

## Regional Waste Advisory Committee agenda



**Metro**

600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Thursday, May 22, 2025

2:00 PM Metro Regional Center Council Chambers

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81917615913>

(Webinar ID: 819 1761 5913

Passcode:320959)

**1. Call To Order, Declaration of a Quorum & Introductions (2:00 PM)**

This meeting will be held electronically and in person at the Metro Regional Center Council Chambers. You can join the meeting on your computer or other device by using this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81917615913>

**2. Action Items (2:05 PM)**

**2.1 FY25-26 Budget and Fee Update (2:05 PM)**

Presenter(s): Marta McGuire, Director, Patrick Dennis, Finance  
Manager

Attachments: Meeting Worksheet

**2.2 Regional Service Standards and Bulky Waste Collection—*Advance briefing for June advisory session* (2:30 PM)**

Presenter(s): Thomas Egleston, Policy Manager, Sara Kirby, Senior  
Planner

Attachments: Meeting Worksheet

**3. Consideration of Meeting Minutes (3:45 PM)**

**4. Public Communication on Agenda Items (3:50 PM)**

Public comment may be submitted in writing and will also be heard by electronic communication (video conference or telephone). Written comments should be submitted electronically by mailing [carly.tabert@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:carly.tabert@oregonmetro.gov). Written comments received by 4:00 pm on the Wednesday before the meeting will be provided to the committee prior to the meeting.

Those wishing to testify orally are encouraged to sign up in advance by either: (a) contacting Carly Tabert by phone at 971-275-2264 and providing your name and the item on which you wish to testify; or (b) registering by email by sending your name and the item on which you wish to testify to [carly.tabert@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:carly.tabert@oregonmetro.gov).

Those requesting to comment during the meeting can do so by using the “Raise Hand” feature in Zoom or emailing Carly Tabert at [carly.tabert@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:carly.tabert@oregonmetro.gov). Individuals will have three minutes to testify unless otherwise stated at the meeting.

**5. Adjourn (4:00PM)**

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ការគោរពសិទ្ធិពលរដ្ឋរបស់ ១ សំរាប់ព័ត៌មានអំពីកម្មវិធីសិទ្ធិពលរដ្ឋរបស់ Metro ឬដើម្បីទទួលបានកាតព្វកិច្ចរើសអើងសូមចូលទស្សនាគេហទំព័រ [www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights)។  
បើលោកអ្នកត្រូវការអ្នកបកប្រែភាសាអង់គ្លេស ឬភាសាដទៃ ប្រសិនបើលោកអ្នកចង់ចូលរួមក្នុងការប្រជុំសាធារណៈ សូមទូរស័ព្ទមកលេខ 503-797-1700 (ម៉ោង 8 ព្រឹកដល់ម៉ោង 5 ល្ងាច ថ្ងៃច័ន្ទិយ) ប្រាំពីរថ្ងៃ មុនថ្ងៃប្រជុំដើម្បីអាចឱ្យគេសម្រួលតាមសំណើរបស់លោកអ្នក។

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## REGIONAL WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Meeting Worksheet

**PRESENTATION DATE:** 05/22/25

**LENGTH:** 25 mins

**PRESENTATION TITLE:** FY25-2026 Waste Prevention and Environmental Services Budget and Solid Waste Fees Update and Discussion

**DECISION TYPE:** Feedback

**PRESENTER(S):** Dr. Marta McGuire, Waste Prevention and Environmental Services Director and Patrick Dennis, Waste Prevention and Environmental Services Finance Manager

### ISSUE STATEMENT

The Regional Waste Advisory Committee is a policy level committee that advises Metro Council on the management of the garbage and recycling system including providing input on the Waste Prevention and Environmental Services budget and solid waste fees. Staff will provide an update to the committee on the FY26 budget and fees and invite feedback on what worked well and what could be improved for next year's budget development process.

### ACTION REQUESTED

Feedback- – Staff are seeking input on opportunities to improve the FY27 budget and fee development process.

### FY2025-26 BUDGET AND FEE UPDATE

Metro is in the last phase of FY26 budget development process. Over the last two months, staff have presented the Waste Prevention and Environmental Services department's proposed budget and fees to Metro Council, hosted a public budget forum, gathered feedback from the Regional Waste Advisory Committee and presented updated fees to Metro Council. The advisory report summarizing input from the Regional Waste Advisory Committee was presented to Metro Council, along with updated fees, on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Metro Council approved the FY26 solid waste fees on May 15<sup>th</sup>, which will take effect on July 1, 2025. Metro Council will hold public hearings on May 29<sup>th</sup> and June 5<sup>th</sup> prior to final budget adoption on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### 2024

Jul Aug Sept Oct

##### Budget preparation

- Capital improvement
- Project scoping
- Forecasts updated

#### 2025

Nov Dec Jan

##### Department budget request

- Council retreat
- Budget direction

Jan Feb Mar

##### Budget proposal

- Meetings with COO
- Council presentations

Apr May Jun

##### Budget approval

- Potential updates to budget based on council review

Jun Jul

##### Budget adoption by Metro Council

- Council approval of budget

## **BUDGET AND FEE ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE AND SUMMARY**

### **Regional Waste Advisory Committee**

The Regional Waste Advisory Committee is a policy level committee that advises Metro Council on the management of the garbage and recycling system including providing input on the Waste Prevention and Environmental Services budget and solid waste fees. The committee held three focused discussions between February 2025 and April 2025.

