
Regional Waste Subcommittee

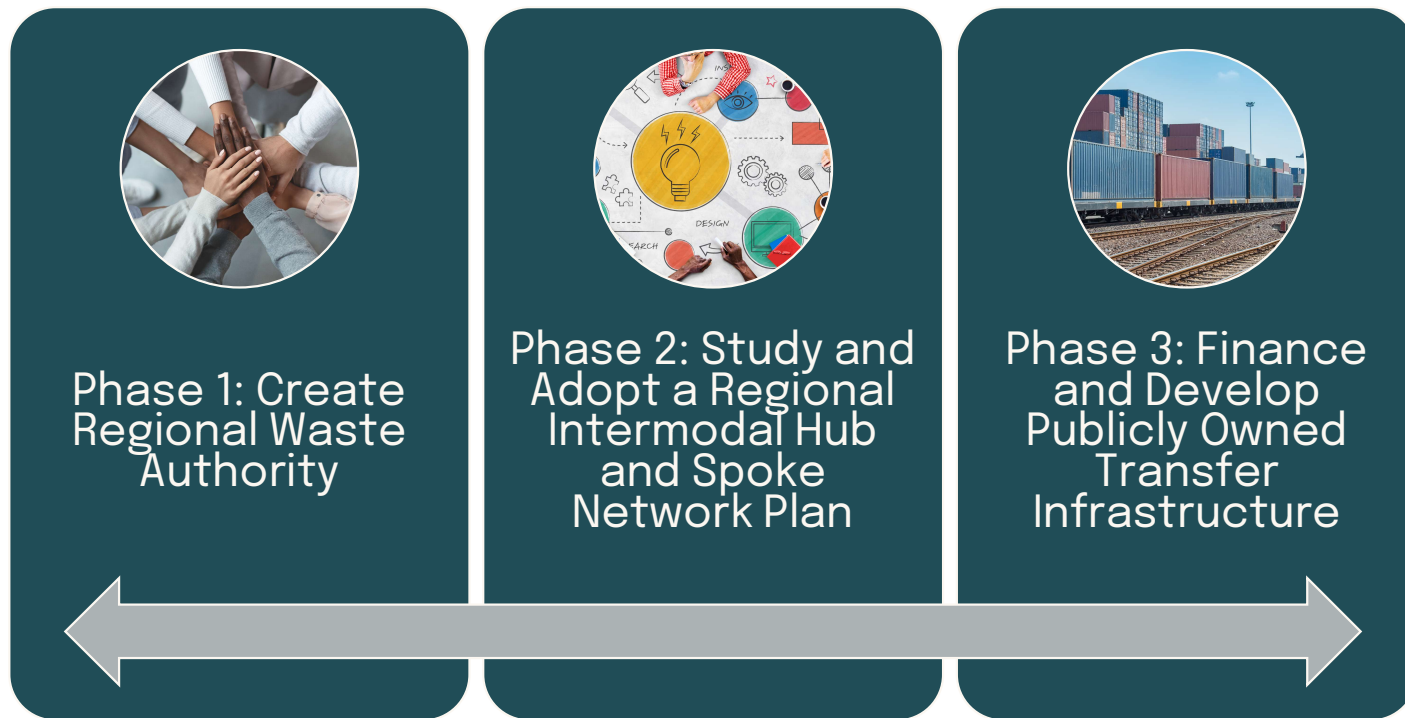
Recommendation Package

Regional Waste Recommendation Summary

DESIRED FUTURE STATE: THE MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY HAS A PUBLICLY OWNED TRANSFER INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK DESIGNED FOR RECOVERY AND WITH ACCESS TO INTERMODAL TRANSPORT.

