



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Innovation. Collaboration. Practical Solutions.

MEMO

DATE: June 30, 2017
TO: Mayor Wheeler and City Commissioners
FROM: Susan Anderson, Director
SUBJECT: Portland Recycles! Progress Report and Action Plan

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

We are pleased to submit the *Portland Recycles! Progress Report and Action Plan* for a City Council public hearing on August 3, 2017. The report documents substantial progress toward the goals set in the 2008 *Portland Recycles! Plan*, which aimed to increase the overall sustainability of the garbage and recycling collection system by identifying ways to improve efficiency, equity, economic vitality, and worker safety while reducing environmental and human health impacts. Additional goals were to minimize the impact of toxics and greenhouse gas emissions, reduce waste generation below 2005 levels, and increase waste recovery to 75 percent by 2015.

Report highlights Portland's recycling success story

Portland's recycling, composting, and garbage collection system evolved significantly from 2005 to 2015 as a result of the many policies and program changes directed by the *Portland Recycles! Plan*.

- In 2008 Portland residents received recycling and composting roll carts and an expansion of the plastics accepted in the curbside recycling. Following the 2011 program changes that brought weekly food scrap and yard debris collection (and a corresponding switch to every-other-week garbage collection), the garbage collected curbside dropped by a third while the amount of composting collected more than doubled.
- Businesses and other organizations in Portland also increased participation in recycling and food scrap collection. All Portland businesses were notified of the requirement to recycle paper and containers in 2009. Food scraps collected voluntarily by businesses doubled, with over 1,200 organizations currently collecting food scraps for recovery.
- The City established a cross-bureau team that has collaborated to support sustainable procurement practices and increased recycling and food scrap collection.
- Garbage and recycling companies are required to use 20 percent biodiesel in their diesel trucks and replace their older, polluting trucks with cleaner vehicles.
- The City installed 165 recycling containers alongside downtown public garbage cans in 2009.



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1900 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 7100, Portland, OR 97201 | phone: 503-823-7700 | fax: 503-823-7800 | tty: 503-823-6868

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- Since 2010 the Resourceful PDX campaign has helped residents reduce waste by giving them tools and ideas for getting their needs met through reuse, borrowing and sharing, fixing and maintaining, and making smart purchasing decisions.
- Portland City Council banned plastic retail bags in 2011, significantly reducing the number of plastic bags causing problems for recycling facilities.
- In 2016 City Council encouraged salvage and reuse of valuable construction materials by requiring deconstruction rather than demolition for Portland's oldest and most historic houses.

These changes paid off. Portland's discard management system is operating more sustainably, the program is a visible symbol of Portland's green values, and we have either met or made great strides towards our goals.

We achieved our goal of halting growth in the waste stream. Despite an 18 percent population boost, Portland residents and businesses generated two percent less waste in 2015 than we did in 2005, a per capita drop of 13 percent. Portland's recovery rate also increased from 63 percent to 70 percent during the same decade. While we missed our goal of 75 percent recovery, we did achieve a recovery rate that is twice the national average.

Climate Action Plan sets course ahead for 2030

Since the *Portland Recycles! Plan*, City Council has adopted the *2015 Climate Action Plan* and *Sustainable City Government Principles*, which together establish new sustainable materials management goals and objectives aimed at a 2030 horizon. The policies reflect priorities set by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality in its *2012 Materials Management in Oregon: 2050 Vision and Framework for Action*.

Next Steps on Priority Projects

Food scrap collection at food-generating businesses: Since 2008 Portland businesses that process, prepare, cook or sell food have been required to separate their food scraps for collection. With adequate food scrap processing capacity now available, Portland is planning to ramp up education efforts and help businesses meet the requirement. Metro is developing a region-wide requirement similar to Portland's that will be phased in over several years, starting with the largest food generators in 2019. Portland is working with regional partners to coordinate outreach and enforcement efforts to align with Metro's timeline.

Improved recycling and equitable service provision at multifamily properties: More and more Portlanders live in multifamily buildings, and this trend is projected to continue. A recent regional study found multifamily households are provided less recycling service than single-family households and have more non-recyclable materials in the recycling. The diverse residents in multifamily homes deserve garbage and recycling collection service that meets their needs and expectations and furthers system performance goals. BPS is working with regional partners to develop a proposal to improve multifamily residents' access to recycling services and facilitate collection of high-quality recyclable materials.

Staff Recommendation

Bureau of Planning and Sustainability staff recommend that City Council accept the *Portland Recycles! Progress Report and Action Plan* provided in Exhibit A.



869

Agenda No.
REPORT
 Title

Accept the Portland Recycles! Progress Report and Action Plan, dated August 2017 (Report)

INTRODUCED BY Commissioner/Auditor: Wheeler	CLERK USE: DATE FILED <u>JUL 25 2017</u>
COMMISSIONER APPROVAL Mayor—Finance & Administration - Wheeler <i>W</i> Position 1/Utilities - Fritz Position 2/Works - Fish Position 3/Affairs - Saltzman Position 4/Safety - Eudaly	Mary Hull Caballero Auditor of the City of Portland By: <i>M. Caballero</i> Deputy ACTION TAKEN: AUG 03 2017 ACCEPTED
BUREAU APPROVAL Bureau: BPS Bureau Head: Susan Anderson <i>Joe Anderson</i> Prepared by: Arianne Sperry Date Prepared: July 7, 2017 Impact Statement Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amends Budget <input type="checkbox"/> City Auditor Office Approval: required for Code Ordinances City Attorney Approval: required for contract, code, easement, franchise, charter, Comp Plan Council Meeting Date 8/3/2017	

AGENDA TIME CERTAIN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Start time: 2:10pm (A) Total amount of time needed: 15 (for presentation, testimony and discussion) CONSENT <input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR <input type="checkbox"/> Total amount of time needed: _____ (for presentation, testimony and discussion)	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA</th> <th colspan="2">COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>YEAS</th> <th>NAYS</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1. Fritz</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Fish</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Saltzman</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Eudaly</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wheeler</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:			YEAS	NAYS	1. Fritz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		2. Fish	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		3. Saltzman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		4. Eudaly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Wheeler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
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