#### **Meeting 1: February 27**

This informational session outlined the budget development process and the FY2024–25 WPES budget. It also included an overview of core programs, investment priorities, and key performance metrics.

#### **Meeting 2: March 27**

This meeting focused on the solid waste fee policy and setting process. Staff provided historical context on fee adjustments and explained key factors influencing fee outcomes.

#### **Meeting 3: April 24**

This session featured a presentation and discussion on the proposed FY2025–26 budget and regional investment priorities. The committee provided guidance for Metro Council consideration using a structured red-yellow-green feedback framework. Each member identified their top two priorities in each category, with the option to provide additional comments. After the meeting, staff prepared an advisory report summarizing the committee's input, which was shared with members for review and final confirmation. The final report was submitted to Metro Council for consideration as part of the FY2025–26 budget and fee adoption process.

## **QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- What aspects of the FY26 budget development process were most helpful or effective for you as a committee member?
- What changes or improvements would you recommend for next year's budget engagement?

### **Attachments:**

Regional Waste Advisory Committee FY26 Proposed Budget and Fee Advisory Report



# Regional Waste Advisory Committee

## Advisory Report: Proposed FY2025-26 Budget and Fees

### Overview

This summary reflects the Regional Waste Advisory Committee's discussion and input on Metro's proposed FY25–26 Waste Prevention and Environmental Services (WPES) budget and associated solid waste fees. Between February and April 2025, the committee reviewed the existing programs and investments, the solid waste fee setting guidance and proposed FY2025-26 budget and fees.

### Summary of Committee Engagement and Key Guidance

As part of the Regional Waste Advisory Committee's engagement on the proposed FY2025–26 Waste Prevention and Environmental Services budget and fees, committee members participated in a structured input exercise using the red-yellow-green feedback framework. Members were asked to assess the proposal by identifying areas of strong alignment (green), areas requiring clarification or potential adjustment (yellow), and areas of concern or potential misalignment (red). Each member was asked to select their top two priorities in each color category to focus the discussion on the most critical issues, while also having the opportunity to submit additional comments beyond their initial selections. This approach was designed to focus dialogue, elevate key themes, and collect meaningful input to inform Metro Council's final budget and fee decisions.

The input collected through this process was collected, logged and organized into major themes based on the committee's input. The following section summarizes the key areas of support, questions, and concerns identified across all red, yellow, and green comments. These themes represent a range of perspectives offered by committee members and highlight both areas of alignment with the proposed budget and fees, as well as areas where additional clarification, adjustments, or further consideration may be needed. The following major themes emerged:

#### Strong Alignment with Regional Outcomes

1. **Provision of Essential Services:** Continued investment in household hazardous waste collection services, dumped garbage cleanup, and community education is widely supported.
2. **System Facilities Plan Phasing and Investments:** Agreement that the phased approach to implementing community depots and other infrastructure investments reflect thoughtful planning and is aligned with equity and service goals.

3. **Reuse and Waste Prevention Investments:** Strong support for the Reuse Impact Fund and partnerships that support waste prevention, reuse infrastructure, and living wage jobs.
4. **Fee Stability and Investment Model:** Support for future consideration of a fee model that balances affordability with long-term investment.

#### Areas of Adjustment or Further Consideration

1. **Staffing for System Facilities Plan:** Questions about the scale and timing of the proposed 3 FTE; some suggested exploring 2 FTE or phased additions.
2. **Cost Management Opportunities:** Interest in exploring scaled-back or phased service delivery, especially for programs like MetroPaint and household hazardous waste.
3. **Fee Structure Clarity:** Request for more transparent communication about how fee increases are calculated, methods used, alternatives and how they compare regionally.

#### Areas of Concern or Misalignment

1. **Equity & Transparency:** Concern about geographic and financial equity, particularly regarding equitable access to services and how fees are distributed.
2. **Solid Waste Fee Increase:** Concern about the 11% increase and potential impacts on small haulers, nonprofits, and illegal dumping.
3. **Tonnage Assumptions:** Questions about how tonnage declines will affect long-term revenue and whether capital investments align with those trends.
4. **Level of Reuse Investment:** Concern on potential decreased investment in reuse with sunseting of Innovation and Investment grant program.

### Key Themes and Detailed Commentary

Additional details and representative comments are provided below to further illustrate the key themes and highlight specific committee perspectives.

#### Strong Alignment with Regional Outcomes

Theme	Comments
Provision of essential services	Cleanup and direct government grants are great on-the-ground (Community representative)
	Support for Household Hazardous Waste maintenance (Community representative)
	Support for Garbage and Recycling Operations investments (Local government representative)



<b>System Facilities Plan phasing and investments</b>	<p>Appreciate slow, calculated approach to starting System Facilities work (Industry representative)</p> <p>Cornelius depot will improve geographic accessibility/reuse options for residents (Community representative)</p> <p>Support for new infrastructure investments (e.g. organics processing at Central) (Community representative)</p>
<b>Reuse and Waste Prevention Investments</b>	<p>Reuse Impact Fund is a good investment (Community representative)</p> <p>Very supportive of the reuse impact fund, wish it were bigger (Reuse organization representative)</p>
<b>Fee Stability and Investment Model</b>	<p>The proposed Fee Stability and Investment Model is a thoughtful approach to managing long-term investments while balancing affordability for ratepayers. (Local government representative)</p> <p>I am encouraged by the upcoming discussion of the “fee stability and investment model” and look forward to learning more (Community representative)</p>

