

REGIONAL WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Worksheet

PRESENTATION DATE: March 18, 2021 **LENGTH:** 30 minutes

PRESENTATION TITLE: Investment and Innovation grants pilot evaluation and future of the program

DECISION TYPE: Informational

RELATED REGIONAL WASTE PLAN GOALS: Goals 8, 9, 15

PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

- Provide the RWAC with background and context on the Investment and Innovation grant program pilot and key findings from an evaluation of the pilot, including draft options for the future of the program.
- This meeting will set the stage for discussion at RWAC's April meeting, at which program staff will ask RWAC to provide input on the draft options to inform Metro Council consideration.

ACTION REQUESTED

- This item is informational.

BACKGROUND

- The Metro Council initiated the Investment and Innovation (I&I) program in 2018 as a three-year pilot to invest in efforts of private companies and non-profit organizations to (1) create, expand, preserve and broaden efforts that advance waste prevention, reuse, recycling and energy recovery in the greater Portland area, and (2) help foster economic opportunities and other benefits for communities of color and other historically marginalized communities.
- The I&I program is one of Metro's tools to help achieve the overarching objectives of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan to reduce the environmental impacts of materials throughout their life cycle and to advance racial equity.
- During the pilot the program awarded over \$8.7 million in 42 grants. Capital grants up to \$712,500 are funding infrastructure improvements and equipment. Program grants up to \$75,000 are funding costs associated with new or expanded programming.
- Metro has conducted an evaluation of the individual and cumulative outcomes of these grants, with respect to both environmental and racial equity impacts. The evaluation focused on how well the program is advancing Regional Waste Plan objectives. A summary of the outcomes is in the attached Impact Summary report, and the full report will be made available to RWAC in early April.
- Program staff will introduce draft options for the future of the I&I program at this meeting, and then ask for RWAC's input on the options at its April 15 meeting.

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Does the committee have any questions about the background/context presented?

NEXT STEPS

- Staff will present this topic to the Metro Committee on Racial Equity on March 18, and to local government solid waste directors on March 25.
- Staff will solicit RWAC guidance on the draft options for the future of the grant program in a second RWAC meeting in April.
- Staff will include input from RWAC in its presentation to Metro Council in April and will report back to RWAC after the Council work session.

ATTACHMENTS

- Investment and Innovation program pilot Impact Summary report (4 pages)
- Draft options for the future of the I&I program.