highest priority needs and opportunities for investment in the private sector to advance Council strategic targets and Regional Waste Plan goals. In addition to stakeholder engagement to hear directly from those we seek to serve, we will incorporate recent findings from the Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan project, Oregon Recycling Modernization Act, Next Cycle Feasibility Study, Metro’s large item reuse study and bulky waste pilot, and other policy work. The outcomes of these initiatives will be used to tailor Investment and Innovation funding priorities so that we are filling gaps and avoiding duplication with emerging funding opportunities in the region.
- Use the assessment and stakeholder engagement to clarify more specific desired program outcomes and accompanying performance measures.
- Conduct stakeholder engagement specifically focused on the applicant experience. After five grant cycles, it is time to hear from our applicants what barriers may exist to accessing the funding and how we can improve transparency in the applicant experience.
- Develop a framework for efficiently updating future funding priorities to continue to be adaptable to changing conditions and emerging opportunities without interruption to funding cycles.
- Update the Investment and Innovation program guidelines, solicitation methods, application materials, and grant review criteria to meet desired outcomes and address barriers for applicants and grant reviewers.

During this project, no new grants would be awarded to allow time for the community engagement approach recommended by the Racial Equity Framework. This is an opportunity for the program to catch up on management of the nearly 40 open grants while completing the strategic planning process and comprehensive updates to the Investment and Innovation program. The next grant cycle would launch Spring 2025.

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Do you have any questions about the Investment and Innovation program or proposed strategic planning project at this stage?

NEXT STEPS

If we receive Council direction to proceed with the program assessment and update, the project will begin immediately. We will schedule further engagement with RWAC and other stakeholders on the assessment and potential updates to program priorities.

ATTACHMENT

- 2023 Investment and Innovation Annual Report



Recology Oregon Compost

Investment and Innovation grants

Grant funding prevents waste, strengthens local reuse and repair economy, and spurs innovation in the recycling system.

The Investment and Innovation grant program was established in 2018 with the aim of reducing environmental and health impacts from waste in greater Portland. Grants fund efforts from for-profit businesses, nonprofit organizations, and universities and colleges to reduce trash. The program supports upstream projects that prevent waste and new ways to make better use of our waste through reuse and repair, composting and recycling. These strategic investments advance progress toward achieving multiple goals of the [2030 Regional Waste Plan](#) and Metro's [Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#). The grants further Metro's efforts to develop a garbage and recycling system that benefits communities of color and other marginalized groups.

This 2023 annual report illustrates how the program objectives are being met, using cumulative performance metrics that incorporate all completed grants. It also highlights the achievements of several grants completed this reporting year to illustrate the diverse range of funded projects.

Investment and Innovation grant-funded projects are producing significant long-term benefits for residents of the Metro region. Funded projects have reduced waste in the region and will continue to benefit residents long after the funding ends. We estimate grant efforts will remove a total of 148,765 tons of waste through

completed grant projects, which also includes increased capacity to prevent more waste in the future. Reduced waste is associated with reduced greenhouse gasses and toxic particulates – which disproportionately impact communities of color. Grant-funded projects provide tangible benefits for underserved communities, including expanded services and new employment opportunities.

Program objectives

- Grants result in **health and environmental benefits** associated with waste reduction.
- Grants **advance equity** by creating benefits for communities of color and other marginalized groups.
- Grants **build system resilience** for the region's reuse, repair and material recovery infrastructure.
- Grants **spur innovation** in reuse, repair, and material recovery by adopting new technologies and strategies to reduce waste.

Program outcomes

The program has awarded 84 grants since 2018, through five funding cycles, totaling \$12.7 million. Grant recipients have so far contributed an additional \$12.8 million of their resources to these projects. This report includes data from **43 completed grant projects as of October 2023**. Grants still in progress will be included in future annual reports after projects are completed. An addendum to this report summarizes all grants awarded since the program began, and their completion status.

The quantifiable impacts from completed grants tie to key program outcomes:

- Grant projects result in environmental and health benefits.
- Grants strengthen, improve, and increase the capacity of the regional reuse, repair and material recovery infrastructure.
- Grants create benefits for people who are Black, Indigenous or people of color (BIPOC) and other marginalized groups.

Types of grant projects

-  57 reuse and repair
-  15 recycling
-  6 composting
-  6 workforce and other

Equity benefits

22% of disbursed funding

spent on BIPOC*-owned businesses and communities

33 full time jobs

created for BIPOC individuals

\$1,075,321



Awarded directly to BIPOC-led groups

\$538,188



Spent on hiring COBID**-certified firms

\$554,902



Spent on services and partnerships for BIPOC communities

\$108,967

spent on developing career pathways for BIPOC employees

14 grants

incorporated services and partnerships for BIPOC communities

*Black, Indigenous, and People of Color

**State of Oregon Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity

Environmental benefits

22,130 metric tons

of CO2 equivalents of greenhouse gas emissions have been avoided, equivalent to removing