### Areas of Adjustment or Further Consideration

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Staffing for System Facilities Plan</b>	<p>Ability to reduce 3.0 FTE to 2.0 for the System Facilities Plan implementation team? What impact would that have? (Community representative)</p> <p>In reviewing the proposed budgets addition of three new FTE to implement the systems facility plan, has Metro analyzed the current capability of their staff to conduct this work? Is there a possibility of ramping-up additional FTE overtime on an as-needed basis? (Local government representative)</p> <p>How can the implementation of the new facilities be accelerated? (Local government representative)</p> <p>No need for added 3 FTE to support System Facilities Plan work, use current staff who helped get the plan in development to where we are now (Industry representative, listed as concern/misalignment)</p>
<b>Cost Management Opportunities</b>	<p>Perhaps a longer-term consideration...potential – perhaps as part of the System Facilities implementation plan – to look at how to reduce MetroPaint costs? And with the new depots, the HHW costs as well? (Community representative)</p>

	<p>Consider maintaining status quo services with current costs as much as possible (Industry representative)</p> <p>What options does Metro have to expand funding sources? Aside from the current fees WPES collects, has Metro considered other regulatory fees for the private entities that operate in the region to cover the cost of those</p>
<b>Fee Structure Clarity</b>	<p>Lack of metro oversight over fees at private transfer stations (Local government representative)</p> <p>Transparency needed re: where investments in pay equity eventually land (are fees scaling with waste worker wages)? (Community representative)</p> <p>How do these fee increases affect private transfer stations and material recovery facility operations? (Reuse representative)</p>

### Areas of Concern or Misalignment

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Equity &amp; Transparency</b>	<p>More transparency/detail needed into planning and partnership costs and activities (Community representative)</p> <p>Further analysis of geographic fee disparities needed and how Metro fits into this (Community representative)</p> <p>As the region moves toward new funding models, there is an urgent need for transparent planning and deeper local government engagement to ensure communities are not caught off guard by sudden shifts in financial responsibility. (Local government representative)</p>
<b>Solid Waste Fee Increase</b>	<p>Concerned that the increased solid waste fee may increase illegal dumping (Community representative)</p> <p>Concerned that Metro staff costs in fee increase more than personnel costs in Recology contract (Industry representative)</p> <p>Has Metro considered operational changes to reduce operating costs instead of a significant fee increase that directly impacts our system users? This could potentially be done with alternative processes and schedules, or contract labor to allow for flexibility. (Local government representative)</p>
<b>Tonnage Assumptions</b>	<p>Tonnage forecast v. actual tons as an impact on Metro budget and private facilities. Metro is capable of generating “surplus” with minimum tonnage of 40%, private facilities have caps (Industry representative)</p> <p>Need to consider the impact of decreasing tonnage – higher fees will lead to more illegal dumping – as you note, consumers have a limited ability to</p>



	manager their own waste generation (Reuse representative, listed as concern)
<b>Level of Reuse Investment</b>	<p>Loss of the I&amp;I program means a net reduction of \$1M of investment in reuse annually (Reuse representative)</p> <p>Concern of reduction in I&amp;I and impact on reuse (Community member)</p>

## Detailed Comments by Seat

The following section provides a detailed record of the feedback submitted by committee members, organized by the type of seat they hold. Committee members were asked to select their two top priorities for each area of input including where they see strong alignment with regional priorities, and areas of concern and misalignment. They were also given an opportunity to provide additional feedback. These comments reflect individual perspectives on the proposed FY2025–26 Waste Prevention and Environmental Services budget and fees, including areas of strong alignment, opportunities for adjustment or clarification, and concerns or areas of potential misalignment. This detailed record is intended to supplement the high-level thematic summary and offer additional insight into the range of perspectives shared during the committee’s engagement process.

## Community representatives

<b>Supports Regional Priorities and System Outcomes</b>	<p>Reuse Impact Fund is a good investment, especially taking into account the Reuse/Waste Prevention goals</p> <p>Good to prioritize higher/more livable wages and moving away from contract labor, when appropriate. Partnerships are important, but with good wages and benefits</p> <p>Reuse Impact Fund is a sensible means of investing in on-the-ground experts of this work</p> <p>Cornelius depot will improve geographic accessibility/reuse options for residents</p> <p>Environmental Stewardship: 1) Household Hazardous Waste maintenance, new infrastructure investments (e.g. organics processing at Central), 2) Cleanup and direct government grants are great on-the-ground means of furthering this priority</p> <p>Services and community education – everyday people don’t attend these meetings/forums, even if they are open to the public. Meeting the people where they’re at (their communities) is the best way to provide resources and communication</p>
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	<p>I am encouraged by the upcoming discussion of the “fee stability and investment model” and look forward to learning more</p> <p>Focus on education and information. I took Master Recycler program and thought it was very useful. I learned how to reduce waste and be resourceful without buying anything. Feel that with current uncertainty with economy and lack of wage increases we should educate people about how to reduce waste, reuse and repurpose things.</p>
<b>Opportunities for Adjustment or Clarification</b>	<p>Perhaps a longer-term consideration...potential – perhaps as part of the SFP implementation plan – to look at how to reduce MetroPaint costs? And with the new depots, the HHW costs as well?</p> <p>Ability to reduce 3.0 FTE to 2.0 for the SFP implementation team? What impact would that have?</p> <p>How are we providing opportunities for transfer stations/private stakeholders to meaningfully participate in the emerging reuse economy?</p> <p>Solid Waste Fee increase – compared to other transfer stations in the region – will this worsen geographic disparities?</p> <p>Transparency needed re: where investments in pay equity eventually land (are fees scaling with waste worker wages)?</p> <p>Solid waste fee increases – I understand for the most part, but don’t like it. For the everyday people, non-committee members or people part of the garbage world, an explanation in “laymen’s” terms of why?</p> <p>Would be interested in how Extended Producer Responsibility could potentially offset some of these costs in the future</p> <p>Seconded Jackie’s comment that the loss of I&amp;I fund may be loss of investment in reuse</p> <p>By decreasing in any area, doesn’t that only delay cost and create potentially bigger price increases in the future?</p> <p>Important to continue thinking about a future with less trash... could transfer stations also make money off recyclables, reuse etc...?</p>
<b>Areas of Concern and Misalignment</b>	<p>More transparency/detail needed into planning and partnership costs and activities, esp. Policy &amp; compliance</p> <p>Further analysis of geographic fee disparities needed and how Metro fits into this</p>

