



City of Salem Solid Waste Committee

Hybrid Meeting – Youtube and in person at the Parkway Building, 440 Church St
SE, Room PA4-307* (4th Floor)
Thursday, May 21, 2026, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

View Via YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQLj9RKZNHu4wfYcs_TC0TA

Si necesita ayuda para comprender esta información, por favor llame 503-588-6274

PARTICIPANTS

Committee Members

Councilor Linda Nishioka, Chair
Councilor Irvin Brown
Councilor Deanna Gwyn
Councilor Micki Varney

Staff

Josh Eggleston, Chief Financial Officer
Kali Leinenbach, Budget Manager
Shengnan Thomas, Management Analyst I

Guests

Julianah Douglas, Climate Action Plan Manager
Ryan Zink, Public Safety Business Administration Manager (former Franchise Administrator)
Shane Kuenzi, Suburban Garbage Service
Sarah Steen, Republic Services

AGENDA

1. Welcome and call to order
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. March 19, 2026, Minutes
3. Public Comment – Appearance of persons wishing to address the Committee on any solid waste matters
 - a. Correspondence from Thomas Lancefield regarding waste reduction efforts
 - b. Correspondence from Kyle Elwood regarding recycling
 - c. Correspondence from Debra Neville regarding Polk County recycling
 - d. Correspondence from Kim Davis regarding waste reduction
 - e. Correspondence from Karla Iverson regarding recycling
 - f. Correspondence from Michael Brown regarding recycling schedule
 - g. Correspondence from John Livingston regarding Salem recycling
 - h. Correspondence from Deanne Ford regarding recycling education
 - i. Correspondence from Rian Rasubala regarding waste management
 - j. Correspondence from Eleonore Bode-Lemming regarding plastic usage

- k. Correspondence from Robert C. regarding additional recyclers
- l. Correspondence from Eleonore Bode-Lemming regarding recyclable containers for restaurant take-out
- m. Correspondence from Cheryl Hummon regarding public comment process and solid waste reduction
- n. Correspondence from Debbie Miller regarding waste reduction policy
- o. Correspondence from Ana Cristina Jacobo regarding thoughts of waste
- p. Correspondence from Jen Fujii regarding waste reduction policy
- q. Correspondence from Haley Lehman regarding waste reduction policy statement
- r. Correspondence from Alyssa Lutz regarding waste reduction policy feedback
- s. Correspondence from Rick Tobias regarding waste reduction policy
- t. Correspondence from Roz Shirack regarding waste reduction policy
- u. Correspondence from Karon Cook. regarding waste reduction policy
- v. Correspondence from Jim Scheppke regarding waste reduction policy statement
- w. Correspondence from Diane Warren regarding fast food takeout containers
- x. Correspondence from Gina Wenger regarding waste reduction
- y. Correspondence from Carol Grimwood regarding landfill waste disposal

4. Action Items

None

5. Management Update/Information Items

- a. Upcoming events – N/A
- b. Waste Reduction Policy Statement – Julianah Douglas
 - i. Discussion

6. Other

- a. Councilor Update
 - i. Marion County Materials Management Advisory Council (MMAC) May Meeting – Councilor Nishioka
- b. Solid Waste Hauler Updates
 - i. Collection on one-side of the street
 - ii. Certain commercial recycling services

7. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 18, 2026, 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

This meeting is being conducted in person with the option to participate remotely. Interested persons may view the meeting online on [YouTube](#). To sign up to testify or to submit public comments, contact the Finance Department via email at finance@cityofsalem.net or telephone at 503-588-6040 by 5 p.m. one day prior to the day of the meeting.

Special accommodations are available, upon request, for persons with disabilities or those needing sign language interpretation, or languages other than English. To request accommodations or services, please call 503-540-2371 (TTD/TTY 503-588-6439) at least two business days in advance.

It is the City of Salem's policy to assure that no person shall be discriminated against on the grounds of race, religion, color, sex, marital status, familial status, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and source of income, as provided by Salem Revised Code 97. The City of Salem also fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and related statutes and regulations, in all programs and

activities.

*During Civic Center seismic improvements, the in-person portion of the hybrid meeting will take place in the Parkway building located at 440 Church Street. When entering from Bellevue St SE, take the first left and continue straight into the parking lot. You will enter the building and follow signage to the elevator and select the 5th floor. Staff will come to greet you and bring you to the meeting room which is located on the 4th floor.

