

# Recycling Systems Update

Metro Council work session  
Sept. 3, 2019



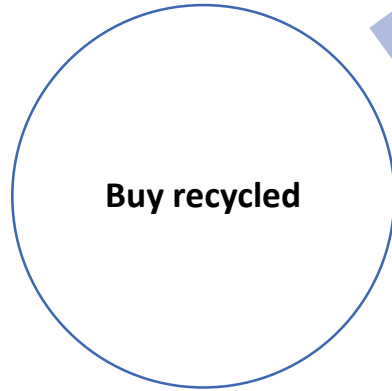
# Context and purpose

- Update on the recycling system and current actions
- Solicit feedback on future Council engagement



# Today's conversation: These recyclables

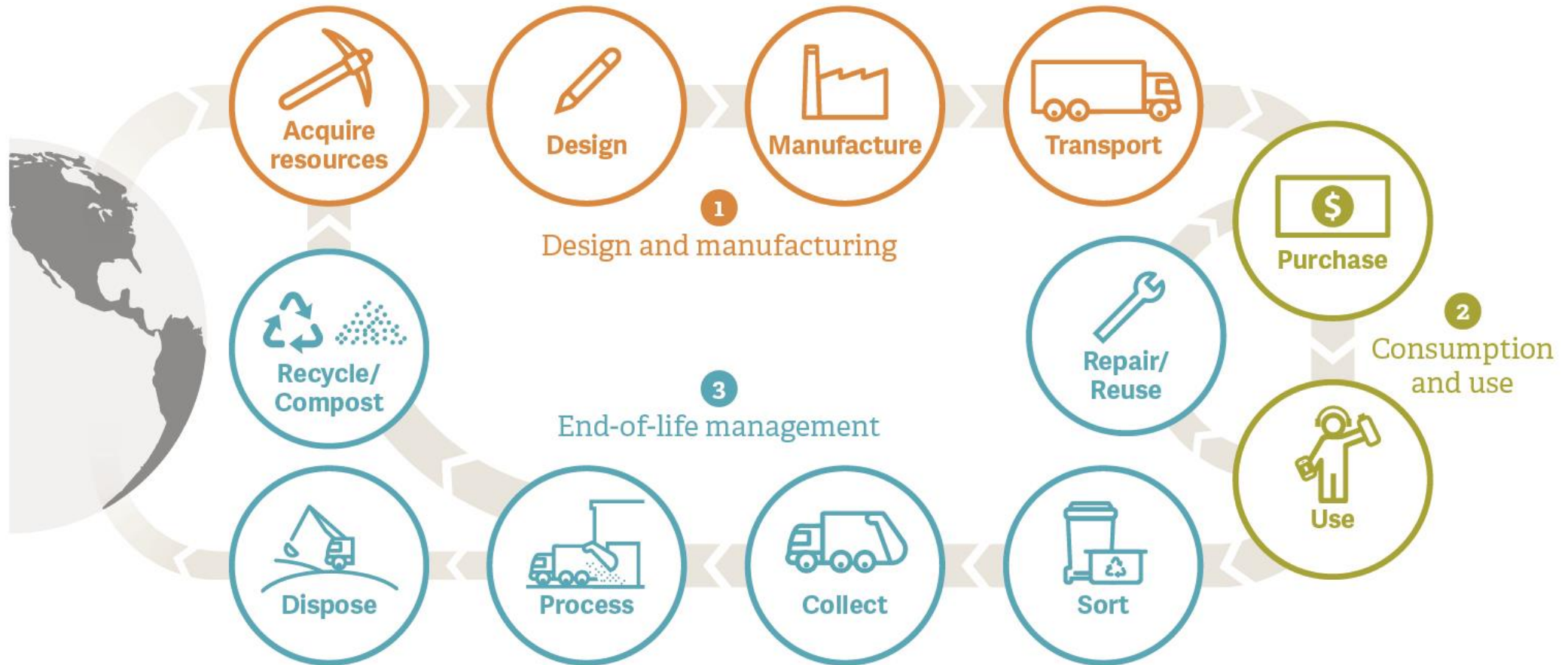




## RECYCLING PROCESS



# Product Life Cycle



# Current challenges and opportunities



- Loss of, and/or changes to, what's accepted by international end markets
- Rapid changes in the types of packaging