	<p>I am concerned about how the 11% proposed solid waste fee increase may affect small haulers and nonprofits. Could some Extended Producer Responsibility offset this?</p> <p>Concerned that the increased solid waste fee may increase illegal dumping</p> <p>Regional fee increase – I feel like with the current politics, we are just as unstable and unsure as we were during COVID. Need to consider what is “right now” - is it truly the time to move forward with certain projects</p>
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### **Additional community input:**

- I just would like to emphasize the importance of reuse. During this uncertain time, what is certain is that climate change is happening and recycling has limitations. We need a paradigm shift towards a reuse society. I believe that extended producer responsibility should eventually cover the price of environmental impact and end-of-life management (plastic would be 1000 times more expensive that way! Paint could be sold with disposal fee which could fund PaintCare). When the fee increases, it is a great chance to educate public. They may not even know what options are available (cart size, on-call, low-income assistance, etc.). I didn't know about on-call service until 2 years ago myself. Thank you for your hard work!

### **Local governments representatives**

<b>Supports Regional Priorities and System Outcomes</b>	<p>Support proposed regional garbage and recycling operations</p> <p>The partnerships are important in order for the service improvements to be implemented by local governments</p> <p>DEQ supports the research and planned programs identified as the analysis supports implementation of the RWP. DEQ doesn't usually comment on specific fee values.</p> <p>Services and Community Education – 1) The ability to provide educational programming and service offerings flexible enough to meet the diverse needs of our community benefits all local governments in the Metro region. Direct funding to programs and services which meet the current needs of the community is important. And 2) Working together in partnership to align priorities strengthens the reach of key messages, such as, upstream habit changes, end of life material consideration and how to recycle right.</p> <p>Garbage and Recycling Operations- Aside from the 2030 Regional Waste Plan, how does Metro rank their operational priorities? What</p>
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	<p>assessment is conducted to determine the nice to have programming verses the need to have elements which meet local governments and our community's needs.</p> <p>The proposed Fee Stability and Investment Model is a thoughtful approach to managing long-term investments while balancing affordability for ratepayers.</p> <p>The long-term goal to reduce reliance on a per-ton fee structure through implementation of the Recycling Modernization Act reflects a strategic shift toward more sustainable funding.</p>
<b>Opportunities for Adjustment or Clarification</b>	<p>How can the implementation of the new facilities be accelerated?</p> <p>If the proposed increase is adopted the RSF will have increased by 80% since 2020 (more than 3x general inflation).</p> <p>Lack of metro oversight over fees at private transfer stations</p> <p>What options does Metro have to expand funding sources? Aside from the current fees WPES collects, has Metro considered other regulatory fees for the private entities that operate in the region to cover the cost of those services?</p> <p>New Investments- In reviewing the proposed budgets addition of three new FTE to implement the systems facility plan, has Metro analyzed the current capability of their staff to conduct this work? Is there a possibility of ramping-up additional FTE overtime on an as-needed basis?</p> <p>Has Metro's assessment of maintaining a Disaster Debris Grant fund with a balance of \$500K changed now that a framework has been developed through the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO) which affirms it is local government's role to manage disaster debris clean-up activities?</p> <p>While we support the concept of community depots, the current siting plan continues to leave Beaverton and other Westside communities with limited access. Future investments should prioritize true geographic equity—not just regional coverage.</p> <p>As the region moves toward new funding models, there is an urgent need for transparent planning and deeper local government engagement to ensure communities are not caught off guard by sudden shifts in financial responsibility.</p>
<b>Areas of Concern and Misalignment</b>	<p>Regional System Fee – What is the long-term strategy by Metro to address future reduction of tonnage given anticipated changes in how wet waste is managed? Does the pay-as-you-throw methodology have unintended consequences which feed the need to increase funding for programs like RID patrol to clean-up illegally dumped materials or</p>

	<p>local governments to assume greater costs by expanding reduced rate program offerings?</p> <p>Solid Waste Fee - Has Metro considered operational changes to reduce operating costs instead of a significant fee increase that directly impacts our system users? This could potentially be done with alternative processes and schedules, or contract labor to allow for flexibility.</p> <p>The placement of new community depots fails to meet the stated goal of ensuring all residents are within a 20-minute commute to a facility. Beaverton residents still face a 30–45 minute drive to the nearest location, and prior feedback from city staff has not been addressed.</p> <p>The magnitude of the proposed fee increases—5.97% for the Regional System Fee and 11.01% for the Solid Waste Fee—feels out of step with current economic conditions and may unintentionally incentivize illegal dumping in underserved areas.</p>
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#### **Additional local government input:**

