

2030 Regional Waste Plan

Phase 1: Values

Draft Values and Guiding Principles

The draft concepts for the Regional Waste Plan values are drawn from existing guidance, including regional, state and federal policies and plans regarding waste management, recycling, toxics and other related environmental programs. The values were further shaped through public surveys on values, attitudes and motivations related to garbage, recycling, waste prevention and toxics and through the application of an equity lens by the Equity Work Group. As a result of this work, Metro staff proposes the Values and Guiding Principles below as the two sets of overarching guidance for the 2030 Regional Waste Plan.

Values

The values lay out the essential concepts that serve as a basis for the plan's strategies and actions and will guide plan implementation.

1. **Protect and restore the environment and promote health for all**
 - Ensure that current and future generations enjoy clean air, water and land
 - Lead efforts to reduce impacts of climate change and minimize release of toxins in the environment
2. **Conserve natural resources**
 - Reduce the amount of energy, water and raw materials needed to make products
 - Manage materials to their highest and best use (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)
3. **Advance environmental literacy**
 - Facilitate life-long learning for youth and adults
 - Increase knowledge of natural systems, and human impacts on them, in order to foster civic responsibility and community empowerment
4. **Foster economic well-being**
 - Promote inclusive prosperity and living well for all residents of the region
 - Increase access to economic opportunities for all communities
5. **Ensure operational resilience, adaptability and sustainability**
 - Maintain a regional system that is safe and responsive to changing conditions to ensure long-term viability
 - Prepare for recovery after natural disaster
6. **Provide excellent service and equitable system access**
 - Ensure that high quality and good value programs, services and facilities are equitably accessible to all

Guiding Principles

Metro's *Strategic plan to advance racial equity, diversity and inclusion* acknowledges racism as a root cause of inequity and as a complex system that exists within individual behavior and policies and processes in and across institutions.

Through this Regional Waste Plan, Metro and local governments have an opportunity to eliminate barriers and generate positive benefits that advance racial equity, diversity, and inclusion through their roles in waste reduction, regulation, management, planning and policy. To advance racial equity, the plan will be guided by three essential principles.

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

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

Community Partnerships- Develop authentic partnerships and community trust to advance the plan 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
- Creating ongoing opportunities for leadership development to support resilient community relationships

Community Investment- Emphasize resource allocation to communities of color and historically marginalized communities within the regional solid waste system. In practice, this means:

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