- Materials are still getting recycled
- Private and public investment
- New domestic end markets emerging for paper

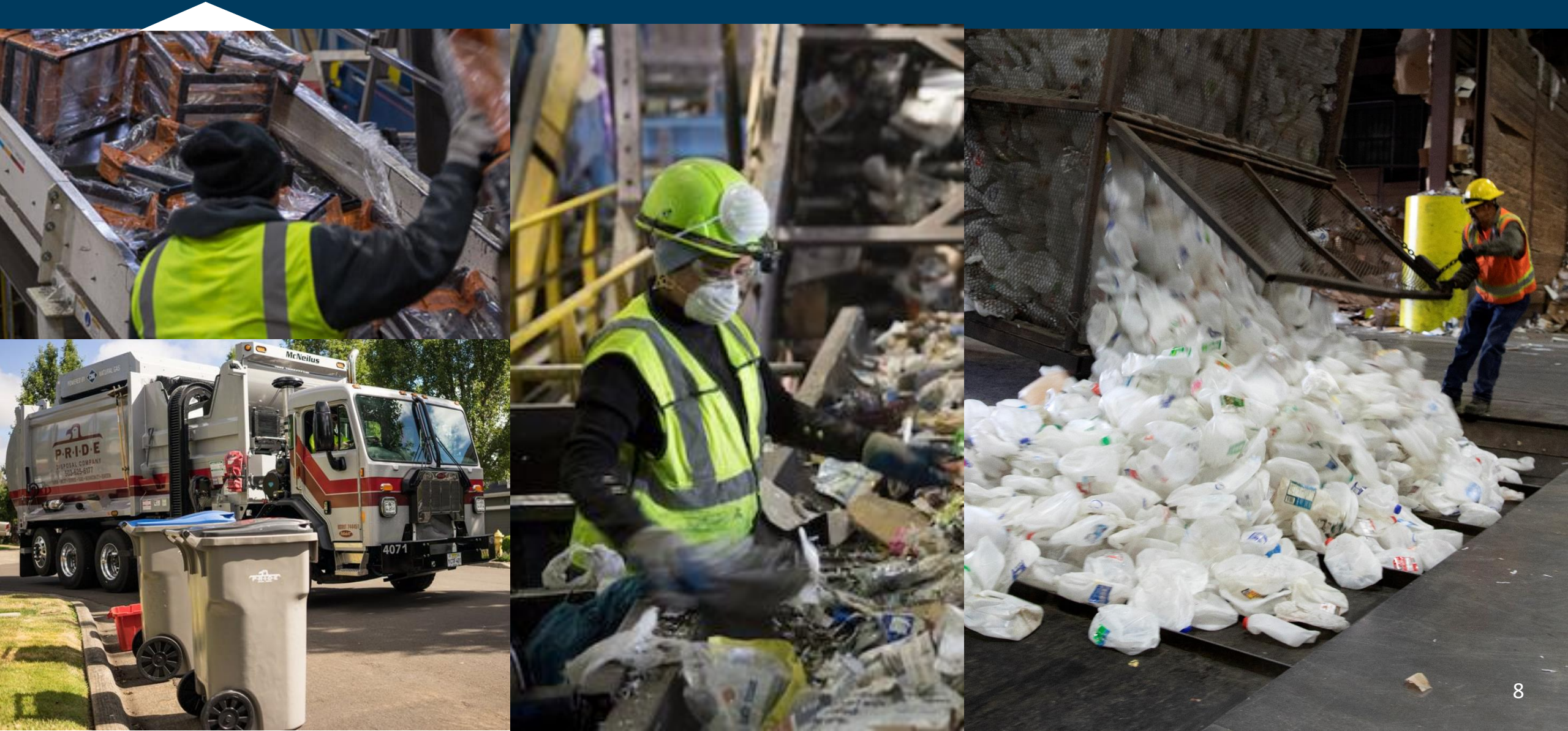


# Current efforts: Stabilize the system

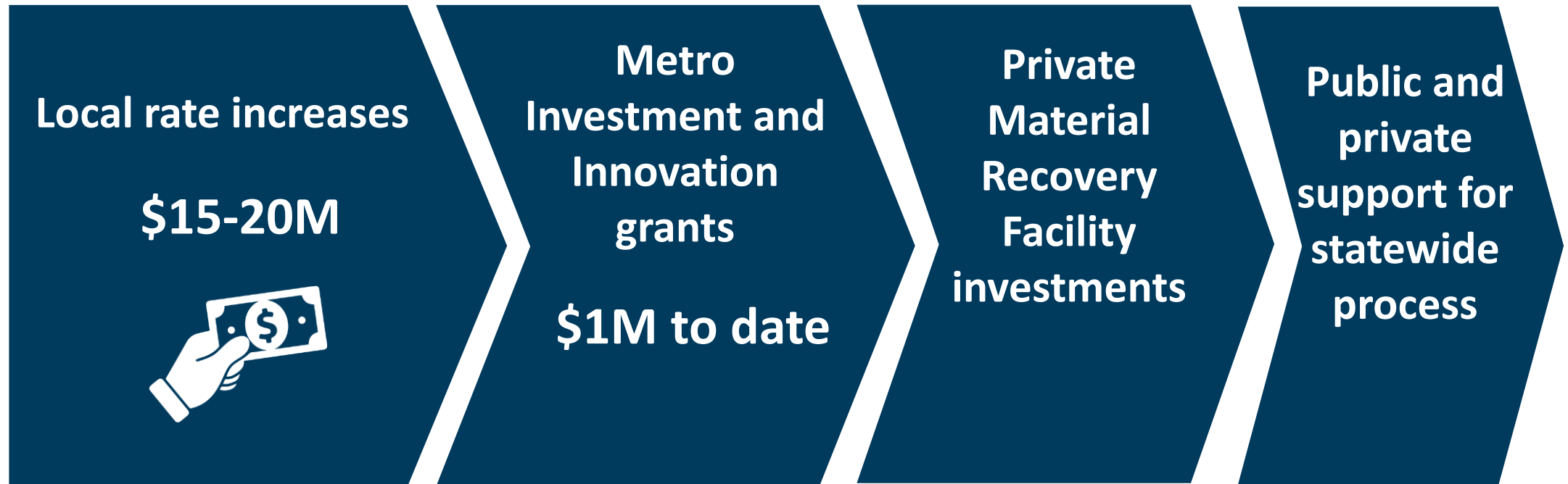
- Coordinate with private sector
- Invest
- Communicate with residents and businesses



# Stabilize the system: Coordinate with private sector



# Stabilize system: Financial investments



# Stabilize system: Communicate with residents and businesses

## ReciclarONo.org

**Soy reciclable,  
pero mi tapa no lo es.**



ReciclarONo.org

## RecycleOrNot.org

**We're plastic bags and plastic  
wrap. Please keep us out of  
your recycling bin.**

We can end up as litter, and we jam up machines that sort recycling. Learn more about recycling right at [RecycleOrNot.org](http://RecycleOrNot.org).

