

Meeting: Regional Waste Advisory Committee (RWAC) Meeting
Date: Thursday, December 21, 2023
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Place: Zoom meeting
Purpose: *The purpose of the Regional Waste Advisory Committee is to provide input on certain policies, programs, and projects that implement actions in the 2030 Regional Waste Plan, as well as to provide input on certain legislative and administrative actions that the Metro Council or Chief Operating Officer will consider related to the implementation of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan.*

Members in Attendance:

Marta McGuire, Metro
Alondra Flores-Aviña, Trash for Peace
Sharetta Butcher, North by Northeast Community Health Center (NxNE)
Jackie Kirouac-Fram, Rebuilding Center
Teresa Gaddy
Lindsay Marshall, City of Tualatin
Christa McDermott, Community Environmental Services, PSU
Audrey O'Brien, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Beth Vargas Duncan, Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association (ORRA)
Ryan Largura, City of Troutdale

1. CALL TO ORDER & MEETING OVERVIEW**2. Working Agreements**

Marta McGuire (Metro) moved the Working Agreements topic to January because there were three committee members absent.

3. Regional Waste Plan Progress Report

Marta introduced Rachel Chu from Metro.

Key points of the presentation included:

Rachel reviewed the Regional Waste Plan framework for measuring progress and shared results from 2022 metrics and partnerships.

Member Discussion:

Ms. Kirouac-Fram asked if the diversion values presented include diversion from reuse organizations. Ms. Chur responded that the data does not include materials that are reused.

A member asked in the chat if the report would be translated into other languages. Ms. Chu responded that they are planning the flier to Spanish and can accommodate other language requests. Translating the full report can be discussed.

Ryan Largura, City of Troutdale, highlighted that disposal rates are increasing, which is good for business but does not support other goals. How do we deal with that issue?

Sharetta Butcher, NxNE, shared that the flier information regarding wages for employees of color appears successful, but the graph in the report appears less successful. The two different representations of information is misleading.

Jackie Kirouac-Fram, Rebuilding Center, shared that several indicators appear to be in progress, but don't have indicators of success. Listing them as in progress rather than not started could be misleading.

Lindsay Marshall, City of Tualatin, asked where the flier was being sent to? Ms. Chu replied that the flier will be sent to general audiences and available on the website. Ms. Marshall suggested that there were links in the flier to link to more information. Example link Regional Refresh Fund highlight to the webpage.

Teresa Gaddy agrees with Ms. Butcher, Ms. Kirouac-Fram and Ms. Marshall's suggestions about transparency and accessibility.

Beth Vargas Duncan, ORRA, suggested Metro and ORRA could find an efficient way to share this information.

Christa McDermott, PSU, shared that she looks at this report as Metro reporting on actions it has pledged to take. She feels that for what the plan is, the report seems on track. Why have disposal rates continued to increase if programs have been successful? Ms. McGuire responded that as a state and region, we have started to move away from analyzing recovery rates by ton because of the adverse impacts of lightweight plastic versus heavy concrete.

Audrey O'Brien added that DEQ is constantly working to improve waste reduction in tandem with Metro. She also shared that the Regional Waste Plan is a statutory requirement, and it is a progress report to satisfy statutory requirements. The goals are also aspirational because of the challenges around noncompliance monitoring. This is an attempt to do more and improve waste prevention.

Ms. Kirouac-Fram shared that when Metro is reporting on the work, they should highlight the social benefits of this work.

4. Budget Development

Marta McGuire presented on Budget Development.

Key points of the presentation included:

Marta presented on the Budget Development. She reviewed Metro's budget process and Waste Prevention and Environmental Services budget for 2023-2024.

Member Discussion:

Committee members participate in an interactive activity responding to the following questions about the Waste Prevention and Environmental Services budget.

1. What new or increased investment would you like to see in the budget?
2. What curtailed or discontinued investment would you like to see in the budget?
3. Please prioritize your top three investment areas.
4. Concerns or questions?

5. Consideration of meeting minutes

The October and November meeting minutes were approved.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

Final RemarksMEETING ADJOURNED at 10:30 a.m.