



## Metro | *Making a great place*

December 4, 2015

Re: Temporary suspension of wood waste recovery requirements in Metro Code

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to notify you that the Metro Council has temporarily suspended certain portions of Metro's Enhanced Dry Waste Recovery Program (EDWRP) pertaining to wood waste processing and recovery requirements. This letter explains which requirements have been temporarily suspended by the Metro Council and provides guidance on how Metro intends to implement EDWRP in the interim. Attached to this letter is a wood waste recovery fact sheet.

On November 12, 2015, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 15-4666, which temporarily suspends portions of EDWRP,\* due to the recent closure of the WestRock Company paper mill (formerly owned by SP Fiber Technologies) located in Newberg, Oregon. The WestRock mill had served as the region's primary outlet for recovered urban wood waste and its sudden closure has caused significant disruption to the region's wood recovery efforts – particularly for painted and treated wood waste. Metro took this action as a temporary measure to provide regulatory relief for wood waste generators, material recovery facilities, and disposal sites while alternative recovery outlets are considered.

Specifically, Metro has taken the following action:

1. **Wood Waste Recovery.** Metro has temporarily suspended the requirement to recover wood from mixed dry waste. This means that facilities that receive mixed dry waste are no longer required to separate the wood component from the load prior to disposal. However, reuse and fuel markets are available for very clean wood waste and Metro encourages generators and processors to continue to separate and recover wood that is suitable for these purposes.

Additionally, facilities no longer need to separately weigh the remaining wood component when sampling their processing residual for determining compliance with EDWRP requirements. Please refer to Metro Solid Waste Regulatory Guidance Bulletins Nos. 3 and 8 (which were modified on November 12, 2015) for updated information about wood waste and interim procedures for complying with EDWRP sampling and reporting requirements. These bulletins can be found on Metro's website at [www.oregonmetro.gov/woodrecovery](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/woodrecovery)

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\*Resolution No. 15-4666 suspends certain portions of Metro Code Sections 5.01.125(c), 5.05.034(d) & (e), 5.05.041, and 5.09.040(g) as it relates to wood waste. A copy of Resolution No. 15-4666 and the associated staff report is available on the Metro website at the following link [www.oregonmetro.gov/woodrecovery](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/woodrecovery)

2. **Processing of Source-Separated Wood Waste.** Metro has temporarily suspended the requirement for source-separated wood waste to be processed at a material recovery facility prior to disposal. This means that homogenous loads of wood waste that have been separated from other waste by the generator may be delivered directly to a disposal site provided that the waste is delivered to either a designated facility or under authority of a non-system license. Wood waste is subject to Metro's full regional system fee and excise tax rate when delivered to a disposal site. Again, reuse and fuel markets are available for some wood waste and Metro encourages generators and processors to continue to separate and recover clean wood when possible.
3. **Processing of Mixed Dry Waste.** Notwithstanding this temporary suspension of certain wood recovery requirements, Metro Code still requires that all mixed dry waste be processed at an authorized material recovery facility prior to disposal. Contact Metro if you have questions regarding specific license or franchise requirements.

Please note that the suspension of these recovery requirements is a temporary measure and may be reinstated if Metro determines that such action is warranted. If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact Warren Johnson at (503) 797-1836 or via email at [warren.johnson@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:warren.johnson@oregonmetro.gov).

Sincerely,



Roy W. Brower  
Solid Waste Compliance and Cleanup Director

RB/WJ/HR:bjl

Attachment

cc: Warren Johnson, Solid Waste Compliance Supervisor  
Brian May

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