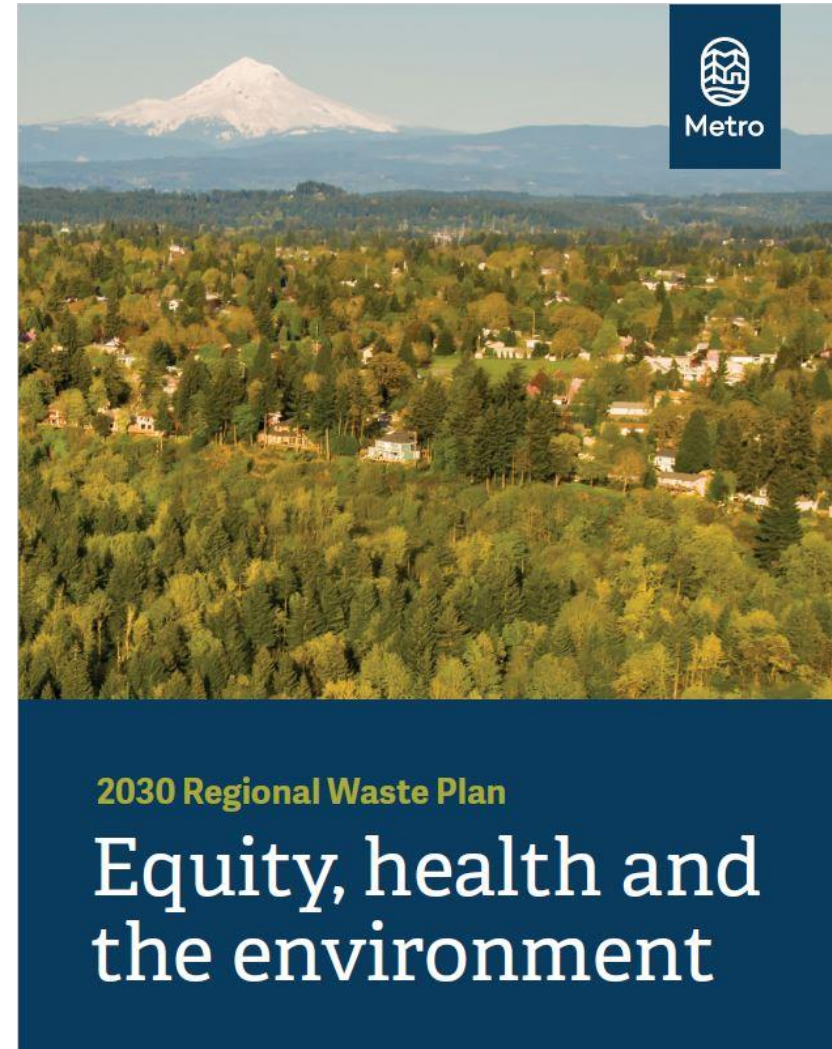


Metro

RecycleOrNot.org

# Planning for the future

- Statewide collaborative project
- Metro and local government decision-making



# Planning for the future: Statewide project

Reach consensus on actions to:

- optimize benefits for the environment
- make recycling system strong and adaptable to change
- maintain public trust in the system



**Recycling Steering Committee**

*Modernizing Oregon's recycling system with support from Oregon Consensus*

# Planning for the future: Statewide project



## Recycling Steering Committee

*Modernizing Oregon's recycling system with support from Oregon Consensus*

Association of Oregon Counties (AOC)  
Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR)  
Association of Plastics Recyclers/Denton Plastics  
EFI  
Far West Recycling  
Lane County  
League of Oregon Cities/City of Beaverton

Metro  
North Pacific Paper Company (NORPAC)  
Oregon DEQ  
Oregon Refuse & Recycling Association (ORRA)  
City of Portland  
Recycling Partnership  
Rogue Disposal & Recycling  
Waste Connections  
Waste Management

# Planning for the future: Metro and Local Government policy and program options



- Materials collected
- Public investments
- Legal and relational frameworks
- Producer Responsibility
- End-markets

# Metro and Local Government decision-making: Materials collected

2030 Plan: Regular assessment of accepted materials list for home and business recycling programs (Action 15.2)

*Which types of materials should be included in our residential and business recycling programs?*



# Metro and Local Government decision-making: Materials collected

## Key considerations

- long-term strength, viability, and geographic location of end markets
- ability to sort or process materials for end markets
- materials present in our stream today and/or expected in the future
- resident needs and interests

