

# Overview of Proposed Revisions to Metro Code Chapter 5.10

May 2020

## Why are changes being made?

**It is out of date.** Metro Code Chapter 5.10 implements the requirements of the former Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, not the new Regional Waste Plan adopted in March 2019. In addition, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality updated recycling statute and rules in 2018 and much of Chapter 5.10 contains state requirements that are no longer in place.

**It does not fit the new format for Code and Administrative Rule.** Current code is challenging to read and interpret, contains obsolete terms and does not reflect the wording in the new Regional Waste Plan. Obsolete references, lengthy sentences and legalese will be removed. Some code sections will be transferred into administrative rules to follow format changes being made to the Metro Code overall.

**It is not well organized.** Currently overall Regional Waste Plan requirements, those for local governments and service provision standards are scattered throughout Chapter 5.10. To better organize the chapter and provide more clarity, the existing Chapter 5.10 will be split into two chapters.

**It does not reflect the Regional Waste Plan.** Code and rule in place now was designed for the 2008 Plan. In addition, existing code and rule contains both regional plan requirements as well as state requirements, which is confusing. These revisions clarify that the code and rule implement the Regional Waste Plan, not state law.

## What are the specific changes being considered?

- Split the current Chapter 5.10 into two chapters. Chapter 5.10 will cover the overall Regional Waste Plan and a new Chapter 5.15 has been created to focus on requirements specific to local governments.
- Reorganize confusing sections. Rather than have several separate code sections dealing with single-family and multifamily residential requirements, code sections have been grouped by sector:
  - Residential Service (includes all residential dwellings)
  - Business Service and Recycling Requirement
  - Business Food Waste Requirement
  - Education
- Move and reword detailed information to administrative rules so that all local government requirements are in a single location and are communicated more clearly. These include:
  - General service standards for all sectors
  - Specific service standards for single-family, multifamily and business customers
  - Education and outreach standards
  - Materials required for collection
- Add residential food scraps collection as a named material to the service standards:
  - Residential food scraps collection is optional
  - Weekly or every-other-week collection frequency

- Add a general education section that applies to all customers:
  - Reflects the Regional Waste Plan rather than state requirements
  - Focuses on regional consistency as well as requiring that education provided by local governments and service providers be accurate, culturally-responsive and reflect local conditions
- Add new standards for multifamily services to implement new and high-priority Regional Waste Plan actions. These will be the most significant substantive changes to the code and include:
  - Required use of regional signage on bins and in collection areas
  - Per unit service volume minimums for garbage, mixed recycling and glass streams
  - Weekly minimum collection frequency for all streams
  - Collection container color standard for all material streams
- Combine all standards and requirements with regard to the business sector into one section for ease of reading and to increase understanding. No substantive changes have been made.
  - Obsolete or outdated standards have been eliminated including past implementation deadlines, and past funding requirements.
  - Business Food Waste Requirement is unchanged.
- Eliminate the Regional Service Standard Alternative Program. Elements of local government alternative programs showing the same outcome as the Regional Service Standard (weekly collection) have been incorporated into the new standard. Elements of local government programs that showed worse outcomes than the Regional Service Standard will be required to change.
  - Every-other-week mixed recycling collection has been incorporated into the proposed standard for every-other-week programs in place as of January 1, 2019
  - Monthly glass collection will be required to move to weekly or every-other-week collection
- Remove obsolete state requirements and update wording and terms to reflect those used in the new Regional Waste Plan and to remove legalese, outdated references, and lengthy sentences.

### What is the timeline?

Code revisions and new administrative rules are currently being drafted and reviewed internally. Over the next few months, early versions will be shared first with local government solid waste directors for their input and comment. After local government input, vetting with other Metro policy committees, stakeholder groups and a formal public input process will likely occur in mid to late 2020.