

# Re+ Fast Start Action Overview

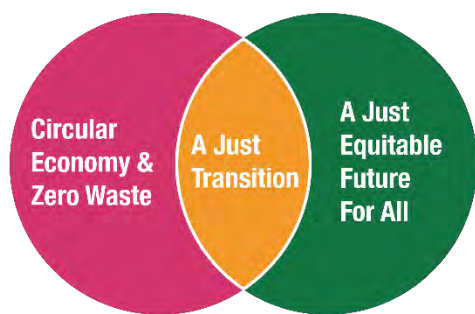
## Community Panel

### Description

The Community Panel aims to provide insight and direction around the intersection of equity and solid waste policies in King County. The panel is comprised of residents, workers, and volunteers of King County who have lived experienced as a frontline community member, are disproportionately impacted by climate change, and more affected by materials management decisions. The Panel will help create a process co-led by the community and King County to share in decision-making and help create solutions together.

### Background

Re+ is built on the understanding that transforming our solid waste systems to be more circular and equitable requires a just transition. As the region transitions away from an extractive economy toward a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable King County, it is important that the County's solutions create opportunities and avoid leaving people behind. A just transition to a sustainable future requires planning for and adapting to unintended consequences, removing systemic and economic barriers, prioritizing



investments in frontline communities, and creating decision-making processes that support the leadership of frontline community members. We are committed to building a path to zero waste that is inclusive and brings historically overlooked voices to the forefront.

Human activities have increased the concentration of harmful greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, causing extreme weather events and threats to the health of King County residents, especially our frontline communities. In addition, decisions on where and how to collect and process materials can often have significant impacts on communities with little or no voice in the decision-making process.

We have invited 10 members of these communities to join our Community Panel and help guide the King County Solid Waste Division in the equitable implementation of Re+. The Community Panel will help provide a forum for two-way communication between King County and the community to

### What is a Frontline Community?

Frontline Communities are those that are disproportionately impacted by climate change due to existing and historic racial, social, environmental, and economic inequities, and who have limited resources and/or capacity to adapt.

These populations often experience the earliest and most acute impacts of climate change, but whose experiences afford unique strengths and insights into climate resilience strategies and practices.

Frontline communities include:

- Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities
- Immigrants and Refugees
- People living with low incomes
- Communities experiencing disproportionate pollution exposure
- Women and gender non-conforming people
- LGBTQIA people
- People who live and/or work outside
- Those with existing health issues
- People with limited English skills
- Other climate-vulnerable groups



advance solutions to complex issues. With the work of this panel, we hope to step that much closer to the County's vision of a King County where all people have equitable opportunities to thrive.

## Benefits

The Community Panel is an opportunity for community members to help shape solid waste policies to best serve historically overlooked populations in King County. Their experiences and insights will highlight areas needing more attention from the Solid Waste Division. The Panel also provides an open and reliable platform for participants to be involved and heard.

## Considerations

The focus of the panel is to help us shape the implementation of Re+ actions and how to better communicate them to our frontline communities. For future planning efforts, we will better incorporate community panel guidance from step one to create a broader set of options to reach zero waste goals.

## Equity and Social Justice Considerations

- We expect the Community Panel to provide valuable feedback on the equitable implementation of Re+, but we cannot expect them to solve all solid waste-related equity issues. It will take time and multiple partners to assess the impacts of our solid waste system. The Community Panel is just one step in the right direction.
- Re+ and the Community Panel will need to be aware of frontline communities not represented on the Panel and how recommendations may have unintended impacts on these communities.

## Next Steps

- Meetings will occur every-other-month to monthly through 2023 to guide Re+ planning and implementation and to develop and/or adopt equity evaluation tools.

### *Questions?*

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