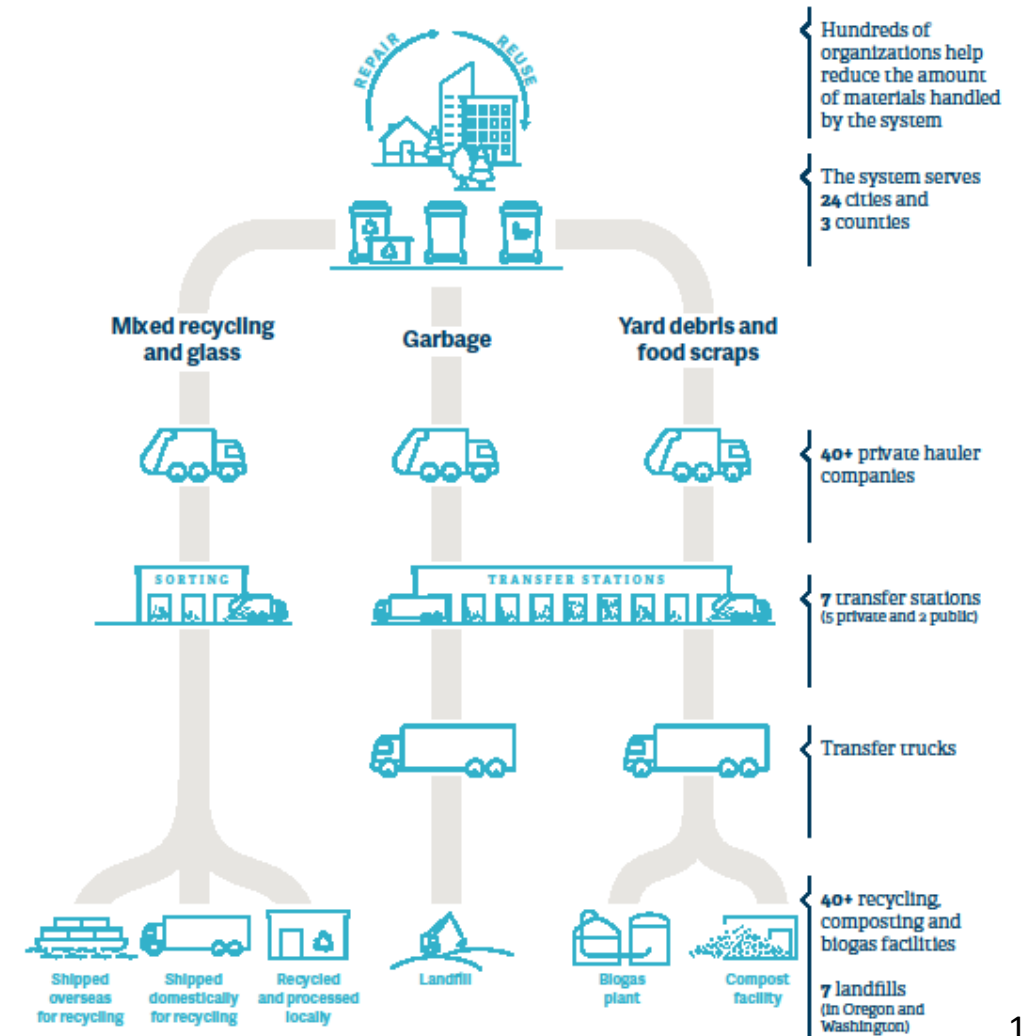


# Metro and Local Government decision-making: Public investments

## 2030 Plan:

- public-private partnerships for priority recyclable materials, with an emphasis on businesses from historically marginalized groups (Action 15.3)
- funding investments to improve the performance of materials recovery facilities (Action 15.4)

