Lane County
Solid Waste Management Plan
2019

Prepared for:
Lane County Public Works
Waste Management Division

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A Changing Vision

Solid Waste Recovery to Materials Management

Oregon DEQ Solid Waste Hierarchy. Lane County residents currently landfill over 250,000 tons of waste annually. Per Oregon DEQ, roughly two-thirds of this material could be composted, recycled, or recovered for energy.
Moving forward, WMD aims to:

• **Reduce long-term per capita waste generation** through waste prevention, reuse and repair, and to increase the amount of materials recovered through recycling, remanufacture and energy recovery.

• **Partner with others on “upstream” efforts** including product stewardship, reduction of consumption, and legislative/policy development.

• **Reduce greenhouse gas impacts to both the local and global environment** by increased recovery of organics, identifying best practices and deployment of technology over time.

• **Maintain system flexibility** to respond to changing waste management technologies, public preferences, regulations and circumstances.

• **Seek opportunities to reduce costs to residents** through the sale of materials and energy commodities as well as landfill space to other communities needing a public partner.

• **Reduce Lane County’s environmental footprint** by implementing Best Management Practices in waste management planning and operations to maintain healthy air quality, water quality, and long-term livability.

• **Provide a high level of customer service** to the people of Lane County.

• **Develop and maintain a sound funding basis** for the solid waste management system.

• **Invest in a strong, diverse, and sustainable regional economy.**

• **Foster a regional manufacturing economy with locally collected materials**, supporting local and regional job creation and increasing flexibility to changing market conditions.
Functional Facilities

Facilities strategies relate to equipment, internal policy, planning, and recycling. Through *functional facilities*, we can better serve our communities, partners, haulers, and environment.

Associated strategies:

1. Develop uncompacted material recovery capacity (public or private) for processing loose waste from transfer stations.
2. Maintain and enhance efficiency, security and safety through operational practices and equipment acquisitions (annually in pre-budget process).
3. Explore new proven alternative methods of waste treatment and recovery.
4. Develop plan for siting new Central Transfer Station.
5. Develop and Execute a Rural Transfer Station Enhanced Operational Efficiency and Recovery Plan.
6. Explore/develop a long-term strategy for leachate management.
7. Work with federal, state and regulatory agencies to develop short- and long-range plans for landfill expansion and mitigation of development impacts.
8. Identify facility/capacity expansion potential of private recyclers or other local government entities, with a goal toward increasing recycling opportunities and markets/options.
9. Reduce greenhouse gas and particulate air emissions in WMD operations.
Management strategies relate to advocacy, analysis, internal policy, metrics, and planning. Through *strategic management*, we are more likely to reach our 63% waste diversion goal, improve our performance, and explore new opportunities.

**Lane County’s 2025 Waste Recovery Goal**

63%

**Associated strategies:**

1. Achieve Lane County’s stated goal of 63% waste recovery by 2025.
2. Review feasibility and benefits of establishing collection service franchises for unincorporated areas, initiate as appropriate.
3. Develop improved county-wide data collection and reporting system to assess effectiveness of programs and policies, e.g. participation rates of yard debris, commercial, food waste and multifamily recycling programs by city.
4. Explore feasibility and benefits of establishing a Waste Management Joint Powers Authority (JPA) with urban cities or countywide if interest is there.
5. Review current IGAs with cities to explore additional partnership value or opportunities (e.g., consistency, coordination, additional benefits).
7. Support product stewardship and extended producer responsibility legislation and policy creation at state and federal level.
8. Recommend and support adoption of Recycled Content Product Procurement Standards for Lane County government departments; encourage purchasing of products that contain post-consumer recycled materials with emphasis on locally recovered materials.
9. Implement waste prevention campaigns in County departments as demonstration project for broader business waste prevention efforts.
Valuable Partnerships

Partnership strategies relate to agreements, communication, contracts, and stakeholder participation. Through valuable partnerships, we can cultivate stronger coordination, improve opportunities and reach new audiences.

Associated strategies:
1. Pursue stronger interagency coordination and/or planning with private industry to explore options for economic development and increased recovery
2. Develop relationships with partners in rural communities to engage in locally applicable waste prevention or recycling efforts
3. Re-establish the Resource Recovery Advisory Committee to the Board of County Commissioners, or establish a Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Effective Programs

Programs strategies relate to organics, the reduction, reuse, and recycling of materials, and safe disposal. Through effective programs, we can increase waste recovery and keep communities safe from hazardous waste.

Associated strategies:
1. Increase and improve organics collection programs county-wide.
2. Increase participation, recovery rate and quality of Business Recycling Programs county-wide.
3. Increase quality, recovery and participation in Residential curbside recycling programs.
4. Improve Multifamily recycling access. Prepare for state rule change that all multi-family tenants have opportunity to recycle by 2025.
5. Increase Accessibility for non-English speakers in all program functions, materials and outreach.
6. Support local efforts to increase the prevention of wasted food that is suitable for feeding people or animals.
7. Increase scope and reach of educational messages to new audiences and new platforms to explain the upstream and climate impacts of our waste habits.
8. Increase reach of Master Recycler Program activities with effective tools, resources and planning.
9. Implement online reporting and other tools or systems to facilitate community leadership.
10. Develop business waste prevention, buy recycled campaigns focused on high impact material types or business sectors.
12. Develop residential and business HHW outreach/education program.
13. Develop reuse program of usable HHW products.
15. Expand the load check program as necessary to prevent prohibited waste and identify recycling and other diversion opportunities.
16. Increase the use of Lane County’s Hazardous Waste disposal system by Conditionally Exempt Generators (CEGs).
Sustainable Revenue

Revenue strategies relate to existing or new income and rates. Through **sustainable revenue**, we can study innovative ways to create revenue while keeping costs and fees fair.

Associated strategies:
1. Encourage the continuation and expansion of methane gas capture/use program.
2. Examine actual disposal costs and System Benefit Fee program costs to ensure fees are accurate.
3. Evaluate waste importation to Short Mountain Landfill.
The SWMP will guide the Waste Management Division not only on the path to the **2025 diversion goal**, but toward functional facilities, strategic management, valuable partnerships, effective programs, and sustainable revenue.

- Through *functional facilities*, we can better serve our communities, partners, haulers, and environment.
- Through *strategic management*, we are more likely to reach our 63% waste diversion goal, improve our performance, and explore new opportunities.
- Through *valuable partnerships*, we can cultivate stronger coordination, improve opportunities and reach new audiences.
- Through *effective programs*, we can increase waste recovery and keep communities safe from hazardous waste.
- Through *sustainable revenue*, we can study innovative ways to create revenue while keeping costs and fees fair.

We can get there.