

# Metro notice

## Wood waste recovery requirements

Whether your roots in the region run generations deep or you moved to Oregon last week, you have your own reasons for loving this place – and Metro wants to keep it that way. Help shape the future of the greater Portland region and discover tools, services and places that make life better today.

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Due to recent changes in market conditions, the Metro Council temporarily suspended enforcement of requirements for recovery of wood waste. The November 2015 closure of the WestRock Paper Mill in Newberg, which served as the region's primary outlet for recovered urban wood waste, caused significant disruption to the region's wood recovery efforts, particularly for painted and treated wood waste. No other facilities are readily available to process the amount of wood waste that was handled by this mill.

Consequently, the Metro Council approved temporary regulatory relief for wood waste generators, material recovery facilities, and disposal sites while new recovery facilities are considered.

- **The Metro Council temporarily suspended the requirement to recover wood from mixed dry waste.** Facilities that receive mixed dry waste are no longer required to separate the wood component from the load prior to disposal.
- **The Metro Council 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 are separated from other waste 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.
- **Metro continues to require 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 for dry waste recovery facilities.

While the Metro Council is temporarily suspending enforcement of these requirements, there are still markets available for very clean wood waste such as raw dimensional lumber, pallets and packing crates. Metro encourages the separation and recovery of such reusable wood at facilities that can put it to better use than disposal.

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