- The transition away from a per-ton funding model under the Recycling Modernization Act is a significant shift, yet there has been minimal discussion on how that transition will occur or how cities like Beaverton will be supported during the change. This is especially concerning given that tonnage-based fees continue to serve as the backbone of the current budget proposal.
- Beaverton continues to experience inequitable access to regional solid waste infrastructure. The proposed depot location in Cornelius, while beneficial to parts of Washington County, offers no meaningful improvement for many Beaverton residents. Despite direct engagement from Beaverton’s city council and staff, concerns about accessibility and service equity remain unresolved. Without action, our residents will bear a disproportionate burden—paying more while still traveling farther than most to access basic services.
- While it is technically accurate that local governments set their own garbage and recycling collection rates, Metro’s system fees are mandatory and form the foundation of every jurisdiction’s fee structure. Any local adjustments come on top of Metro’s charges, limiting true local flexibility. Metro should play a more active role in helping partners and residents understand what these fees support. Currently, Metro’s FTE staffing model appears outsized compared to other jurisdictions, and greater focus is needed to ensure staff are supporting local partners and system users—not solely expanding administrative overhead.
- Additionally, the \$81.4 million allocated to Materials and Services warrants much closer scrutiny. As the largest line item in the budget—outpacing personnel, capital

outlay, and contingency spending—this allocation lacks adequate transparency. Combined with the 26.5 FTE dedicated to community-facing services, the size of this line item raises critical questions: What specific programs or contracts are driving these costs? How much is directed to direct services versus administrative support? Without greater detail, it is difficult to assess whether these investments are advancing regional goals effectively or whether they could be restructured to ensure more equitable service delivery across the region, particularly for underserved areas like Beaverton.

- More context needs to be added to the descriptions of "Fee Structure Clarity" and "Solid Waste Fee Increase." Consistent with the report as written, we are requesting more transparency with respect to calculation methods and alternatives. However, the report neglects to mention the broader context of these increases, notably the fact that if adopted, the proposed fee increases will be greater than 3x general inflation. Just as the report contemplates whether "Metro considered operational changes to reduce operating costs" we are asking if the report can contemplate whether "Metro can provide support for the necessity of fee increases that are three times general inflation." This support is critical given that localities are in the midst of layoffs and significant budget deficits. "Inflation" is seemingly not mentioned in this report.
- Can Metro explain why contractor and FTE costs differ so significantly? More transparency as to and substantiation of these differences would be appreciated and go to a general interest in "Fee Structure Clarity."

## Industry representatives

<b>Supports Regional Priorities and System Outcomes</b>	<p>Appreciate slow, calculated approach to starting System Facilities Plan work (should do while keeping cost constant – as are now) as much as possible</p> <p>Good focus on need not want to have</p> <p>Keeping Regional System fee and solid waste fees separate, even in reserves</p>
<b>Opportunities for Adjustment or Clarification</b>	<p>Consider maintaining status quo services with current costs as much as possible</p> <p>Like to see options in service levels to reduce solid waste fee rate, i.e. reduced hours reduces cost (fee increase) by X amount</p> <p>System facilities plan has Metro moving away from commercial wet waste. Need to look at lowering 40% tons through budget process, how does that impact need for capital improvements and overall Metro solid waste fees</p>



	Hard to assess –or give feedback- if all programs are properly staffed. Example: call center staffing – what is the expectation of holding times, do they have other tasks during down time?
<b>Areas of Concern and Misalignment</b>	<p>Concerned that Metro staff costs in solid waste fee increase more than personnel costs in Recology contract</p> <p>No need for added 3 FTE to support System Facilities Plan work, use current staff who helped get SFP in development to where we are now</p> <p>Tonnage forecast v. actual tons as an impact on Metro budget and private facilities. Metro is capable of generating “surplus” with minimum tonnage of 40%, private facilities have caps</p>

## Reuse representative

<b>Supports Regional Priorities and System Outcomes</b>	Very supportive of the reuse impact fund (wish it were bigger)
<b>Opportunities for Adjustment or Clarification</b>	<p>How do these fee increases affect private transfer station and Material Recovery Facility operations?</p> <p>Need to consider the impact of decreasing tonnage – higher fees will lead to more illegal dumping – as you note, consumers have a limited ability to manager their own waste generation</p>
<b>Areas of Concern and Misalignment</b>	Loss of the I&I program means a net reduction of \$1M of investment in reuse annually

# REGIONAL WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Worksheet

**PRESENTATION DATE:** May 22, 2025      **LENGTH:** 45 mins

**PRESENTATION TITLE:** The Regional Service Standards and proposed bulky waste updates

**DECISION TYPE:** Advisory

**RELATED REGIONAL WASTE PLAN GOALS:** 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 15

**PRESENTER(S):** Tom Egleston, policy and program development manager; Sara Kirby, senior policy planner

### ISSUE STATEMENT

Updates to the Regional Service Standards in Metro's administrative rules support regional waste management goals by aligning with new state requirements and improving services for residents of multifamily housing. These rules must undergo a public comment period and are approved by the Chief Operating Officer. The Regional Waste Advisory Committee will provide input that will be shared with the Chief Operating Officer to help inform final rule approval.

This presentation is part one of a two-part engagement process to gather input on proposed updates to the Regional Service Standards.