Strategy components	Establish mechanism for lasting regional collaboration and decision making.
	Develop hub and spoke transfer network and infrastructure plan.
	Focus on areas with limited current transfer infrastructure - Benton, Linn, Marion, Tillamook, Lincoln, and Yamhill counties.
	Design transfer facilities for recovery including comprehensive recycling drop off and a reuse center (cross over with other subcommittees).
	Update logistics to be compatible with intermodal transport.
	Use a combination of facility upgrades and new publicly-owned infrastructure. Phase upgrades first while planning for new public infrastructure is executed.
	Establish mechanism to guarantee inbound material to new infrastructure - necessary to secure funding and fund operations through tip fees.
	Target infrastructure to be operational by 2035.

Regional Waste Recommendation Package



Recommendation #1 Establish Mechanism for Regional Collaboration and Decision making

PHASE 1 INCLUDES
DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL
BODY WITH DECISION MAKING
AUTHORITY TIED TO AN
ENTERPRISE FUND.

- Description
 - > Establish a collaborative waste “authority” to adopt and implement a regional sustainable materials management infrastructure network plan.
 - > Recommend common service standards, contracting tools, and directives on the movement of materials, provide best practice guidance and resources, and develop regional education and communication campaigns.
 - > The regional body could be established through legislation or through direct intergovernmental agreements (IGAs).
- Who Acts
 - > Core of the regional body would be counties with limited transfer infrastructure – Benton, Linn, Marion, Tillamook, Lincoln, Yamhill.
 - > It could include all 13 counties in the region, with a distinction between “owners” and “members”.
 - > Authority is led by county solid waste directors in the region and maintains a practical and operational focus.
 - > Each county contributes to the collective plan and executes county-specific components.
 - > Cities within the counties continue to execute their own service agreements
 - > Legislators enable authority.
- How is it Funded
 - > Initial funding to establish provided by each county and potentially the state.
 - > Tip fees provide source of ongoing funding through an enterprise fund.
- Barriers
 - > Requires significant coordination and political undertaking locally.
 - > Cities and service providers may have concerns about loss of local control.
 - > Private service providers will be concerned with how this may impact their service contracts and facilities and could put up opposition.
- Timeline
 - > Q4 2025 – Q2 2026 – regional governance structure and funding mechanisms explored further.
 - > Q1 2026 – Begin tangible partnership conversations / negotiations
 - > End of 2026: Regional “Authority” Established.

Recommendation #2 Develop an Intermodal Hub and Spoke Transfer Network Plan

PHASE 2 IS THE STUDY AND ADOPTION OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM PLAN THAT WOULD GUIDE DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSFER / RECOVERY IN THE REGION.

- Description
 - > Comprehensive transfer network plan (feasibility, cost, and network design) with Mid-Willamette Valley Intermodal Center as a central hub and county transfer sites as spokes.
- Who Acts
 - > The Regional Waste “Authority” (RWA) would lead the development and adoption of a plan.
 - > If a RWA is not established this could be led by a less formal regional collaboration.
 - > County staff participate and contribute data and input on their respective needs.
 - > Local jurisdictions, haulers and other stakeholders provide input through an engagement process.
- How is it Funded
 - > All involved counties contribute.
 - > State and federal grant programs would be explored (e.g. SWIFR related) to study feasibility and network design.
- Barriers
 - > Regional planning is inherently complex and requires timely input from many parties.
 - > Timeline is limited.
 - > Potential opposition from haulers, neighboring communities and those sensitive to rate impacts.
- Timeline
 - > Q1 2027: Issue RFP to study and design a hub and spoke network.
 - > Q1 2028: Plan is “adopted” and moves on to the development phase.

Recommendation #3 Develop / Upgrade Publicly owned Transfer Stations Designed for Recovery

