

REGIONAL WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Worksheet

PRESENTATION DATE: November 18th, 2021

TOPIC: Update on Metro Food Scraps Policy and food waste processing project

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RELATED REGIONAL WASTE PLAN GOALS: Goal 6: Reduce produce environmental impacts and waste through educational and behavioral practices related to prevention and better purchasing choices. Goal 8: Increase the reuse, repair and donation of materials and consumer products. Goal 10: Provide regionally consistent services for garbage, recyclables and other priority materials that meet the needs of all users. Goal 15: Improve the system for recovering recyclables, food scraps and yard debris to make them more resilient to changing markets and evolving community needs.

PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

- Staff will give update on the revised timeline for implementation of the business food scraps requirement and the current status of the food waste processing project at Metro Central Transfer Station

BACKGROUND

In 2014, the Metro Council reviewed the region's current business food scraps recovery efforts and staff introduced potential paths forward to ensure that the region has a stable and sustainable food scraps transfer and processing system for the long term. At that time, the Council confirmed its desire to increase the region's recovery of food scraps and its wish to process those food scraps in or as close to the region as possible.

The Council determined that in order to increase food scraps recovery and attract stable, local processing capacity, the region should:

1. Require certain businesses to separate their food scraps for recovery and eventually prohibit the landfill disposal of food from businesses.
2. Determine how to efficiently collect and deliver food scraps for processing.
3. Secure local and stable processing capacity.

To address the goal of required food waste separation, the Metro Council adopted the Business Food Waste Requirement (Ordinance 18-1418) in July 2018. The policy requires city and county governments, which oversee the collection of garbage and recycling, to ensure that food scraps collection services are available to businesses in their communities.

Originally scheduled to begin in March 31, 2020, the requirement was delayed due to COVID-19. Initially, Metro amended associated administrative rules to delay the effective date by one year to March 30, 2021 but after careful consideration of the ongoing effects of COVID-19 on the business community, implementation for the largest businesses was delayed by an additional year--to March 30, 2022. Administrative rules were amended to include implementation phased according to the following schedule:

- Beginning on March 31, 2022, Business Group 1 which includes businesses that create 1,000 pounds or more of food scraps (the equivalent of four 60-gallon roll carts) per week will be required to separate their food scraps for collection. The compliance deadline for Business Group 1 is March 31, 2023.
- Beginning on March 31, 2022, Business Group 2 which includes businesses that create 500 pounds or more of food scraps (the equivalent of two 60-gallon roll carts) per week will be required to separate their food scraps for collection. The compliance deadline for Business Group 2 is September 30, 2023.
- Beginning on Sept. 30, 2023, Business Group 3 which includes businesses that create 250 pounds or more of food scraps (the equivalent of one 60-gallon roll cart) per week, along with K-12 schools, will be required to separate their food scraps for collection. The compliance deadline for Business Group 3 is September 30, 2024.

Businesses that create less than 250 pounds of food scraps per week will not be required to separate their food scraps from their garbage, but they may do so voluntarily.

To support implementation of the requirement and help businesses reduce the amount of food they throw away, Metro launched an educational initiative, called Food Waste Stops With Me in April 2018 in partnership with the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and city and county governments. Metro's website is the portal for [Food Waste Stops With Me](#) connecting businesses with resources and local government technical assistance with food waste prevention techniques, edible food donation programs and food waste collection programs.

During the food scraps collection policy development process, the Council decided that implementation of a disposal prohibition was necessary to strengthen the region's business food waste collection policy. Local government partners supported this approach; a ban provides leverage in their efforts to assist businesses with implementing collection programs over the next 5 years. To that end, the Metro Council also adopted Resolution No. 20-5067 in January 2020 which staff to develop Metro Code and administrative rule language to prohibit the disposal of commercially-derived food waste generated within the Metro region with an effective date of January 2025.

Food Waste Processing like food scraps collection was an outcome of Council engagements starting in 2014 through 2017 that directed staff to build a resilient system for managing the collection and processing of commercial food waste.

The Metro region has had unpredictable processing capacity over the life of the program. Recipients over time have varied from composters to anaerobic digestion. As one processor or another limited or changed their ability to process the regions commercial organics or revised acceptance standards, the regions collection program was put at risk. In the early years, Metro offered grant money to incentivize processing capacity in the region and some processors have attempted to start facilities only to have them end due to financing or land use limitations.

In 2017, Metro issued a RFQU for processing of commercial food waste received at Metro Central Transfer Station. Metro then requested the qualifying proposals to submit to a formal RFP process in 2018. Waste Management CORe was the top ranked proposal and negotiations were held over a nine month period. Those negotiations were terminated when both parties were unable to reach an agreement on fees that would protect Waste Management's capital investment and also protect the regions rate payers.

After the negotiations ended, Metro conducted a feasibility study to assess if food waste processing could be accomplished at the Metro Central Transfer Station in partnership with the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services. The memo concluded it was possible and BES and Metro signed a Memorandum of Understanding to start the process.

After settling on a special procurement of using a Design firm and Contract Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) in 2020, Metro hired JRMA and Slayden to assist in the project starting 2021.

PROGRESS TO DATE

- All 21 jurisdictions required to adopt the policy have passed ordinances to ensure that food scraps collection services are available to businesses in their communities.
- The food waste processing team is at 30% design on the project and will be issuing its first bid package this December.
- Work with BES is ongoing with the IGA and both parties expect it to be complete July of 2022

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTIONS REQUESTED

- None, inform RWAC

NEXT STEPS

- Implement business food waste requirement on March 31, 2022
- Staff will prepare for a January work session with Metro Council on food waste requirements and processing at Metro Central

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ordinance No. 18-1418 For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code Chapter 5.10 to Establish a Business Food Waste Requirement
2. Administrative Rule 5.10-4000 through 4085 Business Food Waste Requirement
3. Resolution No. 20-5087 Requiring Metro Staff to Develop Ordinance and Rule that Prohibits the Landfill Disposal of Commercially-Derived Food Waste Generated in the Region with an effective date of January 2025