### Meeting 1: May 22<sup>nd</sup> - Advanced briefing for June advisory

This first meeting will include an overview of the Regional Service Standards—what they are, how they support the goals of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan, and why they are being updated. Current work is focused on improving the collection of bulky items like furniture across the region. The presentation will also cover lessons learned from recently implemented multifamily standards, clarify the roles of Metro, cities, and counties, and highlight key findings from a recent bulky waste collection study.

Committee discussion question:

- Do you have questions about bulky waste collection services, the Regional Service Standards or the role of Metro and local governments in implementing the Regional Service Standards?

### Meeting 2: June 26<sup>th</sup> - Advisory

The second meeting will include a presentation on the Recycling Modernization Act followed by a review of proposed updates to the Regional Service Standards. It will provide an overview of the proposed changes to the Regional Service Standards related to both the Recycling Modernization Act and bulky waste services.

Committee discussion question:

- Do you have any input on proposed updates to Metro's Regional Service Standards related to the updates for the Recycling Modernization Act and bulky waste services?

## ACTION REQUESTED

Advisory – At this meeting, committee members will learn about Metro’s administrative rules, the Regional Service Standards, and findings from the bulky waste collection study. Members will have the opportunity to provide formal input on the proposed updates at the June 26, 2025, meeting, which will be shared with the Chief Operating Officer.

## BACKGROUND

### Regional Service Standards

As the regional solid waste authority, Metro sets Regional Service Standards to ensure consistent minimum service levels for garbage and recycling for residents and businesses across Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties. These help align local collection programs with statewide requirements (ORS 459A). The standards are detailed in Metro Code Title V and accompanying administrative rules. While cities and counties implement the standards, Metro monitors compliance and provides technical support or enforcement when needed. The key components of the residential standards are outlined below.

<b>Residential Service Standards</b>	<b>Single-Family Homes:</b> Metro mandates weekly collection of garbage, recyclables, yard debris, and glass. Minimum container capacities are specified—for example, at least 60 gallons for mixed recyclables and yard debris, and at least 5 gallons for glass. Food scraps may be collected weekly or every other week, depending on local program approvals. Bulky waste collection service is required to be provided.
	<b>Multifamily Housing:</b> Properties with five or more units must be provided weekly collection services with minimum volumes of 20 gallons per unit for both garbage and recyclables, and 1 gallon per unit for glass. Standardized container colors and labeling are mandated to ensure clarity and consistency. By July 1, 2025, these properties are also required to be provided regularly occurring bulky waste collection services.

### Regional Service Standard: Bulky Waste Services for Multifamily

More than 35% of people in the Portland metropolitan area live in apartments or condominiums. Residents in multifamily housing have historically faced greater barriers to garbage and recycling services, and the services they receive often fall short of their needs. The 2030 Regional Waste Plan prioritizes improving services for multifamily communities to ensure all residents, no matter where they live, have access to convenient, affordable and consistent services.

To address these disparities, Metro updated its administrative rules in 2021 to require minimum service volumes, standardized container colors and signage, and regular bulky waste collection. These changes support key goals in the 2030 Regional Waste Plan. To further this work, Metro partnered with cities and counties on a policy initiative to improve bulky waste collection for apartment residents and lower-income households.

The Bulky Waste Policy Project was a multi-phase effort to evaluate and enhance bulky waste collection across the region. Early phases involved research and stakeholder engagement to identify key service gaps, including access, cost, and space limitations. In phase three, a regional study provided data on collection volumes, frequency, and costs. It found that multifamily properties used bulky waste services an average of 2–3 times per month, with usage varying by property size. This utilization data—how often materials were set out for pickup—helped shape the proposed service standards.

The study also confirmed that bulky waste is consistently generated at multifamily properties, with property managers currently relying on a range of informal methods to manage it. Establishing a predictable, transparent collection system is expected to increase participation and improve outcomes across the region.

### **Proposed Updates**

As included in Attachment A, the proposed updates to the Regional Service Standards for multifamily bulky waste include:

- A clear, regional definition of bulky waste.
- A service expectation that collection must be available within two weeks of a request.
- Transparent, upfront pricing so customers know what they will pay before service is provided.

These updates are designed to make services more accessible, predictable, and easier to use. When costs and collection schedules are clear, property managers and residents are more likely to take advantage of services. This supports cleaner, safer shared spaces, reduces illegal dumping, and ensures that all residents—regardless of income or housing type—have access to consistent waste services.

In addition, updates are needed to support implementation of the Recycling Modernization Act, which creates a statewide framework for recycling services. Proposed changes include aligning with the Uniform Statewide Collection List and allowing flexibility in single-family glass collection (weekly or every-other-week).

### **Previous Regional Waste Advisory Committee engagements**

- June 2024, Bulky waste collection study results
- October 2023, Bulky waste planning update and next steps
- March 2023 Recycling Modernization Act update

### **NEXT STEPS**

- June 2025 – Regional Waste Advisory Committee discussion and feedback on proposed service standard updates
- May 29 – July 8, 2025 - Public comment period
- Summer 2025 – Metro Council update
- Summer 2025 – Administrative rules considered by Metro Chief Operating Officer

Attachment A: Proposed Regional Service Standards amendments

# Attachment A - Proposed Regional Service Standards amendments

## **SOLID WASTE ADMINISTRATIVE RULES** Residential Service

**AR 5.15-2000 through 2065**

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5.15 - 2000	Purpose
5.15 - 2005	Legal Authority
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### 5.15 – 2000 Purpose

To implement the residential service standard as set forth in Metro Code Chapter 5.15 and as required by the Regional Waste Plan to ensure a comprehensive and consistent level of recycling service for the region.