4,753

passenger vehicles from the roads each year



148,765 tons

of Metro area waste will be prevented or reduced

10% during the grant

90% future benefits

A note about the estimated reduction of 148,765 tons of waste: 10% was reduced during grant implementation, and the remaining 90% will be reduced due to Investment and Innovation investments that create future system capacity. For example, increased floor space and upgraded infrastructure and equipment will allow for handling additional material at recycling and composting facilities in the near future. In other words, the results reported are a snapshot in time; **full utilization of the grant-funded infrastructure and programs will benefit the region for years to come.**

Grant project highlights

Grant recipients engage in unique waste reduction strategies for different materials and products. The Investment and Innovation program has funded a variety of projects – from new sorting systems at recycling facilities, to expanding systems to divert nutritious food that would otherwise be disposed. The grants demonstrate the breadth of ways businesses and nonprofits strengthen greater Portland’s reuse, repair and material recovery system and generate benefits for underserved communities. A complete description of grants awarded to date and the status of each is included as Attachment 1.

Growing a culture of reuse through a circular cup borrowing service

Each year, the Portland area discards approximately 50 million disposable coffee cups. This waste comes with harmful impacts including: greenhouse gas emissions from transport and disposal, toxic chemicals in some disposable cups and lids, and financial strain on small businesses needing to constantly purchase single-use items. **OKAPI Reusables** is building momentum toward replacing throw-away cups with reusables.

With funding from the Investment and Innovation program, OKAPI expanded its circular cup borrowing service to more Portland cafes and restaurants, fostering culture change that will help reduce single-use disposable foodware.

Modeled off successful, scalable reuse networks in Australia and New Zealand, OKAPI’s program works like this: customers download an OKAPI app and can ask any participating cafe for their drinks in a reusable cup. When finished, customers return the reusable cup at any participating drop-off site. Participating cafes clean and sanitize used cups and put them back into circulation.

Metro grant funds helped purchase more than 2,000 reusable cups and lids. OKAPI opted to use stainless steel and glass or borosilicate cups over reusable cups made of plastic. The grant also supported a concentrated outreach effort that resulted in 14 new participating coffee shops and 880 new cafe customers who have subscribed to the app. This outreach has helped encourage behavior change to choose the reusable cup option. OKAPI estimates 9,722 single-use cups and slightly fewer lids were saved during the grant term, with the benefits continuing after the grant. The traction from this project helped expand the circular cup borrowing service beyond the Metro region as well, and OKAPI is now in over 60 cafes in five states.



Photo courtesy of OKAPI Reusables

OKAPI is a COVID-certified business and has worked to cultivate a diverse, inclusive cafe network and customer base. OKAPI is intentionally building stronger relationships with BIPOC community organizations to understand and develop strategies to address barriers to reuse.

Large-scale expansion of regional capacity to turn more yard debris and food waste into compost

Recology Oregon Compost processes residential food scraps from the Metro region at its composting facility in North Plains, Oregon. Prior to Recology’s grant, processing capacity was limited by the facility’s design. The grant helped fund a large infrastructure project to upgrade to modern composting systems of large, aerated mass beds and a larger cure pad. Aeration accelerates the creation of high-quality compost from yard debris and food scraps. Additional upgrades improved traffic flow and expanded stormwater and wastewater management equipment to accommodate increased material processing.

As a result of the project, the facility increased its capacity to take yard debris and food scraps from the Metro region by 24,000 tons a year. During the first



Recology Oregon Compost

three months of operating the new system, the amount of processed materials increased by 34 percent as compared to the same period the prior year. Upgrades from the grant improves service equity, as more capacity is needed for more cities to be able to collect food scraps for composting.

More efficient operations and state-of-the-art compost processing technology has positive impacts on the community, too, by minimizing traffic impacts and odors from processing.

Innovative clothing and bedding exchange prevents waste and supports underserved Portlanders

Hygiene For All believes people experiencing houselessness should have access to clean clothing, and doing so provides environmental, health and equity benefits. The program facilitates the reuse of clothing that would otherwise be discarded due to cost, time, and lack of access that makes it easier to throw dirty items away rather than reuse them. An Investment and Innovation grant funded staff and equipment to research, develop and launch a clothing and bedding exchange housed in the Hygiene Hub located under the Morrison Bridge in inner southeast Portland.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church volunteers retrieve dirty items, launder them offsite, and return clean items to the hub where paid houseless ambassadors promote reuse among peers. In addition, the program is collecting and reusing additional discarded clothing and bedding through a partnership with Trash for Peace's Ground Score program.

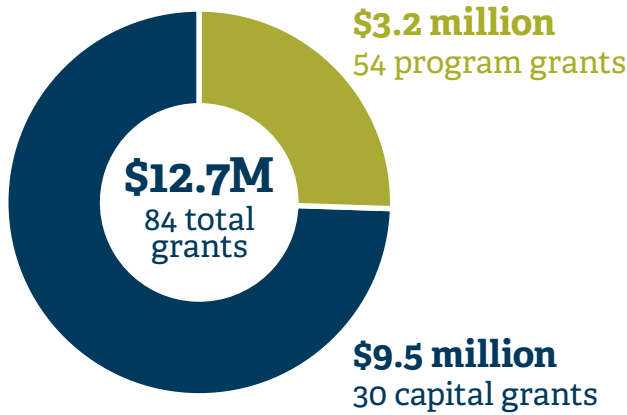
Despite numerous challenges faced by people experiencing houselessness and advocates during the pandemic years, the clothing and bedding exchange successfully launched and is currently serving about 100 patrons a week. Between March and August 2023, the program diverted approximately 2,000 pounds of clothing and bedding for reuse. Hygiene for All anticipates that the monthly amounts will increase as the program grows, especially during the rainy season.