PHASE 3 IS THE DEVELOPMENT
OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND
POTENTIAL CONTRACTING OF
OPERATIONS

- Description
 - > Designated space for other recovery and reuse activities
 - > Ability to transload into intermodal containers.
- Who Acts
 - > RWA or host county would develop the regional Hub and own the facility, while collecting tip fees.
 - > Local jurisdictions would develop and own the county transfer spokes, and upgrade service agreements to guarantee tons.
 - > Operations could be public or private depending on circumstance.
- How is it Funded
 - > Public revenue bonds and/or other low interest infrastructure finance options.
 - > RMA funding could contribute to portions related to capture of USCL and PRO list materials.
- Barriers
 - > Infrastructure could cost \$100 million or more (~\$2-\$5 million for small rural, \$10-\$20 million for medium, and could be \$25 million or more for the large Hub).
 - > Impacts to rates will be a key issue.
 - > Inbound tonnage guarantees are essential for securing financing and covering operational costs and are politically tenuous.
 - > Development timeline is tight.
 - > General opposition to new infrastructure investment is possible from incumbent industry and neighboring communities.
- Timeline
 - > Q1 2028: Procurement issued for preliminary feasibility and design of facilities
 - > Q1 2029: Procurement issued for design, build and potentially operate the facilities
 - > New infrastructure should begin development by 2030 and be operational by 2035 at the latest.

Products and Packaging Subcommittee

Recommendation Package

Products and Packaging Recommendation Summary

DESIRED FUTURE STATE: THE MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY EMPLOYS SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Strategy Components

Establish hubs that offer educational programs for reuse and repair, and support sustainable materials management entrepreneurs.

Establish spaces to house reuse and repair infrastructure, such as storage for reusable products and washing and sanitizing facilities.

Implement statewide policies that incentivize producers and manufacturers to design for reuse, recyclability, or environmentally benign end-of-life management of products.

Implement statewide policies that shift the cost burden of managing products and packaging from consumers and public agencies to producers.

Establish consistent communications and outreach efforts regionally that motivate community members to buy and use more durable, reusable, repairable products and to manage them appropriately.

Recommendation #1 Establish Regional Hub(s) for Reuse Infrastructure, Programming, and Economic Development

- Description
 - > The region should collaborate to establish hubs to house reuse infrastructure, such as washing facilities, storage space, or repair shops and provide programming such as repair cafes, job training, and small business support for sustainable materials management entrepreneurs.
- Who Acts
 - > Local jurisdictions could assess underutilized land or buildings and provide grants or funding for programs.
 - > The state could provide grants for capital costs and programming.
 - > Non-profit organizations can support programming.
 - > A regional authority, if established, could fund capital and operational costs.
- How is it Funded
 - > Regional waste authority
 - > County general funds
 - > Economic development funds
 - > Philanthropy
- Barriers
 - > Need for a centralized programming.
- Potential timeline
 - > Q4 2025 – Counties collaborate to identify potential locations, partners, and funding sources.
 - > 2026 – Acquire and/or prepare spaces and prepare program offerings
 - > 2027 – Launch initial programs and services

Recommendation #2

Shift costs of Materials Management from Consumers and Public Sector to Producers

- Description
 - > The region would collaborate with DEQ, and other interested groups to advocate for product stewardship policies to address product and material categories such as textiles, furniture, and appliances. These policies have high potential to shift cost burdens, reduce waste, influence product and packaging design for circularity, and generate quality data on the materials being sold into the state.
- Who Acts
 - > Counties, in collaboration with DEQ, and other interested groups that could include: AOR, Environmental non-profits, and Metro.
- How is it Funded
 - > Participating organizations would need to allocate a portion of staff time.
 - > Policies, if passed, use models that shift end of life management costs from consumers and public agencies to brands and manufacturers.
- Barriers
 - > Best achieved through statewide legislation.
 - > A central convener/advocate would need to be found to lead a coalition to advance statewide policy.
- Timeline
 - > Q4 2025: Identify EPR additional EPR programs that have highest potential waste impacts.
 - > 2026: Establish supportive coalition and identify model policies, and bill sponsors
 - > 2027: Introduce legislation

Recommendation #3

Increase Collaboration and Public Education to Recovery and Reuse of Bulky Products

- Description
 - > The region should increase collaboration on education and outreach efforts to support behaviors and programs that focus on “upstream” management (such as reuse and repair) of bulky items like furniture and appliances.
- Who Acts
 - > Local jurisdictions and service providers increase coordination of communications and outreach efforts related to bulky products and materials.
 - > Local jurisdictions require communication and education about reuse and repair opportunities for bulky products from franchised/contracted service providers.
- How is it Funded
 - > Local jurisdictions allocate a small portion of staff time for coordination.
 - > Require service providers to cover costs of outreach and education.
- Barriers
 - > Some jurisdictions may not have dedicated materials management staff or they may already be overcommitted.
- Timeline
 - > Q4 2025: Local jurisdictions begin allocating staff time to regional outreach and education efforts on bulky waste.