CITY OF SALEM SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

Minutes

DATE: March 19, 2026

PLACE: Parkway Building PA4-307 (440 Church St SE, RM PA4-307)

CHAIRPERSON: Linda Nishioka

STAFF LIAISON: Kali Leinenbach, Budget Manager 503-588-6231 KLeinenbach@cityofsalem.net

View recording via YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFmigpa7wpc>

Members Present:

Councilor Linda Nishioka - Chair
Councilor Deanna Gwyn
Councilor Micki Varney

Members Absent:

Councilor Irvin Brown

Staff Present:

Josh Eggleston, Chief Financial Officer
Kali Leinenbach, Budget Manager
Ryan Zink, Public Safety Business Administration Manager (joined at 12:04 PM)
Julianah Douglas, Climate Action Plan Manager
Shengnan Thomas, Management Analyst I

Guest Present:

Brian May, Marion County
Shane Kuenzi, Suburban Garbage Service
Derek Neliton, D&O Garbage & Recycling– virtual
Casey Reyes, Loren's Sanitation – virtual

1. CALL TO ORDER: 12:00 PM / Quorum

2. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES
 - a. February 19, 2025
Motion was moved by Member Gwyn and seconded by Member Varney, and carried by the following vote:

Aye: Unanimous
Nay: None
Abstentions: None

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Jim Scheppeke, 350 Salem made comments regarding leachate pollution.

4. ACTION ITEMS

- a. None

5. MANAGEMENT UPDATE / INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Upcoming Events - None

- b. Opportunity to Recycle Report Information by Julianah Douglas

Questions and comments: Chair Nishioka; Member Gwyn

Answers and explanations: Josh Eggleston, Chief Financial Officer; Kali Leinenbach, Budget Manager; Ryan Zink, Public Safety Business Administration Manager; Julianah Douglas, Climate Action Plan Manager

- c. Waste Reduction Policy Statement by Julianah Douglas

Questions and comments: Chair Nishioka; Members Gwyn and Varney

Answers and explanations: Josh Eggleston, Chief Financial Officer; Kali Leinenbach, Budget Manager

Motion to direct staff to send presentation to March 26 Neighborhood Chair Meeting, send Council Solid Waste Policy to Neighborhood Associations in April for public testimony, and discuss further in the May meeting moved by Chair Nishioka, seconded by Member Gwyn, and carried by the following vote:

Aye: Unanimous
Nay: None
Abstentions: None

6. OTHER

- a. Member Update

- i. Marion County Materials Management Advisory Council (MMAC) March Meeting Update by Councilor Nishioka and Brian May

Questions and comments: Chair Nishioka; Members Gwyn and Varney; Josh Eggleston, Chief Financial Officer

Answers and explanations: Brian May, Marion County; Kali Leinenbach, Budget Manager; Ryan Zink, Public Safety Business Administration Manager; Julianah Douglas, Climate Action Plan Manager

7. ADJOURNMENT: 1:12 pm

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 12:00 pm

From: [Thomas Lancefield](#)
To: [Franchise](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]re Waste Reduction Efforts
Date: Friday, March 27, 2026 22:08:37

Food Waste was mentioned as making up ~ 24% of material in the waste stream. There is the usual mention of consumer education efforts. But I wonder, with so many grocery stores and restaurants offering steam trays of cooked food, how much of the food waste is from such commercial establishments?

I've read about or watched a few TV programs on successful organized efforts in other parts of the U.S. to collect restaurant food that would otherwise be discarded, and provide it to charities, etc. My recollection is that it takes a group of unusually dedicated volunteers (or paid workers?) to show up every day in early morning to collect such food donations. It would be a hard job, and might cost the restaurant a bit more in wages than simply throwing leftover food away.

Maybe some cities are pressuring restaurants or groceries to participate in such programs? There would surely be a lot of food that reaches its "sell by" date and is likely to be tossed, even though it is probably safe to eat. I don't know what laws or regulations on food safety create obstacles to utilizing leftover commercial food. I don't think this "commercial food waste" issue receives much coverage.

Tom Lancefield
Salem resident

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From: [Kyle Elwood](#)
To: [Franchise](#)
Cc: [Kyle Elwood](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]re: Recycling
Date: Saturday, March 28, 2026 7:03:59

Hi,

The modest expansion of recyclable items is good. However, governments at all levels, city, county, state and federal need to get serious about super-charging the recycling process.

A lot can be done to recycle significant amounts of material (secondary resources). For example: 1] state government: keep expanding the bottle bill to include more items. Also, 2] require all take-out cold drinks to use cups made from the same, highly-recyclable plastic (the same plastic used in the manufacture of carbonated beverage bottles). Charge a dime for them and require collection at curbside. Use the funds collected to pay solid waste companies to collect at curbside

and distribute to bottle/cup manufacturers to recycle. 3] Use this method to keep adding more

materials to recycling opportunities. 4] Restrict the use of some packaging materials and ban the use of the most troublesome packaging materials. 5] recycling fees on products purchased can be used to expand recycling opportunities in various ways. 6] Use incentives and disincentives to facilitate manufacturer rapid compliance and active involvement in moving improvements forward. 7] Even retailers can be pressured to become more involved. Example, Kroger provides

a free mechanism to ship plastic packaging collected from Kroger products back to them for recycling.