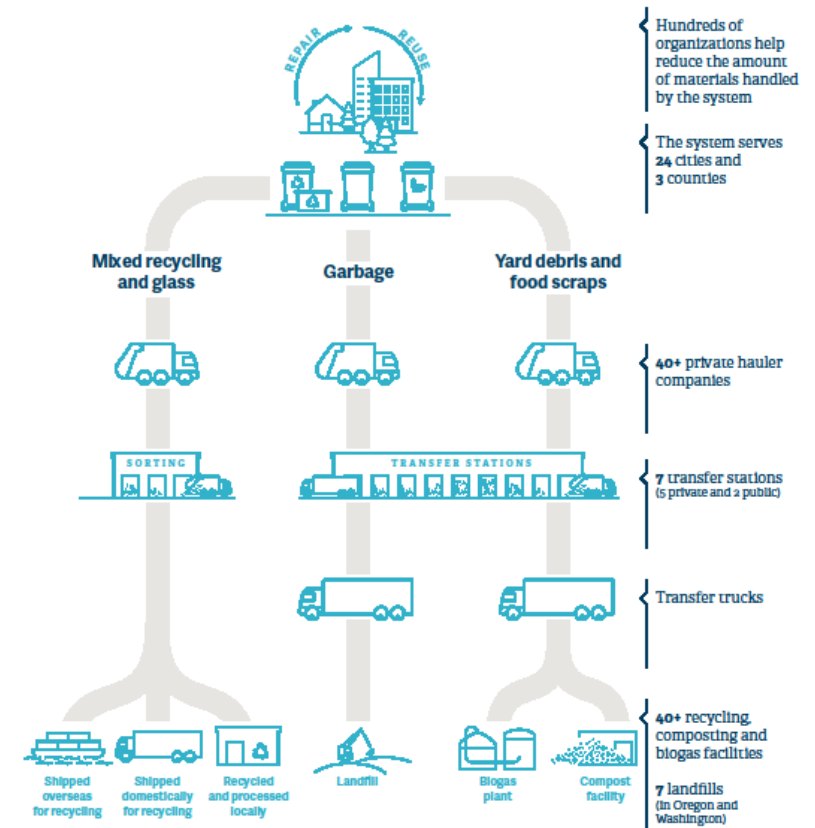
*What system investments are needed to achieve goals of strength and resilience?*



# Metro and Local Government decision-making: Public investments

Choice of system investments will be informed by:

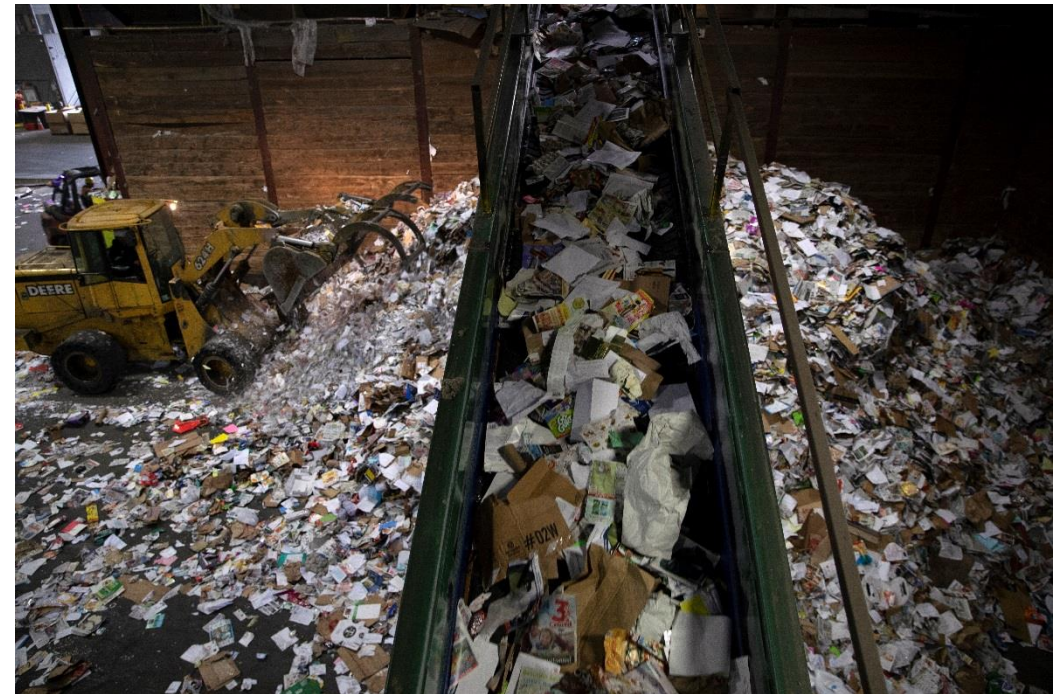
- statewide infrastructure research about options and costs
- secondary sorting research project