Food and Organics Subcommittee

Recommendation Package

Food and Organics Recommendation Summary

DESIRED FUTURE STATE: THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY HAS A COORDINATED APPROACH TO SHARING BEST PRACTICES, COLLABORATING ON ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGNS, AND IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR FOOD WASTE PREVENTION, DONATION AND RECOVERY.

Strategy components

Establish regional coordination group of food waste experts and actors.

Focus on commercial / institutional waste has the greatest potential for impact through prevention, as there is a strong ROI case.

Awareness plays an important role to help recognize the value of prevention and reuse.

Solutions must be adaptable to get buy-in from different actors in different contexts and geographies.

Single family / residential still plays an important role and can't be ignored.

Infrastructure plays an important role in reuse and recovery and is often a constraint.

Great data and collaboration exists, but is not consolidated across the region.

When focusing on recovery, collection, processing and marketing of end product need to happen concurrently .

Organics Recommendation Package



Recommendation #1 Convene a Regional Collaborative Body Focused on Food Waste

A LESS FORMAL NETWORK
THAN REGIONAL WASTE
AUTHORITY THAT BRINGS
TOGETHER LEADERS IN THE
SPACE (LARGELY IN METRO
AND LANE COUNTY) TO
DISEMINATE BEST PRACTICES
AND COORDINATION ACROSS
THE REGION.

- Description
 - > Focus on prevention, donation and recovery.
 - > Share data and program updates.
 - > Create best practice guidance and toolkit for prevention, donation and recovery.
 - > Explore grants or incentives to drive the right behavior .
- Who Acts
 - > Current leaders in food waste (Lane County, Metro and experienced local jurisdictions) provide leadership and share best practices.
 - > DEQ provides guidance, resources, data, and funding.
 - > Local governments refine messaging and support staff training.
 - > Associations partner and amplify messaging, Oregon restaurant and lodging, - focus on campaign.
 - > Non-profits contribute best practices, programming, volunteers.
- How is it Funded
 - > Counties / local governments contribute
 - > Potential RWA funding
 - > Grants
- Barriers
 - > Already a lot of collaborative bodies - don't want to be duplicative.
 - > Funding and capacity for convening group, developing guidance and implementing plan.
- Timeline
 - > 2025/26 Bring together the collaborative body, Identify funding (yr 1), Inventory existing activity in one place (yr 1), develop roadmap
 - > Develop best practice and guidance (yr 2)
 - > Implement plan (yr 3)

Recommendation #2

Food Waste Prevention Focus on Commercial and Institutional Waste

A FOCUS ON AWARENESS, OUTREACH AND PUBLIC SUPPORT TO LARGE FOOD WASTE GENERATORS TO PREVENT WASTE

- Description
 - > Develop Regional awareness campaigns.
 - > Create best practice guidance and toolkit for Institutional prevention programming .
 - > Seek and promote partnerships between food recovery and farmers to support gleaning.
 - > Explore grants or incentives to drive the right behavior.
- Who Acts
 - > Current leaders in food waste - Lane County, Metro and experienced Local Jurisdictions provide leadership and share best practices.
 - > DEQ provides guidance, resources, data, and funding.
 - > Local governments refine messaging, support staff training and implement recommendations.
 - > Associations and non profits partner and amplify messaging, contribute best practices, programming, and volunteers.
 - > Commercial and institutions engage and execute recommendations within their organizations.
- How is it Funded
 - > Local jurisdictions contribute to the best practices and recommended approaches and fund implementation of campaigns and outreach.
 - > Potential corporate sponsorship.
- Barriers
 - > Attitudes and engagement of a broad number of businesses and institutions .
 - > Stimulating actions without incentives can limit broad impact.
 - > Drilling down to operational staff at businesses and institutions can be challenging.
- Timeline
 - > 2025/26: Inventory existing activity and roadmap
 - > 2026: Develop best practice and guidance toolkit
 - > 2027: Implement plan

