

WM Portland Recycling Facility

After 30 years as a national leader in recycling, Oregon is modernizing its recycling system in far-reaching ways. The vision is for a statewide system that delivers environmental benefits, equity and economic opportunity along with stable system financing and defined responsibilities for product producers.

Achieving this vision will require new technologies and capital investment. As a champion for recycling and the leader in recycling technology across North America, WM is poised to support Oregon's sustainable future.

WM's proposal is to build a state-of-the-art recycling facility in Portland.

Overview

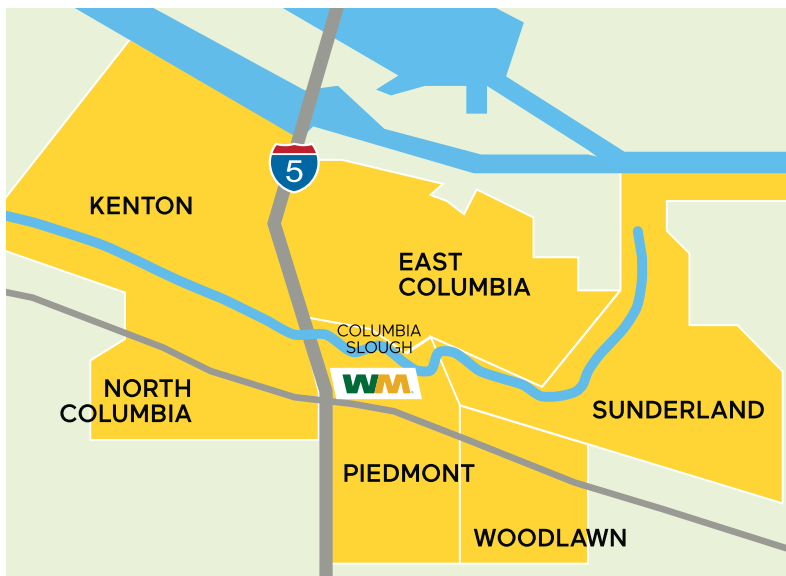
WM is proposing to bring world-class recycling technology and automation-skilled jobs to the greater Portland region in 2024. The WM Portland Recycling Facility will be designed specifically to enhance the single stream system that's now in place in the City of Portland and area communities, allowing residents, businesses and schools to combine all of their recyclables (except glass) in one container.

The WM facility will receive recyclables from businesses and communities and will use the world's most advanced technology to sort materials and meet new and unprecedented global requirements for material quality and cleanliness.

The result? Less landfill waste and more recyclables to be made into new products.

The WM Portland Recycling Facility is planned for an industrial site at 701 North Hunt Street in North Portland, just east of I-5 and south of Delta Park and Portland Meadows. WM owns the property and currently uses it to store and repair recycling and waste containers. It's in the Columbia Corridor, an area that's designated for industrial operations and working to increase middle-wage jobs.





Propose Site

701 North Hunt Street
Portland, OR 97217

- For more information about the WM Portland Recycling Facility, [visit the WM website](#).
- Learn more about WM's recycling leadership at sustainability.wm.com.
- Learn more about the [Oregon Recycling Modernization Act](#).
- Email questions and comments to recyclingnw@wm.com.

What will happen at the new facility?

The WM Portland Recycling Facility will sort recyclables (up to 250–300 tons per day) so they can be made into new products.

Once recyclables arrive by truck, WM will use the most advanced technologies available to separate items into specific commodity groups – paper, cardboard, metals, plastic water bottles, plastic tubs and jugs. Sorting will happen as materials move on conveyor belts through a proprietary configuration of technologies. We will then bale materials by commodity and transport them to end markets to be made into new products. Think new paper, cardboard, soup cans, water bottles and even park benches and clothing – all made from recycled materials.

What's special about the WM technology?

The new facility will feature cutting-edge, proprietary technology and equipment. With WM's world-class design, the facility will be among the most efficient and high-tech single stream recycling facilities in North America:

- Artificial intelligence, robotics, optical sorters and volumetric scanners to increase overall recycling capacity and the capture rate for the most environmentally significant materials – aluminum cans, paper and cardboard, and plastic water bottles
- Technology that reduces contamination, resulting in more recyclables processed to meet stringent and ever-increasing quality standards so manufacturers can make them into new products
- Improved maintenance as a result of technology and automation, for less down time and greater efficiency

What about neighborhood impacts such as traffic, noise or odor?

No noticeable increases in traffic or noise are anticipated in this industrial area. Traffic is projected at 35 to 45 incoming trucks per day. Noise is expected to be similar to current levels. Also, material accepted at the facility will be limited to the dry recyclables (paper, cardboard, cans, bottles, etc.) that are collected in recycling carts and containers and do not generate odors.

What kind of jobs will be available?

The WM Portland Recycling Facility will create approximately 20 new automation-skilled, middle-wage jobs in North Portland. Hiring will begin in early 2024. College degrees will not be required for all positions, and WM will provide rigorous training for safety and continuous improvement. Jobs will be posted at [wm.com](https://www.wm.com).

All employees will receive comprehensive benefits, including 100% tuition for employees and eligible family members for 135 college programs, including bachelor's degrees in business, technology science and mathematics. Employees can even finish high school, take college prep courses and earn professional certifications. Learn more at [wm.guildeducation.com/partner](https://www.wm.com/guildeducation.com/partner).

Why WM?

Sustainability is WM's core business. This investment reflects WM's longstanding commitment to helping Oregon communities and businesses achieve bold sustainability goals. As North America's leading recycler and a champion for recycling technology and innovation, WM is committed to helping Oregon modernize its recycling system and sustain its leadership role for recycling innovation.

Why now?

The need for cutting-edge recycling technology and ultra-efficient operations in Oregon has never been greater:

- The Oregon Recycling Modernization Act challenges product producers, local governments and the recycling industry to work together to modernize the statewide system and deliver essential benefits.
- Globally, the demand for recycled material is surging while market requirements for material quality and cleanliness are higher than ever. Oregon needs technology investment to improve recycling efficiency, grow capacity and meet rigorous market requirements.
- WM's investment and proprietary technology can help Oregon accelerate its plan to modernize recycling!



How is WM approaching this with the community?

Local WM managers are talking with neighbors and area residents to explain the technology and answer questions. This includes meeting with community-based organizations, neighborhood associations and community leaders.

What is the process for community input and permitting?

The site is currently zoned for this new facility and will be constructed to meet all permit requirements from the City of Portland and Oregon DEQ. The permitting processes ensure multiple opportunities for public review and comment.

Among the requirements is a transfer station permit, which is necessary so the facility can accept a broadening range of recyclables, including hard-to-recycle materials such as plastic film/bags, clam shells and household batteries from commercial customers and communities with the Recycle+ program. The facility will accept these materials in addition to dry recyclables (paper, cardboard, cans, bottles, etc.) now collected in recycling carts and containers through the single stream system that's now in place in the City of Portland and area communities.

We welcome community input and will proactively invite feedback on social media. Information is available [at the WM website](#). You may email questions and comments to recyclingnw@wm.com.

What are the environmental benefits?

Recycling helps save precious natural resources, including energy and water. It also reduces GHG emissions that impact climate change.

At this new facility, WM's use of advanced technologies to sort recyclables will produce consistently clean, high-quality feedstock for manufacturing into new products and packages. Using recycled content in new products and packages plays an important role in reducing the GHG emissions associated with the extraction and use of virgin materials, supporting the [Oregon's 2050 Materials Management Vision](#).

