

Volunteers have been coordinating successful neighborhood cleanups for years. This is a great way for people to get rid of those bulky items that will not be picked up on the curb. It does not have to be only about throwing things away though. It can also be a great opportunity to get people from the neighborhood together and talking with each other. You could provide information about initiatives the neighborhood association is working on or ask people to fill out questionnaires to get information about what neighbors want. If taken advantage of as a neighborhood event, cleanups can be great community building events. Instead of holding a 3-hour event where people simply drive up to dump off their garbage, have food and music. Encourage people to stick around and meet their neighbors by holding a 'You-Price-It Sale'. Holding a larger event like this takes more planning and volunteer time, but imagine how much more fun it will be!

**Funding Process:**

Each year, Metro provides a matching grant to the City of Portland’s Office of Sustainable Development (OSD) to fund neighborhood cleanups. The funds are distributed through SE Uplift to reimburse neighborhoods for their cleanup costs. Metro also provides disposal vouchers to cover the cost of disposing waste at transfer stations.

Neighborhoods are responsible for the upfront costs of the cleanup, such as the container fees, refreshments and volunteer appreciation gifts, but will be reimbursed for a certain portion of the costs once OSD has distributed the funds to SE Uplift. There will be a time lag between the day of your cleanup and when you receive your reimbursement check from SE Uplift.

**Digging Deeper**

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***Community Cleanup Guide***

*Produced by Metro, with the help of seasoned cleanup coordinators.*

*Visit [www.oregonmetro.gov](http://www.oregonmetro.gov) to get a copy.*

Here are some rough dates to remember when planning your cleanup:

- In January, SE Uplift will send a letter to cleanup coordinators indicating the amount of funding available, and outlining the steps for getting the correct forms filled out for the cleanup.
- In February, SE Uplift will hold a forum to outline the funding process and to bring coordinators together brainstorm ways we can all continue to improve the cleanups.
- The beginning of March is the deadline to notify SE Uplift of your neighborhood’s cleanup.

- By the end of May the cleanup authorization form, Metro disposal fee exemption form and cleanup evaluation form are due. These forms must be received by the deadline specified in order for your neighborhood to be reimbursed for the costs of the event.
- In late July, OSD will distribute funding and SE Uplift will reimburse each neighborhood for a pre-determined amount of the cleanup costs.

Please note, you are able to spend more on your cleanup than the amount allocated by OSD, however, the amount listed in the allocation letter is the maximum amount you will be reimbursed for. You will also not be reimbursed any amount above what you actually spent on the cleanup.

### Reuse and Recycle

Many neighborhoods have made it a priority to send as little material as possible to the landfill, and cleanup coordinators continue to find clever ways to reuse goods that neighbors drop off. Getting as much use as possible out of a product before recycling it is even better. Since one person’s garbage is another person’s treasure you could hold a useful goods exchange right onsite at your cleanup.

Tips
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Hold a useful goods exchange or sale at your cleanup sight.</b></li><li>▪ <b>Have a volunteer team to break down large materials into recyclable components.</b></li><li>▪ <b>Contact Master Recyclers to help with planning the cleanup.</b></li><li>▪ <b>Team up with your neighborhood’s sustainability committee to brainstorm more ideas.</b></li></ul>

There are many recycling organizations in Portland that can help reduce the amount of waste at your cleanup. It is important to contact these organizations in advance to find out what materials they can accept and make arrangements for pick up or drop off. There may also be a fee involved, so you will want to have that information as soon as you can to assist with budgeting.

Here is a list of very helpful recycling organizations:

- **Farwest Fibers** will accept paper, metal, and many types of plastics. They will even purchase certain types of recyclable materials. Contact them to get a complete and current list of acceptable materials at [www.farwestfibers.com](http://www.farwestfibers.com).
- **The Rebuilding Center** accepts reusable building and remodeling materials. They will send a truck to your cleanup if arrangements are made in advance. For more information, visit [www.rebuildingcenter.org](http://www.rebuildingcenter.org).

- **Free Geek** accepts computers and computer related hardware for a fee. They will repair and reuse salvageable computers and responsibly de-manufacture and recycle broken computers. For more information, visit [www.freegeek.org](http://www.freegeek.org)
- **Metro** can help you find a recycler for many other items. For more information, visit [www.oregonmetro.gov](http://www.oregonmetro.gov).

Southeast Uplift staff can help you find additional recyclers to work with and come up with ways to reduce waste at neighborhood cleanups.