The stalling has to end.

Thanks

for giving us an opportunity to comment.

Kyle Elwood

Salem

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From: [Debra Neville](#)
To: [Franchise](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Polk County
Date: Saturday, March 28, 2026 11:00:03

Hi,

Most of your literature refers to Marion County. I live in Polk. Can I follow the same guidelines and locations for recycling?

Thank you

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From: [Kim Davis](#)
To: [Franchise](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]waste reduction comments
Date: Monday, March 30, 2026 10:37:05

please require hauling companies to provide options for smaller size compostable materials cans. the large bins are too large for single person households that may not include yard debris and typically have less space for bins. There is need for this among single family, duplex and multifamily housing and most rentals throughout salem. Apartments and condominiums need to provide organic collection options as well. We need to keep food waste out of the landfill. please also consider finding a way to provide free compost to city residents who contribute their food waste, otherwise known as black gold... we are rapidly losing nutrients in our soils and are failing to replace it.

require hauling companies to offer less frequent trash pickups with more significant reduction in costs to encourage households to reduce waste

hauling rates based on weight has been effective in many communities.

make roadside pick up for hazardous waste events more frequent.

increase fines for all roadside dumping

provide reduced cost options for trash hauling for low income households to avoid roadside dumping

thanks.

kim

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From: [Karla Iverson](#)
To: [Franchise](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Recycling
Date: Monday, March 30, 2026 19:58:56

Hello,

I want to let you know how happy I am about the addition of types 1 and 5 to the recycling. I've become so aware of this that I have passed up items I would have purchased because the containers were not 1 or 5. I get some nice satisfaction from being able to put these two types of containers in the recycling bin.

I try not to buy plastic containers in other ways. I always opt for glass when that option is available for food items like mayonnaise, salad dressings, etc. I'd love to see more emphasis on glass containers, too.

Thanks for your efforts. I really appreciate your changes.

Karla Iverson

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From: mbonline@aol.com
To: [Franchise](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]recycling scheduling every 2 weeks DESPITE society emphasis on recycling?
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 6:54:44

Good morning,

Michael Brown here (longtime Salem resident). I am a big proponent of recycling. After moving back to Salem in 2008, I noticed the recycling cans being emptied by the garbage companies every other week (garbage is weekly). Over the last 18 years I always see the "push" for recycling by society as a whole. I actually recycle more now than I did in 2008.

However, it is baffling to me that the recycling is still picked up every 2 weeks. I often have my bin overflowing. WHY can we not pick up recycle every week? I have called my local garbage service and it seems a matter of money. I am just wondering - as it doesn't make sense - that after ALL these years, we are trying to promote recycling but are still stuck after 20 years on the same old 2 week schedule?

Michael Brown
5936 Barcelona Dr. SE
Salem

503 508 9475

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From: [John Livingston](#)
To: [Franchise](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Salem Recycling
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 19:11:37

If there is a lot of contamination going in the recycle bins, then the public needs to know how to improve what goes in. I am 100% behind all the recycling efforts and before we add more items to our list we need to reduce contamination. Thanks for listening. John Livingston

“Climate change is going to change everything, but the problem has always been that it is happening cataclysmically fast on a geological scale and far too slowly on a human perception scale.”

David Wallace-Wells, *The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming*

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From: [Robert Ford](#)
To: [Franchise](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Garbage and Recycling
Date: Saturday, April 4, 2026 20:42:55

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been an avid recycler and especially in the past. It, however, is very confusing what is allowed to be recycled and what is not. Are lids from containers able to be recycled? What sizes are allowed? Are frozen food cartons recyclable? etc. There needs to be workshops for all ages especially in the schools. If the kids buy into it, they will help change their parents' habits. Some places where education can occur outside of schools are at Saturday Market, Thursday Market and other events that occur. Businesses also need to be given incentives to recycle. Besides solid waste, education needs to occur on water conservation. If you spend a bunch of water cleaning out a can, is that really helping? I, on the other hand, put the stopper in my sink and wash my hand wash items first. I use the water left to rinse out my cans and bottles rather than using more water to clean out a container. I hope these thoughts are helpful.

Sincerely,
Deanne Ford

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From: [Rian Rasubala](#)
To: [Franchise](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Fwd: Surveys: We're planning for the future! Help guide us!
Date: Monday, April 6, 2026 14:58:29

Hello!