The project included substantial research on the barriers to reuse of clothing among people experiencing houselessness. The team trained 10 unsheltered staff members and eight housed volunteers in participatory research design and qualitative questionnaire implementation using a trauma-informed approach. Hygiene for All is developing a report on the outcomes of this study to highlight laundry and waste needs, their impact, and solutions to improve access and outcomes for unsheltered folks, public health and sanitation in general. The project team is advising three other laundry exchange programs in the region to make these waste diversion and reuse efforts more successful.



Photo courtesy of Hygiene for All

Total grants awarded



- 30%** of grantees are BIPOC-led businesses and organizations or primarily serve communities of color
- \$12.8 million** grantee contributions to grant projects so far
- 372%** of available I&I funds requested
- 29%** of requests funded

Funding requests and grant awards

The table below summarizes approximate funding requests and grant awards by fiscal year. In a few cases grantees did not spend the full grant award, as detailed in Attachment 1.

Fiscal year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Total requests	\$14,090,500	\$15,396,400	\$1,069,400	\$6,605,500	\$13,079,337
Total available	\$3,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$500,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Program grant awards	\$224,600	\$572,600	\$487,300	\$1,053,300	\$919,668
Capital grant awards	\$2,176,400	\$5,322,500	\$0	\$946,700	\$1,063,253
Total grant awards	\$2,401,000	\$5,895,100	\$487,300	\$2,000,000	\$1,982,921

Project funding and implementation status

As of October 2023, approximately half of all grant projects have been completed. Grants awarded in 2023 are just getting started, with anticipated completion in 2025. The status of individual grants is detailed in Attachment 1.

Number of grant projects by implementation status



Grant funding disbursed as of October 2023



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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Photo courtesy of Lovett Deconstruction

What's next for the Investment and Innovation program?

In 2024, Metro will engage in a planning process to develop strategic funding priorities for the Investment and Innovation grant program. The grant application will not open in January, detailed information about the next grant cycle will be posted on the [program website](#) when available.

Contact information

Suzanne Piluso, program manager
suzanne.piluso@oregonmetro.gov

Laura van der Veer, program coordinator
laura.vanderveer@oregonmetro.gov

General questions
investmentandinnovation@oregonmetro.gov

INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION GRANTS | 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Attachment 1: Investment and Innovation grants awarded from 2018 to 2023

Grant recipient bold = multiple awards *= BIPOC-owned or primarily serve communities of color	Project title (year awarded) <i>Project description</i>	Grant amount	Additional funds leveraged	Project status (As of October 2023)
Allwood Recyclers	Compost facility improvements (2018) <i>New aerated compost system for improved yard debris processing</i>	\$272,149	\$355,399	Completed in Jan. 2021 100% of funds disbursed
Association of Oregon Recyclers	Transcreating the Recycling 101 online course (2023) <i>Develop a free course for Spanish speakers with comprehensive information about sustainable materials management</i>	\$25,000	\$0	Just started in Sept. 2023 50% of funds disbursed
Birch Community Services	Refrigerated truck to rescue and redistribute 6.5 million pounds of edible food annually (2022) <i>Increase capacity to rescue large donations from food manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, and farms</i>	\$102,221	\$0	In progress To be completed in July 2024 0% of funds disbursed
Birch Community Services	Preserving rescued food (2023) <i>Replace a failing 10-door freezer to keep rescued food safe so it can be distributed to more than 900 families each year</i>	\$103,489	\$0	Just started in Sept. 2023 0% of funds disbursed
Bold Reuse	Reusable food retail packaging pilot (2022) <i>Staff time and supplies to pilot a reusable packaging system for locally produced grocery items in partnership with New Seasons</i>	\$87,500	\$17,500	In progress To be completed in Jan. 2024 90% of funds disbursed
Bold Reuse	Upgrading reusable food packaging infrastructure in greater Portland (2023) <i>Upgraded washing and drying systems with AI for quality and inventory management to increase capacity for reuse services</i>	\$42,157	\$42,157	Just started in Sept. 2023 0% of funds disbursed
City of Roses Disposal & Recycling*	Material recovery facility relocation and expansion (2018) <i>Infrastructure and equipment upgrades to increase volume and type of dry waste recovery</i>	\$500,000	\$524,668	Completed in Feb. 2020 Total amount spent to complete the project was \$498,822.
City of Roses Disposal & Recycling*	Material recovery facility expansion: Phase 2 (2019) <i>Infrastructure and equipment upgrades to increase dry waste recovery and improve working conditions</i>	\$302,504	\$598,579	Completed in June 2023 100% of funds disbursed
City of Roses Disposal & Recycling*	Building capacity for new wood waste markets (2019) <i>New staff and supplies to create and expand commercial-scale markets for wood waste</i>	\$65,000	\$7,709	Partially completed in Aug. 2020 Project continued by Sankofa Lumber 19% of funds disbursed
City of Roses Disposal & Recycling*	Adding organic waste recovery to create animal feed (2023) <i>New equipment and building updates to add a new dry organics recovery process to divert an estimated 27,300 tons each year</i>	\$217,130	\$217,130	Just started in Sept. 2023 0% of funds disbursed