*Effective: April 3, 2021*

### 5.15 – 2005 Legal Authority

1. Metro's solid waste planning and implementing authority is established under the Metro Charter, the Constitution of the State of Oregon, and ORS Chapters 268 and 459.
2. These rules are issued under the authority of Metro Code. These rules are in addition to all other requirements and provisions in Metro Code Chapters 5.10 and 5.15.

*Effective: April 3, 2021*

### 5.15 – 2010 Definitions

Unless otherwise specifically defined below, all terms used are as defined in Metro Code Chapter 5.00.

**Acceptable recyclable materials** are a type of source-separated recyclable as defined in Metro Code Chapter 5.00. For the purposes of these administrative rules, ~~acceptable recyclable materials include~~ [the same as the Local Government Recycling Acceptance List in OAR 340-090-0630\(2\) plus additional materials approved by the Department of Environmental Quality pursuant to ORS 459A.914\(4\)\(b\) or OAR 340-090-0630\(7\).](#) ~~the following:~~

Mixed waste paper	Steel cans
Newspaper	Aluminum
Magazines	Scrap metal
Corrugated cardboard	Plastic bottles and jars
Kraft paper	Round plastic containers/tubs
Aseptic containers	Glass bottles and jars
Yard debris	Motor oil

**Minimum service** means the lowest amount of acceptable recyclable material, glass, yard debris, and garbage collection service volume to be in compliance with residential service standard.

**Bulky waste** means [any useless, unwanted or discarded item used in or around a household and generated by a household that does not fit inside a standard 35-gallon garbage or recycling receptacle, or that is longer than 36 inches in any one direction. This term includes items such as furniture, appliances, electronic devices, outdoor patio and garden items, personal vehicle items, doors, cabinets, toilets, or](#)



sinks. This term does not include household hazardous waste, construction and demolition debris, acceptable recyclable materials, gas cylinders, or any waste that can fit within a standard 35-gallon receptacle.

*Effective: April 3, 2021*

### **5.15 – 2015 Applicability of Rules**

The requirements of the Regional Waste Plan’s residential service standard apply to all portions of Clackamas, Washington, and Multnomah Counties within Metro’s jurisdictional boundary. For areas of Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties outside of Metro’s jurisdictional boundary, the performance standards are recommendations.

*Effective: April 3, 2021*

### **5.15 - 2020 Glass Separation Requirement**

For all residential customers, a local government must require that glass is kept separate from all other acceptable recyclable materials in collection receptacles and on collection vehicles.

*Effective: April 3, 2021*

### **5.15 - 2025 Single-Family Residential Service Standards**

For all single-family residential customers, a local government must:

1. Provide at least one receptacle, with capacity of at least 60 gallons, for the collection of all acceptable recyclable materials except glass, yard debris and motor oil.
2. Provide at least one receptacle for yard debris collection. The receptacle must have a capacity of at least 60 gallons.
3. Provide at least one receptacle for source-separated glass collection. The receptacle must have a capacity of at least five gallons.
4. Provide weekly collection of acceptable recyclable materials, ~~glass~~, motor oil, and yard debris on the same day of the week as garbage, unless exempted under administrative rule 5.15-2030 or administrative rule 5.15-2035.
5. Provide at least every-other-week collection of glass on the same day of the week as garbage.
- ~~6. Provide at least one receptacle for yard debris collection. The receptacle must have a capacity of at least 60 gallons.~~
6. Residential food scraps with yard debris can be offered at weekly or every other week frequency. Every other week collection of residential food scraps mixed with yard debris is allowed only if approved in advance by the processing facility receiving the material and acceptance does not violate any other government ordinance, regulation, permit, health, or safety code.
7. Provide bulky waste collection service.

8. Ensure that property owners and managers provide access to on-site garbage and recycling collection service to renters of single-family residential properties.

*Effective: April 3, 2021*

#### **5.15 - 2030 Exemption to Single-Family Yard Debris Service Standard**

1. A local government may exempt rural service areas from regular on-route collection of yard debris provided that the local government distributes informational material to rural customers at least annually that provides options for proper management of yard debris, including instructions to not place yard debris in solid waste receptacles destined for disposal.
2. A local government may define “rural service areas” for purposes of solid waste collection and must provide its definition to Metro. A local government must notify Metro of any changes to that definition.

*Effective: April 3, 2021*

#### **5.15 - 2035 Exemption for Single-Family Every Other Week Recycling and Yard Debris Collection Programs**

A local government with an every-other-week recycling and/or yard debris collection program in place as of January 1, 2019 meets the residential service standard. A second recycling collection receptacle of at least 60 gallons capacity must be provided to every-other-week customers upon request and at no additional charge.

*Effective: April 3, 2021*

#### **5.15 - 2040 Multifamily Residential Service Standards**

For all multifamily residential customers, a local government must:

1. Implement a minimum service volume of 20 gallons per unit per week for garbage collection service.
2. Implement a minimum service volume of 20 gallons per unit per week for acceptable recyclable materials and a minimum service volume of one gallon per unit per week for source-separated glass.
3. Ensure all material streams are collected at least weekly. On call services are exempt from collection frequency and minimum service volume requirements.
4. ~~Ensure provision of regularly-occurring bulky waste collection service by July 1, 2025~~ Implement bulky waste collection service, available no less than two weeks from request by July 1, 2027. Rates for service must be upfront and transparent.