As this newsletter requested, I wanted to share some feedback regarding waste management. Specifically for food waste reduction, I wanted to explore the possibility of using backyard chickens as a way to divert food waste from going to the landfill and instead, 1) Feeding animals, 2) Producing more food (eggs), and 3) Producing fertilizer in the form of manure. We have backyard chickens, and they're great at diverting food waste including meat, vegetable scraps and dairy. We also have a compost pile to divert more food waste (like moldy foods) that the chickens can't eat. **Is there a way to incentivize or perhaps make it cheaper for homeowners to use chickens to divert food waste?**

Secondly, as it pertains to toy waste, is there a way that the city could encourage the resale of old toys? Currently, we shop and consign twice a year with the [Baby Bottom Dollar Sale](#). We love this as a way to change up toys, get clothes, all for a really great deal, and sometimes make some money on it at the same time. Historically this event has taken place at the Oregon State Fair, but they now charge parking which disincentivizes people from attending. **Is there a City location that could host this or other clothing swaps / toy swaps with a waived city fee?**

Thank you!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: City of Salem <info@cityofsalem.net>
Date: Fri, Apr 3, 2026 at 4:44 PM
Subject: Surveys: We're planning for the future! Help guide us!
To: <rian@salemlf.org>

Volume 17, Issue 13
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Share with
Your Neighbors!

- [April 4: Qing Ming Festival at Salem Pioneer Cemetery](#)
- [SOLD OUT: Deepwood Egg Hunt](#)
- [April 5: Hoppy Easter!](#)
- [April 9: Basic Jewelry Metalsmithing](#)
- [April 11: Game Day for Adults](#)
- [April 11: Children's Spring Clothing Swap](#)
- [April 11: Experience Slow Art Day](#)
- [April 14: Wards 2 and 6 and Mayoral Candidate Forum](#)
- [April 17-18: Join the Mission Street Conservancy Plant Sale](#)
- [April 19: Camerata Musica Performance](#)
- [April 19: No-Ivy League Returns](#)
- [May 9: Take a Walk in the Park to Support Eco-Earth](#)
- [May 9: Sign Up for Beginning Leatherworks](#)
- [Commercial Inspections Result in Violations](#)
- [Salem Police News](#)
- [QUICK LINKS TO WWW.CITYOFSALEM.NET](#)



SURVEY: Are You Ready for the Next Emergency?

Emergencies can happen any time. Are you ready? Help us understand how ready our community is. Emergency preparedness begins at home. Whether it's a fire, flood, power outage, ice storm — in case of an unexpected event, being prepared helps protect you, your family and your community.

<https://salemor.gov/prepared2026>

Your input will guide efforts to improve safety and readiness for everyone. By participating, you are helping create a safer, more resilient community for all.

Share Your Thoughts on Waste Reduction Policy

Waste generation has been increasing for many years. Landfill space is limited, and new landfills are located farther away. This increases both costs and transportation emissions. Reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills can lower emissions and help reduce waste management costs.

The City of Salem is proposing a [Waste Reduction Policy](#) to reduce waste disposed with progressive per capita goals based on a 2016 baseline. Please review the policy and share your thoughts. Your input will help inform the Solid Waste Committee of community priorities in relation to reducing waste.

Submit feedback and public comment to franchise@cityofsalem.net by May 20, 2026.

City Receives Bids on Bond Issue

In a competitive bid on March 24, the City of Salem received 13 bids for its tax-exempt series (\$94.5 million) and six bids for the taxable series (\$5.5 million) of General Obligation bonds. The all-in true interest cost for the combined sale was 4.52 percent.

[READ THE STORY](#)

From: [Eleonore Bode-Lemming](#)
To: [Franchise](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]please curb the use of plastic
Date: Friday, April 10, 2026 17:30:52

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From: [Robert](#)
To: [Franchise](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Waste Reduction Policy - additional recyclers
Date: Friday, April 17, 2026 16:26:17

If it has not already been considered, I would like you to consider the possibility of allowing an additional recycling service such as Ridwell to operate in the municipal area. Ridwell, based in Washington, in believe, collects and recycles materials not accepted by standard trash companies, such as plastic film (e.g., bread bags and bubble wrap) and multilayer plastic (e.g., cereal bags). I know they've tried to expand their service areas into Oregon cities before, but have faced lawsuits from established recyclers on the basis of infringement on existing exclusivity agreements. I don't know what Valley Recycling's contract is like and I don't know if Ridwell or a similar provider is interest in serving Salem, but I would like our city to do what it can to allow (and even encourage) the possibility. When an organization is willing to do business accepting recyclables that no one else will, I don't see the sense in obstructing it.