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City Repair	Useful waste initiative (2020) <i>Develop process and demonstration projects to divert usable construction waste from architectural prototypes</i>	\$24,420	\$2,000	Completed in June 2022 100% of funds disbursed
Clackamas Service Center	Enhance capacity to rescue and redistribute edible food for families in need (2022) <i>Staff time and equipment to increase food rescue and distribution with a focus on culturally relevant foods</i>	\$100,000	\$0	In progress To be completed in Jan. 2024 50% of funds disbursed
Community Cycling Center	Reusing and recycling salvaged bicycles and parts (2020) <i>Expand reuse and recycling of used bicycles and parts, and support for internship program</i>	\$49,288	\$25,500	Completed in March 2022 100% of funds disbursed
Community Development Corporation of Oregon*	East County food rescue shuttle (2020) <i>Expand capacity of BIPOC-owned businesses to produce and market culturally relevant food products from excess food</i>	\$47,250	\$1,000	Completed in Aug. 2022 100% of funds disbursed
Community Development Corporation of Oregon*	A network of portable coolers for BIPOC farmers (2022) <i>Equipment to ensure that food remains edible from harvest to sale or donation</i>	\$50,000	\$0	In progress To be completed in July 2024 57% of funds disbursed
Community Warehouse	Creating a reuse hub (2022) <i>Staff time and rent for a new warehouse location that will be shared by other local reuse organizations</i>	\$100,000	\$0	In progress To be completed in April 2024 90% of funds disbursed
Community Warehouse	Equitable furniture pickup services (2023) <i>Staff time and vehicle expenses for a new sliding-scale donation pick-up program to engage new participants and increase reuse</i>	\$85,590	\$0	Just started in Sept. 2023 50% of funds disbursed
Cracked Pots	Integrating equity in Cracked Pots' mission and operations (2020) <i>Equity training and staff for recovering materials at transfer station for resale</i>	\$37,442	\$0	Completed in July 2022 100% of funds disbursed
Cracked Pots	Repair and reuse technician (2022) <i>New staff to glean more furniture and bulky items from the transfer station with minor repair needs</i>	\$80,000	\$0	In progress To be completed in Jan. 2024 50% of funds disbursed
Denton Plastics	Continuous melt filter (2018) <i>New equipment to process new streams of plastic materials with higher degree of contamination</i>	\$193,097	\$191,699	Completed in Jan. 2020 Total amount spent to complete the project was \$191,699.
Denton Plastics	Single stream eco-line (2019) <i>New equipment to recycle additional new streams of plastic materials</i>	\$684,496	\$954,952	Completed in Aug. 2022 100% of funds disbursed
Denton Plastics	Plastic recycling facility expansion (2023) <i>New building to increase the amount of rigid polyethylene and polypropylene plastics that can be processed at the facility</i>	\$500,000	\$500,000	Just started in Sept. 2023 0% of funds disbursed

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Dirt Hugger	Generating more compost with fewer emissions (2022) <i>Infrastructure and equipment to expand processing capacity for food waste and yard debris and an equity consultant to develop DEI goals for the company</i>	\$500,000	\$500,000	In progress To be completed in July 2025 4% of funds disbursed
Earth Advantage	Overcoming barriers in deconstruction (2018) <i>Targeted capacity-building for BIPOC-owned and employed deconstruction firms</i>	\$50,000	\$10,026	Completed in Jan. 2020 Total amount spent to complete the project was \$49,961.
East Portland Tool Library	Establishing a new East Portland Tool Library (2022) <i>Building and equipment costs to set up a new tool library for residents in an underserved area</i>	\$47,071	\$0	In progress To be completed in Jan. 2024 90% of funds disbursed
Eco-School Network	Waste reduction in schools (2018) <i>Training for parent leaders to implement waste reduction projects in 20 schools</i>	\$25,580	\$69,980	Completed in Jan. 2020 Total amount spent to complete the project was \$25,576.
Educate Ya*	Educadores de reciclaje (recycling educators) (2023) <i>New staff and program supplies to develop a train-the-trainer program for waste reduction and recycling education within the Latine community in greater Portland</i>	\$75,000	\$0	Just started in Sept. 2023 50% of funds disbursed
Environmental Fibers International	Unders recovery (2019) <i>New equipment to enable recycling of residual materials that would otherwise be disposed</i>	\$310,000	\$310,000	Completed in Jan. 2022 100% of funds disbursed
Feed'em Freedom Foundation*	Food recovery program (2022) <i>Staff time to develop a local food recovery program linking BIPOC farmers with unsold produce to local health and social services organizations</i>	\$75,000	\$0	In progress To be completed in July 2024 50% of funds disbursed
Free Geek	Electronics recycling program support (2018) <i>Staff and equipment to collect and process more electronics for reuse or recycling</i>	\$50,000	\$581,500	Completed in Jan. 2020 100% of funds disbursed
Free Geek	Electronic waste collection and recycling (2020) <i>Up to 22 collection events to recover discarded electronics for reuse or recycling</i>	\$43,819	\$45,250	Completed in March 2022 Total amount spent to complete the project was \$43,577.
Free Geek	Recycling and reuse capacity expansion (2022) <i>Staff time and flexible storage space to accommodate bulk sales of specialty items that are otherwise difficult to recover for reuse</i>	\$96,808	\$0	In progress To be completed in Jan. 2024 90% of funds disbursed
Frog & Toad	Expanding Frog & Toad's reuse program (2023) <i>New staff to oversee reuse and repair operations as well as skill-share events to increase community access to repair skills</i>	\$59,000	\$11,800	Just started in Sept. 2023 50% of funds disbursed