*Effective: April 3, 2021*

#### **5.15 - 2045 Multifamily Receptacle Colors; Signage; Informational Materials**

For all multifamily residential customers, a local government must comply with the regional standards for collection receptacles ~~by the dates below.~~

1. All [new](#) receptacles ~~ordered after July 1, 2022~~ must comply with the color standard below and must be labeled with the correct Metro-approved regional signage.
2. All [new](#) plastic receptacles for garbage, mixed recyclable materials, and yard debris and/or food scraps ~~ordered after July 1, 2022~~ must contain at least 30% post-consumer recycled content.
3. Garbage receptacles must be gray or black, mixed recyclable materials receptacles must be blue, yard debris and/or food scraps receptacles must be green and source-separated glass receptacles must be orange by July 1, 2028. Metro will provide a list of approved receptacle colors by vendor.
4. Color standards do not apply to compactors and drop boxes.
5. ~~As of December 31, 2023,~~ All receptacles must be labeled with the correct Metro-approved regional decals for acceptable recyclable materials, glass, yard debris, and garbage. All previous garbage and recycling instructional decals must be removed from each receptacle and replaced with correct and approved regional decals.

*Effective: April 3, 2021*

#### **5.15 - 2050 Exemptions to Multifamily Standards**

Notwithstanding administrative rule 5.15-2045, a local government may:

1. Exempt used motor oil from collection.
2. Exempt yard debris from collection if no yard debris is generated on-site, or the customer meets one of the following conditions:
  - a. Uses a landscape maintenance firm that transports yard debris to a Metro-authorized facility;
  - b. Manages its yard debris on-site such as composting or mulching;
  - c. Self-hauls its yard debris to a Metro-authorized facility;
  - d. Uses another method approved by Metro.

*Effective: April 3, 2021*

#### **5.15 - 2055 Compliance and Enforcement**

A local government must comply with the requirements of the Regional Waste Plan's residential service standard. If a local government does not comply, Metro will withhold funding associated with the implementation of the Regional Waste Plan. Metro may also withhold discretionary funding associated with other programs and seek any remedy under its Charter, Code or applicable state law.

*Effective: April 3, 2021*

#### **5.15 - 2060 Reporting**

As part of regular annual reporting requirements, a local government must provide the information necessary for Metro to determine compliance with the residential service standard.

*Effective: April 3, 2021*

#### **5.15 - 2065 Funding Guidelines**

In order to receive funding associated with the Regional Waste Plan, a local government or its designated agency must comply with the requirements of Metro Code Chapter 5.15 and these rules. The local government or its designated agency must also enter into an intergovernmental agreement with Metro.

*Effective: April 3, 2021*

**SOLID WASTE**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**  
General Education

**AR 5.15-5000 through 5020**

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5.15 - 5000	Purpose
5.15 - 5005	Legal Authority
5.15 - 5010	Definitions
5.15 - 5015	Applicability of Rules
5.15 - 5020	General Education Performance Standard

### **5.15 – 5000 Purpose**

To implement the general education standard as set forth in Metro Code Chapter 5.15 and as required by the Regional Waste Plan to ensure a comprehensive and consistent level of education and assistance for garbage, recycling, composting, waste prevention, and reuse education and assistance for all customers in the region.

*Effective: April 3, 2021*

### **5.15 – 5005 Legal Authority**

1. Metro’s solid waste planning and implementing authority is established under the Metro Charter, the Constitution of the State of Oregon, and ORS Chapters 268 and 459.
2. These rules are issued under the authority of Metro Code. These rules are in addition to all other requirements and provisions in Metro Code Chapters 5.10 and 5.15.

*Effective: April 3, 2021*

### **5.15 – 5010 Definitions**

Unless otherwise specifically defined below, all terms used are as defined in Metro Code Chapter 5.00 and administrative rule 5.15-2010.

**Culturally-responsive** means adapted to maximize the respect and relevance to the beliefs, practices, culture and linguistic needs of diverse consumer populations and communities.

*Effective: April 3, 2021*

### **5.15 – 5015 Applicability of Rules**

The requirements of the Regional Waste Plan’s general education standard apply to all portions of Clackamas, Washington, and Multnomah Counties within Metro’s jurisdictional boundary. For areas of Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties outside of Metro’s jurisdictional boundary, the standard is a recommendation.

*Effective: April 3, 2021*

### **5.15 -5020 General Education Performance Standard**

A local government must:

1. Provide comprehensive education and assistance for waste, recycling and reuse services to all customers. Education and assistance must be provided at least annually and contain the following:
  - a. Information about waste prevention, reuse, recycling, yard debris, [bulky waste](#) and food waste.
  - b. Instructions about the proper preparation of materials for recycling, composting and disposal.
  - c. Contact information for customers to receive additional information or assistance.



2. Provide education and outreach resources that are accurate, culturally-responsive, and reflect local conditions. Ensure that all information provided by collection service providers meets this standard.
3. Ensure collection service providers give direct performance feedback to individual customers regarding any contamination of acceptable recyclable materials.
4. Provide timely inclement weather notifications to customers in multiple languages and through a variety of media.

A local government should:

5. Use regional education and outreach resources, campaigns and programs as developed by Metro including, but not limited to:
  - a. Implement regionally-consistent contamination reduction efforts to improve material quality, including education, sorting instructions, and customer feedback methods.
  - b. Utilize Metro's Recycling Information Center to serve all residents in the region as a clearinghouse for prevention, reuse, recycling and disposal information.

*Effective: April 3, 2021*