Robert C.
West Salem

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From: [Eleonore Bode-Lemming](#)
To: [Franchise](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]Please implore ALL restaurants to use recyclable containers for take-out
Date: Friday, April 17, 2026 17:48:31

Thank you so much for making my voice heard
Eleonore

From: Franchise <franchise@cityofsalem.net>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2026 5:47 PM
To: Bode-Lemming, Eleonore <eleonore101@msn.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]Please implore ALL restaurants to use recyclable containers for take-out

Great. Thank you!

Your comments will be shared with the Solid Waste Committee at their May meeting.

Best,

Kali | 503-588-6231

From: Eleonore Bode-Lemming <eleonore101@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2026 5:28 PM
To: Franchise <franchise@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]Please implore ALL restaurants to use recyclable containers for take-out

I reside in Ward 7

From: Franchise <franchise@cityofsalem.net>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2026 4:49 PM
To: Bode-Lemming, Eleonore <eleonore101@msn.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]Please implore ALL restaurants to use recyclable containers for take-out

Hi Eleonore,

I was just about to write you back regarding an e-mail you submitted last week to this box. Were you wanting your e-mails to be submitted to the Solid Waste Committee as public comment? If so, would you please tell me which ward you reside in?

Thank you,

Kali Leinenbach
Budget Manager

City of Salem | Finance Department

503-588-6231

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [CityofSalem.net](#)

From: Eleonore Bode-Lemming <eleonore101@msn.com>

Sent: Friday, April 17, 2026 4:42 PM

To: Franchise <franchise@cityofsalem.net>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]Please implore ALL restaurants to use recyclable containers for take-out

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From: [Cheryl Hummon](#)
To: [Franchise](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Comments on waste reduction policy statement
Date: Sunday, April 19, 2026 17:41:35

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity for public input on the waste reduction policy statement (<https://www.cityofsalem.net/home/showpublisheddocument/29729>). I have several comments for your consideration.

Comments about this public comment process, to make the process more accessible:

- Add a better title, date, and etc. to the 4-page policy statement and re-post it (it's odd that the document doesn't say City of Salem at the top, or the date)
- Make / post / distribute a printable brochure or flier that summarizes the information in the policy statement document (most members of the public will not read a 4-page narrative document, and may not understand what a "policy statement" is)
- Hold an open house to present the information and seek public input
- Create a short survey to make it easier for the public to provide input

Comments about how to reduce solid waste:

- Expand the City's Solid Waste Committee to include members of the public, haulers, Garten, etc.; consider making it a board or commission rather than a committee
- Partner with the OSU Extension Recycling 101 program (<https://workspace.oregonstate.edu/course/recycling-101>) to incentivize Salem people to participate (e.g. pay for or reimburse the registration fee, or offer a Salem-based in-person version for free, or develop a 1-3 hour shorter online or in-person training)
- Collaborate with local partners (e.g. haulers, Garten, schools, churches, gov agencies, grocery stores) to establish free and easily accessed drop-off sites for items that can be recycled, but that are not accepted via curbside recycling (e.g. styrofoam, e-waste, plastic film, plus items in next bullet point)
- Collaborate with external partners (e.g. Ridwell <https://www.ridwell.com/what-we-take>, TerraCycle <https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/brigades>) to establish free and easily-accessed drop-off sites for numerous other items that currently cannot be recycled at all in Salem (e.g. crinkly plastic, pill bottles, bread tags, plastic bottle caps and lids, cigarette waste, and TerraCycle's brand-specific free and not free recycling programs)
- Establish a process / program for the city to proactively support zero-waste events (all events held in city parks should be zero waste)

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Cheryl Hummon
 SE Salem
chummon@peak.org
 503-231-3345

From: [Debbie Miller](#)
To: [Franchise](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]waste reduction policy feedback
Date: Friday, April 24, 2026 16:33:15

Thanks for sending out the Waste Reduction Policy. I definitely agree with the goals being put forth.

My comment is a disappointment in the lack of educational outreach on recycling and waste reduction to communities. Part of this is Marion County's lack of filling positions that were doing a great job and education and outreach that were vacated a couple of years ago. The Master Recycling program was a wonderful way for people to get educated and share that with the community, and it has basically been dropped. It is especially important to have that type of program and community outreach with the new Plastics Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act that was implemented last July.

My experience is that people are hungry for this information and always so grateful to have someone answer their questions, and nobody is doing that anymore. Please urge more attention to education and outreach, and consider pushing for the Master Recycling program to be returned to Marion County.