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Green Lents	Community tool library waste reduction, repair, and reuse empowerment (2022) <i>Staff time to develop accessible reuse workshops and educational materials in multiple languages</i>	\$45,500	\$0	In progress To be completed in Jan. 2024 90% of funds disbursed
GreenWay Recycling	Advanced material recovery system (2019) <i>New equipment and infrastructure improvements for increased dry waste recovery</i>	\$712,500	\$3,386,384	Completed in June 2023 90% of funds disbursed (pending final contract requirement)
Grimm's Fuel Company	ASP modernization (2019) <i>Modernization of compost system to aerated static piles to increase yard debris recycling capacity and reduce odors</i>	\$710,000	\$2,957,469	Completed in June 2021 100% of funds disbursed
Habitat for Humanity Portland Metro East	Increasing the waste prevention capacity of Habitat's ReStores (2018) <i>Staff and equipment to expand donation pickup services of products for reuse</i>	\$49,046	\$48,128	Completed in Jan. 2020 Total amount spent to complete the project was \$48,669.
Hygiene For All*	Clothing and bedding exchange (2020) <i>Launch a pilot clothing and bedding exchange for people experiencing homelessness to keep the textiles from becoming waste</i>	\$50,000	\$68,477	Completed in June 2023 100% of funds disbursed
Interstate Trucking Academy*	Waste industry diversification enterprise (2018) <i>Outreach and staff to expand training program for careers as garbage and recycling truck drivers</i>	\$140,000	\$23,244	Program portion completed Jan. 2020 29% of funds disbursed Capital portion of grant (\$100,000) was terminated due to grantee decision not to purchase garbage training truck.
James' Neighborhood Recycling Service	Expanding neighborhood collection events (2020) <i>Expand collection program for non-curb-side plastics by holding additional community collection events in underserved neighborhoods</i>	\$64,417	\$55,062	Completed in July 2022 100% of funds disbursed
JD's Shoe Repair	Repairers Onward: advanced training in repair skills (2022) <i>Staff time to develop shoe repair curriculum and engage in advanced training for new repair skills</i>	\$22,000	\$4,400	In progress To be completed in Jan. 2024 90% of funds disbursed
Junk It Junk Removal*	Reclaiming lives through reuse (2023) <i>Comprehensive workforce development program to create new opportunities within the waste reduction and reuse industry</i>	\$60,000	\$12,000	Just started in Sept. 2023 50% of funds disbursed
Lift Urban Portland	Improving food system equity (2023) <i>Staff time, supplies and gleaning vehicle upgrades to expand the organization's food rescue efforts residents with low incomes</i>	\$75,000	\$0	Just started in Sept. 2023 50% of funds disbursed