Recommendation #3

Increase Regional Coordination and Research Around Food Donation in Partnership with Non-profits

CREATE REGIONAL FOOD DONATION DATABASE, CONDUCT GAP ANALYSIS AND SEEK OPPORTUNITIES TO FUND DONATION INFRASTRUCTURE SUCH AS STORAGE AND REFRIGERATION.

- Description
 - > Develop Regional awareness campaigns.
 - > Create best practice guidance and toolkit for Institutional prevention programming.
 - > Seek and promote partnerships between food recovery and farmers to support gleaning.
 - > Explore grants or incentives to drive the right behavior.
- Who Acts
 - > Regional collaboration / public sector leaders help to convene.
 - > Food banks and food rescue orgs can share data, coordinate activities.
 - > Retailers and businesses participate in donation.
 - > Pacific coast food waste commitment (broad guidance to help direct regional approach)
 - > DEQ could fund studies and provide mapping.
- How is it Funded
 - > Grants such as DEQ - materials management grant, private and community foundations, ReFED (catalytic grant).
 - > Local government matching funds.
 - > Corporate sponsorships (waste haulers, food manufacturers, lean manufacturing industry group, food producers).
- Barriers
 - > Funding.
 - > Proper grading and sorting among retail and businesses.
 - > Disaggregated information may be hard to aggregate.
 - > Ensuring that data be useful and accessible for everyone.
 - > So much work already being done - don't want to be duplicative.
- Timeline
 - > 2025/26: Consolidate research, create data visualizations, conduct gap analysis
 - > 2026: Develop plan to increase coordination and improve infrastructure.
 - > 2027: Implement plan

Recommendation #4 Expand commercial, & Single Family Residential Collection

PROVIDE TOOLS AND
TEMPLATES TO EXPAND
COLLECTION, SUPPORT
DEVELOPMENT OF
INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED TO
PROCESS RECOVERED FOOD
AND GUARANTEE MARKETS
FOR COMPOST

- Description
 - > Conduct gap analysis on recovery infrastructure and create playbook and templates such as contract language, buy-back requirements, rfps, etc.
 - > Where quantity is sufficient County or LG issue RFP for processing. Include depackaging capability.
 - > Explore public owned – privately operated compost facility in mid valley.
- Who Acts
 - > Regional waste “authority” could provide overall guidance and roadmap.
 - > Counties develop infrastructure, research, contracting, technical resources.
 - > Local Governments provide contracting, oversight.
 - > Private haulers and processors provide services and investment.
 - > DEQ provides funding and research.
- How is it Funded
 - > Grants – Certa funding, USDA cooperative agreement, ReFED, Closed Loop Partners
 - > If publicly owned, tip fees
 - > Franchise fees
 - > Ratepayers (collection)
- Barriers
 - > Funding
 - > Need tonnage guarantee to access capital funding.
 - > State and local Permitting and land use.
 - > Communities near facilities may oppose siting.
 - > Cost of transport
- Timeline
 - > 2025/26: Conduct gap analysis
 - > 2026: Develop playbook and shared templates
 - > 2027: Expand collection and processing

Built Environment Subcommittee

Recommendation Package

Built Environment Recommendation Summary

DESIRED FUTURE STATE: THE STATE AND THE MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY REGION ARE ALIGNING STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS OREGON'S HOUSING NEEDS BY MAXIMIZING THE USE OF EXISTING STRUCTURES, BUILDING WITH LOW IMPACT MATERIALS, AND DIVERTING REUSABLE MATERIAL FROM LANDFILLS.