Thank you,

Debbie Miller
3855 Aberdeen St S
Salem 97302

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From: [Ana Cristina Jacobo](#)
To: [Franchise](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Thoughts
Date: Friday, April 24, 2026 16:50:40

Hello,

Sending this email regarding the thoughts of waste. I feel that a lot of people don't recycle due to either not knowing being a hassle or for whatever reason, but I do know and see a lot of people around me that don't recycle. I feel that for those of us that really enjoy and love Recycling and have grown-up to recycle now as grown adults we should be compensated. An intensive is always nice for people that do certain things that others want them to do and or have some sort of compensation when Recycling, those are my thoughts.

Thank you,

Ana Cristina Jacobo

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From: [Jen](#)
To: [Franchise](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Waste reduction policy
Date: Friday, April 24, 2026 22:53:28

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on this. These are my comments after reviewing the city's draft policy.

1. I'm grateful to see the city tackle this issue, it is multifactorial and I believe that it will require a interdisciplinary approach.
2. I think it is not a good idea to not have specific targets for the education project. Open-ended metrics are not good at measuring success. I believe that tabling is a good idea but this plan is just not enough for the next 25 years to reach the goal given the expected population growth of the mid-valley. What we are seeing from the data you supplied is a significant growth in waste per person in the last five years. If 2021 is an outlier we still have more pounds per capita in the last 5 than previous years. I don't think this is simply because of people not being educated about recycling opportunities.
3. This plan primarily seems to be used to fund staff. It talks about using partners to support waste reduction but is vague on the how, and really only lists 2 partners when there are many more that could be involved. Perhaps these partners could host repair or reuse. Will these partners be funded to support this or is this just a wink and a nod MOU? Reducing consumption is the first part of reducing waste. How can the city extend the lifecycle of its own equipment or supplies? Can we insure that something of the city's own waste could be reused, repaired, reallocated or even down-cycled? The city could evaluate their own waste cycle and think about ways to divert waste from the system. We could pay partner nonprofits to collect waste from the city and from the dump (from city) and make sure that the stuff that is still usable has a way back into the local economy, that it gets to be reused. We could fund more of a share economy starting with the city's own library of things. I think this could be spread out to many neighborhoods so that people are able to borrow things for a short amount of time. Additionally continuing funding of community spaces such as the center 50 + or Willamette art center who invite the public to use shared equipment promotes a sharing economy. Providing funding or space to create a shared maker space could be a great use of reducing waste. These efforts could also be expanded through waste evaluation and lifecycle extension programs with the major employers and business in town, starting with the largest such as the State of Oregon, SKPS, and Salem Health. The partnerships can also include educating staff on compostables, new recycling policies, and hazardous waste identification and reduction. In person education by city staff could be difficult so a curriculum should be developed in coordination with these institutions. Grant funding could be a good incentive for this employee training. Tracking the waste costs trends could also be a good incentive. A creative campaign to educate the public is probably necessary. Outside partnerships and consultants should be used.

Requiring the city to purchase recycled goods and materials where possible particularly with post-consumer recycling would help support the recycling economy.

I think that zero waste is a aspirational goal but the target set here is not that. Stating zero waste is confusing. It's a term that has heavily been co-opted into popular culture and perhaps is misused here.

Thanks for your consideration,
 Jen Fujii

From: [Haley Lehman](#)
To: [Franchise](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Waste Reduction Policy Statement
Date: Monday, April 27, 2026 15:41:49

Hello, I've got feedback after reading the Waste Reduction Policy Statement.

Mostly, I'm wondering about accountability and funding for what you're saying you'll do.

Who is in charge of the education that your policy says you'll provide? What training will this person have? How will information be distributed, and is there a budget for that?

In particular, I'm interested in the food waste reduction education. How will you do that, and will you be working to get local businesses to donate unsellable food to people in need? Will local business donate older food to food banks or soup kitchens? I'd also love to see more businesses participating in services like TooGoodToGo to reduce food waste. Flashfood is another app that's an option that's not currently in our area. By collaborating or reaching out to these companies, I feel like the food waste initiative feels more achievable.

Thank you,
Haley Lehman

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Shengnan Thomas

From: Alyssa Lutz <alyssan870@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 8:15 AM
To: Franchise
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Waste Reduction Policy Feedback

Good morning,

I read the policy draft and wanted to share a few thoughts that came up while I read.

1. I love the goals outlined in the policy, ambitious as they are, they align well with my own goals of reducing waste in my household. We stopped using paper towels a few years ago and instead use washcloths, dish towels, or other scraps of cloth from things like old T-shirts, for example.
2. I finished reading the policy and felt like the question of how these ambitious goals would be accomplished was not answered. Education is mentioned, but what does that mean? Will this be education regarding how to recycle, how recycling works? If I may suggest, education about simple substitutes for one-time use objects like the paper towel thing would be helpful.
3. What incentive will residents have to work towards these goals? Don't get me wrong, I understand it feels like people should want to help reduce waste, but historically people are always going to choose what's easiest/most convenient. Which in most cases is going to be tossing everything in the garbage, and continuing to purchase single-use products because they're convenient. I think this is likely to be the largest hurdle presented for the goals of this policy.