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LoveOne	Increasing food recovery for rural Clackamas County (2023) <i>Staff time, supplies, and equipment upgrades to build capacity for a rural food pantry serving vulnerable food-insecure residents</i>	\$71,250	\$0	Just started in Sept. 2023 50% of funds disbursed
Lovett Deconstruction	Full house deconstruction training program (2019) <i>New equipment and training for additional deconstruction team, with focus on hiring and supporting a diverse workforce</i>	\$66,316	\$16,579	Completed in March 2021 100% of funds disbursed
Lovett Deconstruction	Lumber resale project (2022) <i>New equipment and warehouse updates to improve the quality and reusability of reclaimed lumber</i>	\$54,500	\$54,500	In progress To be completed in July 2024 0% of funds disbursed
MCK PDX*	Building capacity for Milk Crate Kitchen (2023) <i>Staff time to support a volunteer-run program that gleans from local food sources and provides meals to food-insecure families</i>	\$32,000	\$0	Just started in Sept. 2023 50% of funds disbursed
Resource Recycling Systems	NextCycle Oregon Feasibility Study (2023) <i>A study to determine the viability of developing a NextCycle program to support the circular economy in Oregon</i>	\$75,000	\$15,000	Just started in Sept. 2023 50% of funds disbursed
Northwest Deconstruction Services	Truck and racks for re-use (2018) <i>New equipment to improve efficiency of transporting salvaged materials from major deconstruction projects</i>	\$67,000	\$0	Grant terminated due to grantee non-performance. 0% of funds disbursed
OKAPI Reusables*	Reusable food ware service expansion (2022) <i>Staff time and supplies to expand a new circular cup borrowing service to more local cafes and restaurants</i>	\$75,000	\$69,265	Completed in Aug. 2023 100% of funds disbursed
Oregon Food Bank*	Food recovery program expansion (2018) <i>Staff and equipment to expand food rescue and distribution services into new areas of region</i>	\$115,990	\$748,010	Completed in Jan. 2020 100% of funds disbursed
Outgrowing Hunger*	Upcycling rescued food (2023) <i>Equipment to transform food that would otherwise be wasted into value-added products to benefit underserved communities in East Multnomah County</i>	\$200,477	\$0	Just started in Sept. 2023 32% of funds disbursed
Park Trading Corp*	Building a network of recycling opportunities for cannabis packaging (2022) <i>Staff time to increase participation in a recycling program for plastic packaging from cannabis products that would otherwise be discarded as trash</i>	\$35,000	\$9,265	Completed in May 2023 100% of funds disbursed
Pioneer Recycling Services	Recycling sorting robots (2018) <i>New equipment to process materials with increased speed and better quality for end markets</i>	\$284,429	\$281,547	Completed in June 2020 Total amount spent to complete the project was \$281,547.

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Pioneer Recycling Services	Optical sorting of mixed paper (2019) <i>Install optical sorters to remove contaminants and improve quality of recycled paper bales</i>	\$712,500	\$1,887,500	Completed in March 2022 100% of funds disbursed
Portland Fruit Tree Project	Increasing capacity to harvest and share excess urban fruit (2022) <i>Staff time to develop a fruit tree index to plan for long-term growth and viability of Portland's fruit trees, resulting in less wasted fruit</i>	\$84,400	\$0	Completed in Oct. 2023 100% of funds disbursed
Pride Recycling Company	Recycling transfer station expansion (2018) <i>Infrastructure improvements to expand processing capacity for dry waste, yard debris and commercial food waste</i>	\$500,000	\$1,236,500	Completed in July 2020 100% of funds disbursed
Professional Business Development Group*	Building a culture of reuse for underrepresented contractors (2020) <i>Incentivize reuse practices of BIPOC and women contractors in partnership with ReBuilding Center</i>	\$50,000	\$0	Completed in Feb. 2022 100% of funds disbursed
ReBuilding Center	Equity and efficiency in reuse operations (2019) <i>Improvements to processing systems and hire new staff for salvage and resale of reusable building materials</i>	\$75,000	\$8,039	Completed in Dec. 2020 100% of funds disbursed
ReBuilding Center	A mobile classroom to bring home-repair classes to vulnerable communities (2022) <i>An electric van and equipment to deliver repair classes in underserved communities around the Metro region</i>	\$90,000	\$0	In progress To be completed in July 2024 70% of funds disbursed
Recology Oregon Compost	Aumsville facility expansion (2019) <i>New equipment and infrastructure improvements at Aumsville facility to expand processing capacity for residential and commercial food scraps and yard debris</i>	\$712,500	\$1,153,500	Completed in March 2021 100% of funds disbursed
Recology Oregon Compost	North Plains facility expansion (2019) <i>New equipment and infrastructure improvements at North Plains facility to expand processing capacity for residential food scraps and yard debris</i>	\$712,500	\$1,345,251	Completed in Dec. 2022 100% of funds disbursed
ReDeploy*	Increasing salvage of usable items during junk pickup to redeploy into community (2022) <i>Staff time and warehouse costs to recover reusable household goods that would otherwise be discarded</i>	\$100,000	\$0	In progress To be completed in June 2024 90% of funds disbursed
Repair PDX	Repair education programming and outreach (2019) <i>Development and execution of repair skills programming and apprenticeships, in partnerships with schools and community organizations</i>	\$31,689	\$9,129	Completed in July 2022 100% of funds disbursed