Strategy Components

Improve the region's potential for recovery of construction, renovation, and demolition debris.

Create partnerships and systems to aggregate recovered building materials and supply them to builders, especially for housing.

Establish statewide resources and support to assist local governments in applying adaptive building reuse approaches.

Integrate principles of adaptive reuse into state strategies, across multiple agencies, to meet statewide housing needs.

Update state building codes to incentivize the use of more sustainable materials in new construction.

Recommendation #1 Improve Infrastructure for Managing Construction, Renovation, and Demolition Debris

- Description
 - > Identify opportunities at existing and future materials management facilities to recover construction, renovation, and demolition debris and partner with reuse organizations to prioritize reuse of recovered materials, especially for use in construction projects.
- Who Acts
 - > Local jurisdictions and their service providers inventory current properties and facilities to identify spaces or needs for recovery operations.
 - > Local jurisdictions incorporate requirement to includes space for managing construction, renovation, and demolition debris into plans for future transfer facilities.
 - > State/DEQ: Reviews and approves permits for facility changes and new facilities.
- How is it Funded
 - > Tip fees at current or future facilities.
 - > Grant support could also be used to support recovery efforts.
- Barriers
 - > Cost and space
 - > Coordination across jurisdictions and with service providers.
 - > Opposition from some segments of building industry
 - > Distance to/distribution of facilities
- Timeline/Next Steps
 - > Q4 2025: Evaluate existing infrastructure to identify potential to use existing spaces.
 - > 2026: Study and plan for feasibility of adding recovery operations to existing facilities.
 - > 2026: Jurisdictions coordinate planning for future system
 - > 2030: New operations start at existing facilities, construction begins on new facilities

Recommendation #2

Integrate Adaptive Building Reuse into State Housing Strategy and Provide Supportive Resources

- Description
 - > Integrate adaptive reuse policies into Oregon's state housing strategy and provide supportive resources for local governments. Conversion of existing buildings can reduce the need for demolitions and new construction and can take many forms, such as conversion of residential garages, attics, and basements to ADUs, or conversion of Main Street upper floor commercial and office spaces into housing.
- Who Acts
 - > State/DEQ: Provides educational resources to local governments.
 - > State/DEQ: Continues the Low-Embodied Carbon Housing Program, which incentivizes adaptive reuse reports on program effectiveness.
 - > Local jurisdictions advocate for state support.
 - > State integrates adaptive building reuse into housing strategy (across multiple agencies) and provides support to local jurisdictions.
 - > State Task Force (pending) could study and recommend state action.
- How it is Funded
 - > Use of funds already allocated to support housing production in the state.
- Barriers
 - > May require statewide legislation.
 - > Potential opposition if this were perceived to slow down or increase costs or create any barrier to addressing the state's housing shortage
 - > Involves coordination of multiple state agencies and programs
- Timeline
 - > Q4 2025: DEQ continues programs
 - > 2025: DEQ begins providing more education resources to local governments.
 - > 2025: Local governments/SMMP partners advocate for state support.

Recommendation #3 Adopt Policies Requiring Healthier, More Circular Building Materials

- Description
 - > Establish state and/or local building codes that favor the use of materials that are designed for reuse and recycling, and which have lower environmental and health impacts across their lifecycle.
- Who Acts
 - > State creates program at DEQ or in building codes division.
 - > State Task Force (pending) to explore the potential of updating statewide reach codes or allowing local jurisdictions to adopt reach codes.
- How is it Funded
 - > Building permit applications, development fees, and/or tip fees associated with disposition of construction, renovation, and demolition debris.
- Barriers
 - > Perceived costs/barriers to building and development
 - > Requires state action
- Timeline
 - > 2026 – Recommendations from State Task Force
 - > 2027 – Policy introduced to legislature
 - > 2029-2030: More favorable code environment to sustainable materials enacted and supportive program at DEQ in place.