# Metro and Local Government decision-making: Legal/relational framework with MRFs

2030 Plan: Metro and local governments to implement stronger linkages between recycling collection and recovery facilities through processing performance standards, supply agreements, regulatory oversight or other means (Action 15.6)

*What are government's best roles for ensuring our material recovery facilities can meet future system needs?*



# Metro and Local Government decision-making: Legal/relational framework with MRFs

Recycling system is a public-private partnership with limited public oversight beyond collection

Key areas of public interest:

- End markets and recycling methods are consistent with regional values related to equity and environment
- Transparent and consistent rates
- Not reliant on any one market



# Metro and Local Government decision-making: Producer Responsibility

*What are our expectations for manufacturers and retailers sharing responsibility for the recycling of their packaging and products?*



# Metro and Local Government decision-making: Producer Responsibility

## Product stewardship

- Minimize health, safety, environmental, and social impacts of a product and its packaging throughout all life cycle stages
- Oregon's Bottle Bill is an example of a product stewardship program.



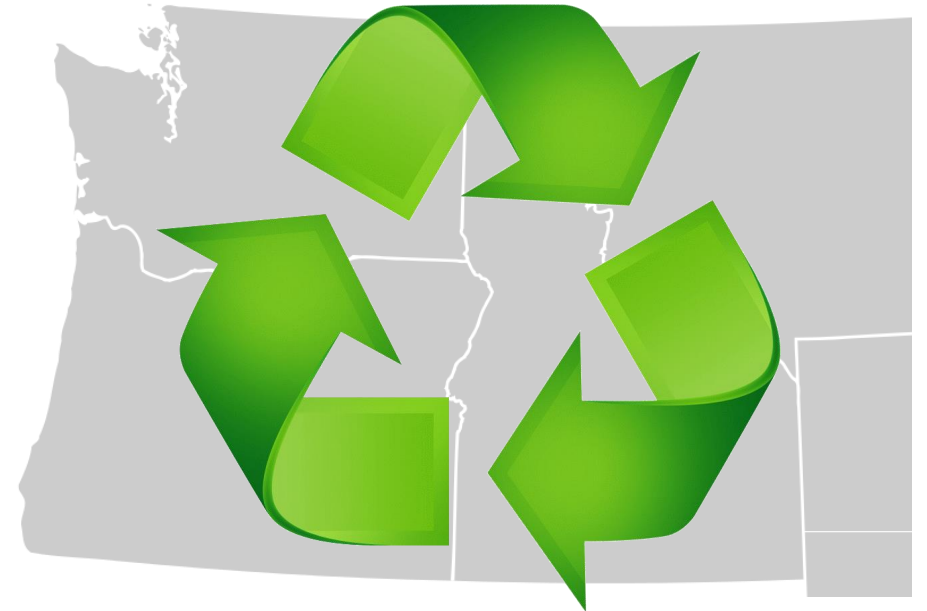
## Extended producer responsibility (EPR)

- Mandatory form of product stewardship
- At minimum includes manufacturer responsibility for post-consumer management of products and packaging
- Oregon examples: E-Cycles electronic waste recycling program; PaintCare paint recycling program; Metro's proposed Household Hazardous Waste EPR bill