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Repair PDX	Small appliance repair shop and education space (2022) <i>Staff time and rental space to pilot a small appliance repair education program for community members</i>	\$84,000	\$0	In progress To be completed in Jan. 2024 90% of funds disbursed
Re-Use Consulting	Building up an industry that takes down buildings (2020) <i>Training and support to expand capacity of BIPOC and women deconstruction contractors</i>	\$48,000	\$24,000	Completed in March 2022 100% of funds disbursed
ROSE Community Development*	Multifamily composting initiative (2020) <i>Pilot program for composting food scraps for communities of color at multifamily housing sites</i>	\$23,200	\$0	Completed in July 2022 Total amount spent to complete the project was \$16,900.
Sabin Community Development Corporation*	Pass it On reuse and upcycle program (2023) <i>Staff time and equipment to remove barriers for residents to donate furniture and household items that can be reused</i>	\$26,828	\$0	Just started in Sept. 2023 50% of funds disbursed
Salvage Works	Wood shop expansion (2019) <i>New equipment to expand custom furniture wood shop that transforms reclaimed lumber into high-quality furniture</i>	\$58,772	\$14,516	Completed in March 2021 100% of funds disbursed
Salvage Works	Expansion of high-demand product made from reclaimed fencing (2020) <i>Expand production of rustic wall paneling made from reclaimed fencing materials</i>	\$49,525	\$21,640	Grant terminated as Salvage Works went out of business. 0% of funds disbursed
Sankofa Lumber*	Building capacity for new wood waste markets (2020) <i>Staff time and equipment to develop new commercial-scale markets for clean wood waste</i>	\$52,235	\$10,447	Completed in June 2022 100% of funds disbursed
SCRAP Creative Reuse	Community investment program (2022) <i>Staff time and supplies to provide outreach events in underserved communities and increase access to creative reuse opportunities</i>	\$21,000	\$0	In progress To be completed in Jan. 2024 90% of funds disbursed
SCRAP Creative Reuse	Expanding creative reuse for youth and adults (2023) <i>Staff time, supplies and event support to increase creative reuse programs that benefit underserved communities</i>	\$45,000	\$0	Just started in Sept. 2023 50% of funds disbursed
SnowCap Community Charities	SnowCap's Covenant Campus to increase clothing reuse for underserved communities (2022) <i>Construction of a new facility to provide space for SnowCap's clothing reuse program and other services</i>	\$100,000	\$0	In progress To be completed in July 2024 0% of funds disbursed
The Arc Portland Metro	Where reuse and neurodivergent intersect (2023) <i>New staff to increase local reuse of donated items and to create opportunities for neurodivergent individuals</i>	\$90,000	\$0	Just started in Sept. 2023 50% of funds disbursed

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The Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization*	Reuse to support immigrants and refugees at the New Beginnings Market (2023) <i>Staff time to support a reuse program for furniture and household items that benefits immigrants and refugees</i>	\$100,000	\$0	Just started in Sept. 2023 50% of funds disbursed
University of Portland	Intelligent curbside recycling (2019) <i>Installation of intelligent robotic platforms on collection vehicles to quantify the composition and contamination of residential curbside recycling</i>	\$74,774	\$76,346	Completed in Aug. 2022 86% of funds disbursed (pending final invoice for reimbursable grant funds)
Urban Gleaners*	Food recovery expansion and engagement project (2018) <i>New equipment, facility upgrades and staff to expand food waste recovery and test a “closed loop” delivery program</i>	\$103,779	\$92,311	Completed in Jan. 2020 100% of funds disbursed
Urban Gleaners*	Second shift food rescue initiative (2019) <i>Staff to expand operation to repurpose discarded food into nutritious meals for families in need</i>	\$73,872	\$24,690	Completed in July 2021 100% of funds disbursed
Urban Gleaners*	Expanding food recovery and redistribution for food insecure families (2023) <i>Staff time, equipment and a new van to increase the volume of food rescued and redistributed to food insecure families</i>	\$100,000	\$0	Just started in Sept. 2023 50% of funds disbursed
Urban Gypsum	Pelletizing system for drywall waste reduction (2019) <i>New equipment to process recycled drywall into pellets for reuse as agricultural and industrial products</i>	\$465,452	\$465,452	Completed in June 2022 90% of funds disbursed (pending final invoice for reimbursable grant funds)
Urban Gypsum	Waste reduction specialist (2019) <i>Hire a Spanish and English-speaking specialist to increase supply of recovered drywall from construction sites for processing for reuse</i>	\$75,000	\$16,200	Grant terminated due to grantee non-performance. 0% of funds disbursed
West Tuality Habitat for Humanity	Construct a covered outside area to promote year-round shopping for reused items (2022) <i>Increase the amount of goods and building materials that are reused by expanding the ReStore’s retail area</i>	\$50,000	\$0	In progress To be completed in July 2024 75% of funds disbursed
Wisewood Energy	Building the waste wood-to-energy ecosystem in Portland (2018) <i>Feasibility assessment of biomass heat systems at five businesses as replicable clean energy alternatives to disposing waste wood</i>	\$50,000	\$53,525	Completed in Jan. 2020 100% of funds disbursed

To: DEQ

From: Metro

Subject: Metro comments on proposed mattress stewardship program plan

Metro appreciates this opportunity to provide comments on the proposed Mattress Stewardship Program Plan.

The Portland metro region accounts for more than 40 percent of the state's population. We are thrilled to see mattress recycling services expand across the state and we want to ensure it is convenient and accessible for all Oregonians. Metro began advocating for legislation to improve the recovery of mattresses in 2019 and has continued to advocate for an effective and equitable implementation of the Oregon mattress stewardship law.

Over a year ago, Metro initiated a project to identify desired outcomes for the stewardship program in the greater Portland area. Metro completed research, interviews and facilitated a group discussion with a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives from local and state government, haulers, retailers, large mattress generators (e.g., universities and hotels), the mattress producer industry, community organizations, and reuse and recycling businesses to create a vision for implementation. The vision prioritizes solutions that achieve outcomes in four areas: 1) equitable collection access 2) ample reuse, renovation, and recycling opportunities 3) culturally responsive and timely education and outreach 4) set and meet ambitious and achievable performance goals.