I look forward to this policy!

Alyssa Lutz

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Shengnan Thomas

From: Rick Tobias <spacemanspiff77@protonmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 10:34 AM
To: Franchise
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]Waste Reduction Policy

Rick Tobias, ward 5

On 4/30/2026 9:44 AM, Franchise wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for submitting your thoughts about the waste reduction policy. Can you please share your name and your ward so your feedback can be shared with the solid waste committee?

Best,

Kali Leinenbach
Budget Manager
 City of Salem | Finance Department
 503-588-6231
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [CityofSalem.net](#)

From: Rick Tobias <spacemanspiff77@protonmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2026 1:18 PM
To: Franchise <franchise@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Waste Reduction Policy

Hi,

I've been an ardent recycler for several decades. I have two thoughts for you. Make that three.

First, take an approach similar to the one I've seen in Mexico for item repair.

I was amazed on my first trip there how much effort the people of Mexico put into repair of possessions. We stayed at a home with a decrepit water heater that would not turn on. One of the things they do there is heat water only when they want to use it. In America, we waste enormous amounts of energy keeping water heated 24 hours a day, every day. In Mexico, they take the few extra minutes to heat the water when they want it hot and then turn it off when they're done. The water heater at the house would not ignite. It was rusted and appeared to be extremely old. When I asked the property manager to do something so we could take warm showers, he opted to bring a repairman to the house and replace the igniter. Being an American, I expected them to replace the water heater because that's

what I'm conditioned to think. Their approach reduces waste in a number of ways. Learn from them.

Second, do everything possible to increase the value of recyclable materials.

I do not recall seeing serious effort being put into finding markets for recyclable materials. Governments appear to let that fall to others. I do, however, remember a grant program put on by Marion County or the City of Salem several years ago that would provide up to \$250k in grant money for efforts to reuse recyclable materials. I was very tempted to apply to that program to set up a business that would turn recycled plastics into shipping pallets. I didn't do it because I had too many other things to do at the time. I did share my idea with one of the plastics company representatives a couple of years ago at a recycling event at the Oregon Garden. Those kinds of efforts are scarce and not well oiled. Marketing should potentially reflect a rebate to those who recycle best. That can incentivize ordinary people to recycle more and better. Metals recycling at some of the local businesses can provide a payback to individuals. That kind of program works. Evaluate the Tom McCall's bottle bill for what works. That program has been around for decades. Learn what works and what doesn't work from that example.

I regularly put items I no longer have a use for at the end of my driveway. They almost always disappear; very few of them end up in our trash. I believe there are a lot of people who would be happy to have them if they knew they were available. I rent a couple of properties out, so the sheer number of items I end up putting at the end of the driveway is more than most people would have; you might be amazed at what people leave behind when they move. You might also be amazed at the kinds of things people find useful. Like I said, almost everything disappears. I think in 20 years I've put maybe two or three items in the trash. One of them was a used toilet bowl, no one wanted that. The others were probably too damaged to still be useful.

Third, attack the sources of trash.

California worked to force manufacturers to pay for efforts to reduce waste. I haven't heard much about that effort in recent years, but I admire them for that. Oregon and several other states worked to ban plastic grocery bags. I think similar efforts to put food products back into glass would be a real benefit. We can no longer buy most products in glass because it's cheaper for companies to use plastic. We all pay for that in ways we don't measure. Why are corporate profits more important than our environment? Find a way to ensure use of more desirable or more easily recycled materials whenever possible.

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Shengnan Thomas

From: Roz Shirack <rozshirack7@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2026 5:42 PM
To: Franchise
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Waste Reduction Policy

I support the City's proposed Waste Reduction Policy to gradually reduce the waste generated per capita from the 2016 baseline. Much of the policy implementation is based on education to modify behavior. I'm not optimistic that will be enough. I suggest City also explore modifying the price structure to make the charge for the smallest cart much less than the charge for the larger one. Currently there is not much of a price difference. Also, Republic Services does very little to let customers know there is the small cart emptied every other week option.

Good luck
Roz Shirack

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From: [Karen Cook](#)
To: [Franchise](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]waste reduction
Date: Sunday, May 10, 2026 10:42:00

I support the waste reduction policy, but I think it will be difficult to get enough people to participate to be fully effective.

