



# 2030 Regional Waste Plan Project Update

*The Regional Waste Plan will be the greater Portland area's blueprint for managing and reducing the environmental impacts of goods consumed in the region, from production to disposal. From spring 2017 to fall 2018, Metro will work with communities around the region to develop this plan.*



## Project Status Summary

Work on the 2030 Regional Waste Plan is in Phase 2. Highlights of the project are detailed below.

### Phase 1: Values | March to July 2017

Phase 1 developed a set of overarching guidance, including values and guiding principles, to inform plan development and implementation. The concepts for the 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, community discussions with culturally specific organizations and the application of an equity lens.



Highlights of engagement include a series of co-hosted community discussion groups. As part of this, Metro contracted with eight community-based organizations to co-organize, recruit for and facilitate discussions with community members on the garbage and recycling system. These groups included: North by Northeast Community Health Center, Trash for Peace, Momentum Alliance, Constructing Hope, Rosewood Initiative, Centro Cultural, Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, and the Environmental Professionals of Color group hosted by the Center for Diversity and the Environment.

The community discussions kicked off in June 2017 and included two group-facilitated conversations. The first discussion focused on building awareness and understanding of the garbage and recycling system and gathering input on the values. The second conversation included gathering community concerns and visions for the future.



In addition, the Equity Work Group reviewed the draft value concepts from an equity perspective. The work group met four times between May and June 2017. As a result of this work, the group developed a set of guiding principles in addition to input on the language of the values.

Metro Council endorsed the values and principles on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 that can be found at [oregonmetro.gov/letstalktrash](http://oregonmetro.gov/letstalktrash). The guidance will be used to inform and guide the development of the plan's vision, goals and actions.

## Phase 2: Vision | August 2017 to January 2018

Phase 2 will identify the plan's vision and goals. Metro will collect input from each of the engagements described below to help shape the vision and goals.

### Planning Workshop

Metro hosted a planning workshop in August 2017 to generate ideas for the future vision of the system. More than forty individuals attended the workshop, including Metro staff, Equity Work Group members and local government staff.

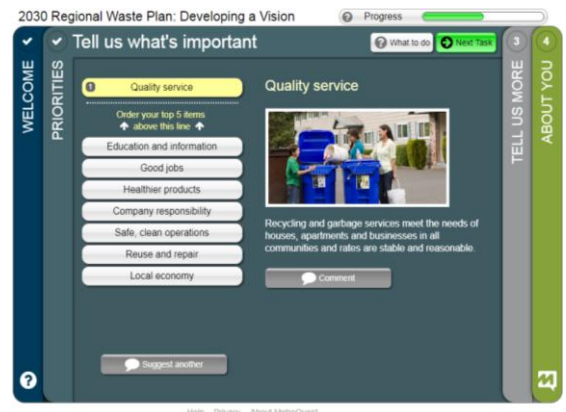
During the workshop, participants considered the future of the garbage and recycling system. First, participants were asked to provide feedback on a future scenario that reflected where the region would be if we followed the current trajectory of existing plans and policies. Then, participants were asked to discuss where we would be in a more ambitious or transformational future informed by the plan values and principles. Participants worked in small groups to identify outcomes of these potential futures.

Metro used the input collected at the planning workshop, along with that collected through the community discussions held in Phase 1, to develop an online survey to gather broader input on the future vision of the garbage and recycling system.



### Online Survey

The online interactive survey was released in September 2017 and asked participants to rank eight priority areas for the regional garbage and recycling system according to their preferences for the future. These priority areas cover different stages of the life of products, ranging from the quality of services to collect and recycle products and packaging to the responsibility of companies when making and labelling the products they sell.





The survey was distributed electronically through email, social media and Metro's web site. In addition, postcards were handed out at Metro facilities and callers to the Recycling Information Center were invited to take the survey. Individuals who participated in the community discussion groups were also asked to take the survey. More than 4,000 individuals participated in the survey over the course of two months. The survey helped identify where residents would like to see changes in the garbage and recycling system and their priorities for the future. The survey results were compiled to share at the leadership forum and inform the vision, goals and actions in the plan.

### **Leadership Forum Series**

In October 2017, Metro and local community groups hosted a series of three leadership forums at locations around the Portland area. Hosting organizations included Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, Rosewood Initiative and Centro Cultural. Local elected officials, business representatives and Metro councilors connected with community members from Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties. More than 120 individuals participated in the event.



Attendees shared and discussed ideas for how they would like to see the region's solid waste system operate in the future, how residents and businesses can reduce the environmental and human health impacts from the products we buy and use, and how we could do both of these things in ways that equitably serve and benefit all members of our community.

As a part of the forum, participants reviewed and discussed results from the online survey. Metro will use the input gathered during the forums to inform the vision and goal setting.



### **What's Next**

Metro will compile input collected from all the engagement activities to draft a preliminary vision for the future and set of goals for the Regional Waste Plan. Next, the Equity Work Group will work with Metro staff to apply an equity lens to the draft.

The draft vision and goals will then be shared at a technical forum on December 7, 2017 that will convene solid waste stakeholders, technical experts and others to gather additional feedback. In January 2018, Metro staff will bring a revised draft for input to the Metro Policy Advisory Committee and Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee, and a final version to the Metro Council for consideration.

Work on Phase 3, System Analysis will commence in December 2017.