

REDUCE WASTE

Waste reduction has been a focus of the City’s sustainability program since its inception. However, recent changes to the recycling industry and increasing awareness of plastic pollution, and the shipment of waste to developing countries has resulted in public interest and additional attention on waste management. Reducing waste output requires a collective effort on behalf of individuals, government, and industry to educate, develop policy, and create alternatives.

Lake Oswego was the first city in Clackamas County to offer curbside composting to its residents. It also has a lower recycling contamination rate than surrounding cities. A recently passed plastic bag ordinance remains one of the most comprehensive policies of its type in the state. However, consumption still remains high in Lake Oswego and with high consumption comes high disposal. In a 2012 Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Goods and Foods combined accounted for 38% of community greenhouse gas emissions. There are many promising opportunities to reduce waste in Lake Oswego, from the newly opened Library of Things at the Public Library, to having access to locally produced food at Luscher Farm, to commercial food waste composting policies. Businesses are also playing an important role in waste reduction by moving away from single use plastic serviceware to durable, or recyclable paper options. Working with our partners at Clackamas County, Metro, Republic Services, and community groups, Lake Oswego can edge closer to zero waste, reduce emissions, and reduce pollution of our natural resources.

Supporting Plans and Policies:

Metro Regional Waste Plan, Oregon Senate Bill 236 Recovery Goals, Oregon DEQ Materials Management Vision

Goal	Responsibility	Timeline	Climate/Equity Benefits
WR1: Explore pilot projects with franchised waste hauler to audit community waste output	Sustainability, Republic Services	2 years	CM
WR2: Move to all paperless agenda packets for City Council and Boards and Commissions meetings	City Recorder, Boards and Commissions	1 year	CM
WR3: City to purchase solar self-compacting garbage cans for outdoor City owned facilities	Facilities, Parks, Public Works	4 years	

Goal	Responsibility	Timeline	Climate/Equity Benefits
<p>WR4: City to work with businesses to decrease the usage of single use hospitality items</p> <p><i>Implementation Actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select pilot group of business owners to test durable alternatives to single use plastic and reusable dishware exchange program • Provide educational workshops on consumer options • Partner with outside organizations to provide materials, run workshops, and work with business owners on reducing reliance on single use items 	Sustainability, Community Groups	2 years	
<p>WR5: City to eliminate use of all single use plastic or “compostable” bioplastic serviceware (cutlery, cups, mugs, dishes, bags, and straws) at City run or sponsored events and meetings, including Boards and Commissions and City Council, and replace with reusable, bamboo, wood, or paper alternatives compliant with Lake Oswego recycling guidelines by 2025.</p> <p><i>Implementation Actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforce requirement through Council resolution • Identify supply source to allow for easier purchasing • Ensure staff liaisons have tools to comply 	CMO, Parks and Recreation, City Council, Boards and Commissions	5 years	
<p>WR6: City to continue support for the Farmer’s Market and Community Supported Agriculture program, while exploring additional opportunities for community gardens, edible landscaping, and local food banks.</p> <p><i>Implementation Actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue partnership between CSA and Oregon Green Schools to bring more food from Luscher Farm to LOSD • Continue support for local food gleaning organizations, like Hunger Fighters 	Parks and Recreation, Water Conservation, Community Organizations	Ongoing	

Goal	Responsibility	Timeline	Climate/Equity Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Water Conservation to develop demonstration garden that uses plants that filter stormwater, and are edible 			
<p>WR7: Support efforts to reuse, repair, and donate items to minimize community contributions to the waste stream</p> <p><i>Implementation Actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to host Clackamas County Repair Fairs Expand the Library program, “Library of Things” Continue to shift focus of Community Clean Up Day from bulky waste disposal to donations to community organizations Investigate holding community events that highlight reuse, such as Recycled Trash Fashion Show, Library talks, and hands-on workshops 	Sustainability, Library, Clackamas County, Community Groups	Ongoing	CM

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Calculate your household carbon footprint
- Reduce food waste using tools like Clackamas County’s Eat Smart, Waste Less resources
- Shop at the Lake Oswego Farmers Market for local produce
- Repair, reuse, and properly recycle durable goods
- Use Lake Oswego’s curbside composting program
- Consult the City website for information on how to minimize single use plastic usage in your life
- Reduce emissions by buying local
- Use the Metro Recycle or Not website to learn how to properly recycle
- Use the Lake Oswego Library’s Library of Things to borrow what you don’t need to buy
- Buy secondhand goods, avoid “fast” fashion, and purchase items made from recycled material
- Dispose of electronics properly through the Oregon E-Cycle program
- Fix what you can before you replace it- attend Fix It Fairs at the Library

ENHANCE PUBLIC EDUCATION

More than passing ordinances and resolutions, increasing educational opportunities for residents on topics related to sustainability will encourage changes in behavior and help individuals to feel empowered rather than overwhelmed. Using online tools and in person workshops and presentations, educational opportunities should be made accessible to all. A good example is the outreach program run through the Water Conservation department, which focuses on helping residents implement water saving practices and technologies in their homes and gardens. Through a mixture of on-site visits, videos, and publications, the water conservation program works to reach as many Lake Oswego residents as possible each spring and summer.

Goal	Responsibility	Timeline	Climate/Equity Benefits
PE1: Strategically highlight the sustainability elements of City projects through existing communications and outreach channels.	Public Affairs, Sustainability	Ongoing	
PE2: Identify opportunities to share value of sustainability efforts to community through new communication channels <i>Implementation Actions:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Sustainability Dashboard for website • Bi-annual Community Sustainability Survey • Make better use of social media to answer sustainability questions and publicize new programs 	Public Affairs, IT, Sustainability	3 years	
PE3: Partner with outside organizations to host sustainability education events for the community in public spaces <i>Implementation Actions:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold presentations and talks at the Library on a semi-annual basis • Screen movies on sustainability topics • Invite organizations to hold meetings and panels in Lake Oswego 	Sustainability, Library, Parks	Ongoing	

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Attend workshops, lectures, and fairs to learn more about what you can do
- Watch some of the documentaries available on Kanopy, through the Lake Oswego Library
- Check out the City's Sustainability website, which has lots of information to help you learn!
- Get your community or network to do an EcoChallenge through the NW Earth Institute
- Talk to a Master Recycler or Master Gardener