These comments on the proposed program plan reflect the Metro vision for the greater Portland area and our understanding of the requirements for the program plan set in state statute and administrative rules.

Overall plan clarity on compensation

- Throughout the plan it is unclear how reasonable compensation costs are calculated. To provide clarity to sites and support sufficient review of the budget portion of the program plan, the plan should be updated to include more detailed information, including but not limited to:
 1. Providing detail, including formula, for how a collection site will count mattresses for compensation. For example, the program plan

should provide detailed information that a collection site can use to answer the following question:

Two program covered mattresses arrive at a MRC-collection site transfer station. One mattress is sent for recycling by being placed in the MRC provided trailer. One mattress is so wet that it must be landfilled, so it is placed in the transfer station's mixed load trailer for disposal. Does the transfer station bill MRC for two mattresses?

2. Describing in more detail how the proposed compensation amount per mattress fulfills the "reasonable actual cost" requirement in statute.

Implementation Timeline

- The MRC should publish the Oregon-specific Collection Site Guidelines in the program plan to provide clear, standard expectations across the state for managing discarded mattresses. The current link in the program plan refers to multiple Collection Site Guidelines on the MRC's website. Since none of these plans are specific to Oregon, it is unclear how the MRC is meeting the program plan requirements for Oregon. Oregon has unique conditions, including wet weather for approximately 165 days a year, to address in the Collection Site Guidelines.
- Additionally, publishing the Collection Site Guidelines in the program plan will give collection sites sufficient advance notice to prepare for program launch. Covered spaces at Metro's potential collection sites are at a premium and other facilities likely have similar conditions. With time, facilities can be ready to preserve the quality of incoming reusable and recyclable mattresses.

Program Operations

- Fulfill the statute requirements for the program plan to identify program mattresses and ongoing program management, tracking and documentation of the fate of discarded mattresses by:
 1. In Part C, add detailed information to the program plan describing how a collection site would determine how a program mattress was discarded by an Oregon resident, including how out of state hauling companies

can provide program mattresses. Detailed information would include, but not be limited to, best practices in other program states that are the proposed standards for Oregon in the program plan. This information is important for two reasons. First, mattress collectors/transporters in Oregon include hauling companies that are registered in Washington and serve customers in Oregon that have mattresses to get rid of. Residents taking their mattress to an Oregon collection site may have license plates from a different state. Illegally dumped mattresses will be found in Oregon, but the program plan is unclear how they would be assessed to determine residency of the discard generator. To correctly identify program mattresses, collection sites need information that covers these scenarios and better understand the level of effort MRC expects of collection sites to identify non-program or out of state mattresses.

2. In Part C, add detailed information to the program plan describing how MRC would calculate, as stated in the program plan, the “historic levels” and the “number of units” that a service area “would typically generate.” Transparency about this methodology is key to MRC fulfilling statute requirements to provide reasonable compensation and track meaningful data about the fate of discarded mattresses.
3. In Part F and G, provide the list of best practices that the MRC will use to work with collectors to reduce the number of units that are ruined because of mishandling or other causes and reduce the number of units that are sent for incineration. There should be a list of best practices for increasing reuse and a separate list for increasing recycling. Through operating transfer stations and collecting illegally dumped mattresses, Metro is very familiar with how quickly rain can turn a perfectly reusable or recyclable mattress into a mattress that must be landfilled. Metro is concerned that the current lack of details, amount of funding for infrastructure improvements, and timing for infrastructure funding for collection sites, means that many mattresses will become wet and consequently not reused or recycled in the first years of program launch.

4. In part G, provide the additional reuse actions or activities proposed to occur as a result of the program plan.
5. Within the program operations section, provide a formula or other direction so that a collection site knows when they can charge a customer for a load that contains mattresses. For example, the guidance should allow collection sites to understand how to charge a customer for a mixed load with a program mattress within it. If there are calculations that need to be made, those should be included in the PRO plan.

Budget

- The MRC can demonstrate fulfillment of the requirement to provide for the environmentally sound management of mattresses by increasing the amount of “Mattress Collection Facility Improvement Funding” to \$200,000 annually. This increase would make it more likely that at least one site a year would receive a sufficiently large enough grant to improve their environment practices, such as constructing a walled and roofed enclosure to protect mattresses from the estimated 165 days of rain in Oregon.
- The MRC itemization should be more specific in describing how the activities in Part 11 (public education, advertising and promotion) add up to the allotted amount for “Public Education and Advertising” of more than \$650,000. Without itemization, it is unclear why such a significant budget for education, advertising and promotion is needed compared to the budget for compensating collection sites.

Illegal dumping

- Metro appreciates the MRC recognizing our robust illegal dumping mitigation program and interest in consulting Metro and other local governments.
- Does MRC plan to compensate Metro or other select communities for the proposed in-depth discussions in stages 1 and 3 similar to the funding offered in stage 2?