Karen Cook

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From: [Jim Scheppke](#)
To: [Franchise](#)
Cc: [Phil Carver](#); [Laurie Dougherty](#); [Lucy Hitchcock](#); [Sarah Deumling](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]350 Salem OR Comments on the Draft Waste Reduction Policy
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 8:42:21
Attachments: [350 Salem Comment on Draft Waste Reduction Policy.docx](#)

Dear Solid Waste Committee:

Please accept the attached comments from 350 Salem OR on the draft Waste Reduction Policy.

Thank you for soliciting our comments.

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Jim Scheppke
jscheppke@comcast.net
503-269-1559



Comments on the Draft Waste Reduction Policy Statement

Dear Solid Waste Committee:

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Waste Reduction Policy Statement that is being considered by the City Council's Solid Waste Committee. We have reviewed the document and want to offer the following suggestions for improvement:

- On the first page in the discussion of the Recycling Modernization Act we suggest that there be mention of the producer responsibility aspects of the RMA, especially when it comes to plastics.
- On the second page in the discussion of waste reduction goals, we suggest an explanation of how the reduction in the tonnage of Salem's solid waste by 2050 was arrived at. The text mentions a "56% reduction" by 2050 but the "reduction" is actually 44%.
- At the bottom of the second page we suggest more information about "improved access for multi-family recycling and composting." What are the "phased approaches"? Some examples would be helpful.
- On the third page we suggest an added performance metric to track the progress on the waste reduction goal of a 44% reduction by 2050.
- On page four, in the discussion of reducing food waste, we suggest that some examples be given of what "providing resources" might mean. We also think that mention should also be made of reducing food waste by businesses and institutions and not just "consumers."
- We appreciate the mention of Zero Waste as a long-term aspirational goal on page four. We suggest that be defined for readers who may not be familiar with the term.

Overall we liked the draft. We especially liked the measurable goal that can be tracked to assess whether people's behavior is changing and whether the RMA and other waste reduction strategies are working.

Thanks again for soliciting our improvement suggestions.

Sincerely,

Phil Carver and Laurie Dougherty
350 Salem OR Co-Coordinators
May 12, 2026

From: [diane WARREN](#)
To: [Franchise](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]Fast Food Take Out Containers
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2026 13:46:02

Diane J Warren
5654 Fairfield Ct S, Salem, OR 97306
Yes, please share where needed
Thank you

On Thu, May 14, 2026, 1:02 PM Franchise <franchise@cityofsalem.net> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for your feedback. To share this feedback with the Solid Waste Committee could I please verify your name and neighborhood or ward?

Thank you,

Kali Leinenbach

Budget Manager

City of Salem | Finance Department

503-588-6231

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [CityofSalem.net](#)

From: diane WARREN <tomanddiane.warren@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 2, 2026 6:39 AM
To: Franchise <franchise@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Fast Food Take Out Containers

Allow only compostable food and beverage containers in facility or takeout and that includes coffee and drinks.

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From: [Wenger, Gina](#)
To: [Franchise](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Waste reduction - city of Salem
Date: Friday, May 15, 2026 15:14:37

I would like to see the city of Salem/Keizer to utilize the Brooks "burn" facility. Dual purpose of reducing the waste/ash going to landfills, but also providing an electrical source to the grid.

Best regards,

Gina Wenger

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From: [Carol Grimwood](#)
To: [Franchise](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Landfill Waste disposal
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 1:13:36 AM

Thank you for the platform to share thoughts on municipal waste reduction strategies for Salem. As pointed out, changes to available disposal options are forcing critical decisions for civic leaders.

While the tendency to look for ways to continue the "same ol same ol" by shipping our garbage to landfills farther away is tempting, it ignores the real opportunity we've been given. And this outdated out of sight, out of mind plan is expensive, runs counter to climate change goals and seems to be a bit NIMBY. Maybe this could be a very short term practice while Salem puts a long term plan for waste disposal into place.

One option to thoroughly research:

- * Return the incinerator plant to operation with updates to comply with stricter pollution standards
 - A co-op effort by local municipalities would (directly or indirectly) fund such a project
 - The resulting ash waste is significantly less volume than traditional landfill, reducing the demands of lands use (for housing, industry and agriculture) with the anticipated population growth in our area
 - The energy produced from the process can be recycled to help fuel the plant

Expansion of recycling programs and lobbying for less product packaging volume is essential to partner with any waste disposal plan.

While more expensive to launch, this resurrection can be less costly in the long run when one considers the cost of repeatedly buying land for traditional landfill sites and garbage transport costs climb with the destination distances. As consumers we all need to shift our thinking to be more involved, conscious and responsible for our human impacts.

Thanks for the opportunity, I look forward to seeing this problem solving endeavor progress.

Carol Grimwood

Salem resident and SWAN board member

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