# Metro and Local Government decision-making: Strengthening recycling end-markets

*What can Metro, local and state governments do to influence the development of additional Northwest and U.S. markets for recyclables?*



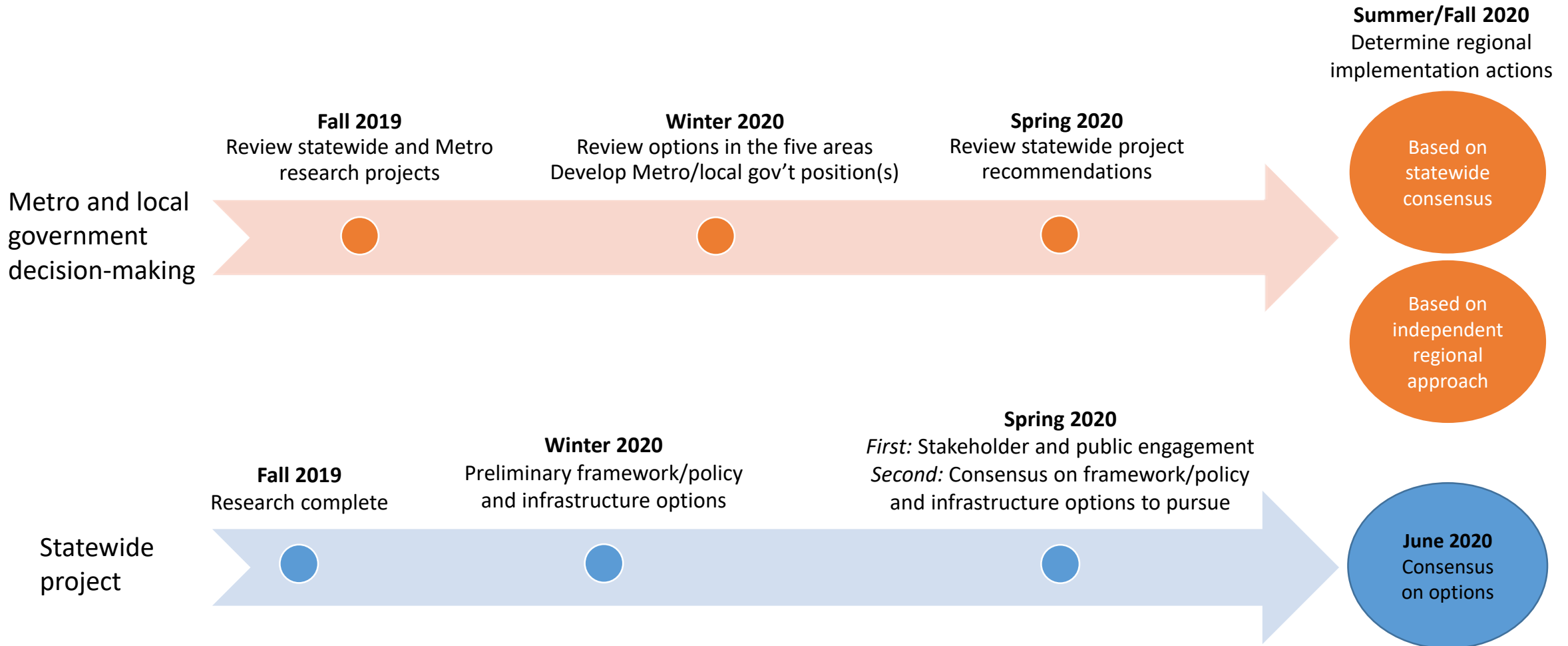
# Metro and Local Government decision-making: Strengthening recycling end-markets

Potential areas of influence:

- Recycled content standards for manufactured goods or packaging
- Financial incentives or disincentives
- Public purchasing/procurement preferences



# Timeline for Council engagement opportunities



# Discussion

- In which program and policy areas would Council like to engage?
- How would Council like to engage?

Materials collected

Public investments

Legal and relational frameworks

Producer Responsibility

End-markets

