



WASTE PREVENTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Fee Setting

Overview

Metro is responsible for ensuring that all solid waste generated in the region is managed in a manner that protects public health and safeguards the environment. As a part of this responsibility, Metro's Waste Prevention and Environmental Services department administers the 2030 Regional Waste Plan. The plan is the region's blueprint for maintaining a resilient garbage and recycling system, reducing the impacts of waste, and advancing Metro's racial equity goals. The plan is implemented collaboratively with local governments and partners. Metro's annual budget and solid waste fee process ensures the resources and framework needed to meet the waste reduction needs of our community.

Annual budget process

Metro's annual budget process incorporates strategic direction into a comprehensive policy and financial plan for all programs and services. The annual budget process is designed to meet the needs and expectations of our communities and requirements of Oregon Budget Law.

Each year, the process starts in September with preparation and analysis of five-year forecasts and ends in June with adoption of the budget by Metro Council. The solid waste fee setting process runs parallel to the budget process, with fees typically adopted in March or April.



Solid waste fee components and charges

Fees are divided into two categories – fees paid at Metro transfer stations and fees paid on the disposal of all solid waste in the region.

Fees Paid at Metro Central and Metro South by Customers

Tonnage Fee
Minimum Charges
Transaction Fees

Fees Paid on Disposal of All Solid Waste

Regional System Fee
Community Enhancement Fee
Excise tax
State DEQ fee

The “**Tip Fee**” is the total fee that commercial haulers and the public pay for disposing of waste at a Metro transfer station by the ton. In the example to the right, the customer was charged the minimum fee for mixed solid waste and the transaction fee.

CUSTOMER COPY
 < METRO SOUTH STATION >
 INVOICE # 5944936 Acct# < 5000 >
 Acct: Temp Account
 Truck# 10244
 RFID: IS1P201008
 --DATE-- --TIME-- MWID:
 IN 1/21/2025 1:43:40 PM CRS
 OUT 1/21/2025 1:43:40 PM CRS S5
 TransType: 1 DISPOSAL with Truck #
 Payment : 1 Charge
 Vehicle : 2 Compacted Drop Box
 Material: 8 MSW TFEF
 Destin : 20 NOT SPECIFIED

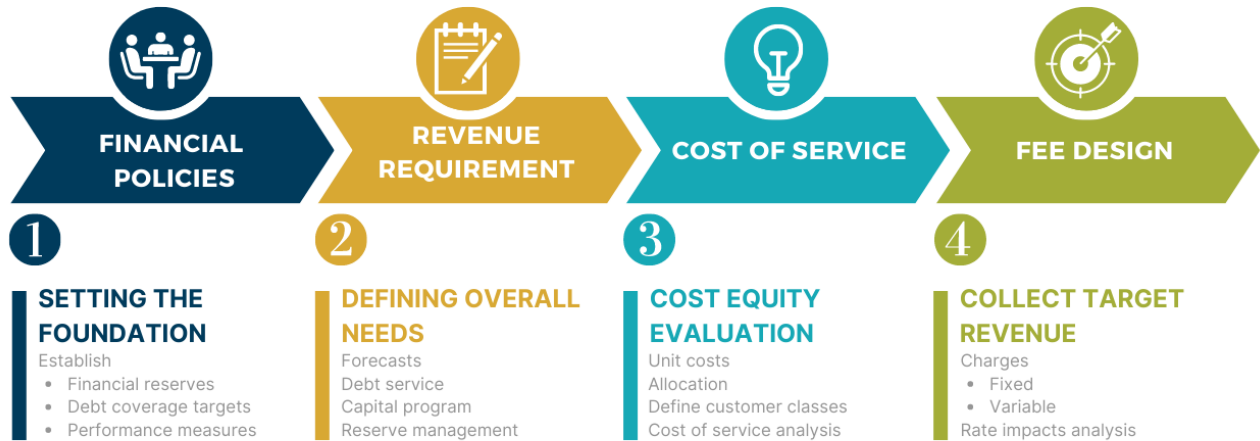
	Pounds	Tons	Manual WT
Gross Wt	3,620	1.81	
Tara Wt	3,390	1.69	
Net Wt	240	.12	

Rate \$ 153.67 / TN
 Tip Fee \$ 18.44 Min. Fee
 Spec Fee \$ 0.00
 Trans Fee \$ 7.25
 Total Fee \$ 25.69
 AttLand \$ 0.00 Change \$ 0.00
 Memo:
 Sign: _____

How are solid waste fees collected?

- **Fees paid at Metro Transfer Stations (Central and South)**
 - Tonnage fees – The fee for each ton of solid waste received at a Metro transfer station and funds the costs of operating and maintaining the two public transfer stations that manage garbage and recycling. Individual fee amounts are set for the following types of materials: Mixed solid waste, clean wood, yard debris, residentially generated organic waste, and commercially generated organic waste.
 - Minimum charges – Metro charges a minimum tonnage fee up to 300 pounds for all types of materials.
 - Transaction fees – Added to each transaction at a Metro transfer station. Individual fee amounts are set for staffed versus automatic scales.
- **Fees paid on disposal of all solid waste**
 - Regional system fee – Funds important regional services such as grants, household hazardous waste collection, waste reduction and disaster resilience planning, education programs, and garbage clean up on public lands.
 - Community enhancement fee – Funds community enhancement grants that go toward improving the lives of people who live and work near transfer stations, as well as their surrounding communities.
 - Excise enhancement fee- This fee funds Metro’s general operating and administrative costs such as protecting clean water and wildlife habitat and planning for new growth in the region.
 - State DEQ tax- The DEQ fee is collected on behalf of the state on all disposed of waste and helps fund state garbage and recycling programs.

How are solid waste fees set?



- 1. Financial Policies:** Financial policies provide the foundation for the fee setting process. Fee Setting Criteria help achieve Metro’s priorities and adopted policies. They fall under three specific headings: Fiscal Responsibility, Accountability and Public Benefit. These criteria cannot be reached at 100% on each item but balancing each criterion helps to establish equitable fees.
- 2. Revenue Requirement:** This step identifies the total annual financial obligations of the system. The annual revenue requirement includes operating expenses, annual debt service, use/funding of financial reserves, etc. This is where the Metro disposal, regional program and administrative costs are summed up.
- 3. Cost of Service:** The purpose of a cost-of-service analysis is to provide a basis for distributing the full costs of each service to each class of customer in proportion to the demands they place on the system. Expenses are allocated to the system’s functional areas of disposal and recovery, regional programs, compliance and administration.
- 4. Fee Design:** The principal objective of fee design is to work with Metro Council to implement rate structures that collect the appropriate level of revenue, are reasonably aligned with cost of service, and support desired policy outcomes.

How do we ensure a transparent review process?

Metro’s contractor provides an independent review of the methodology for calculating proposed solid waste fees annually. As part of this process, the Excel Rate Model and associated fees are reviewed for accuracy, adequacy, reasonableness and compliance with industry practices.

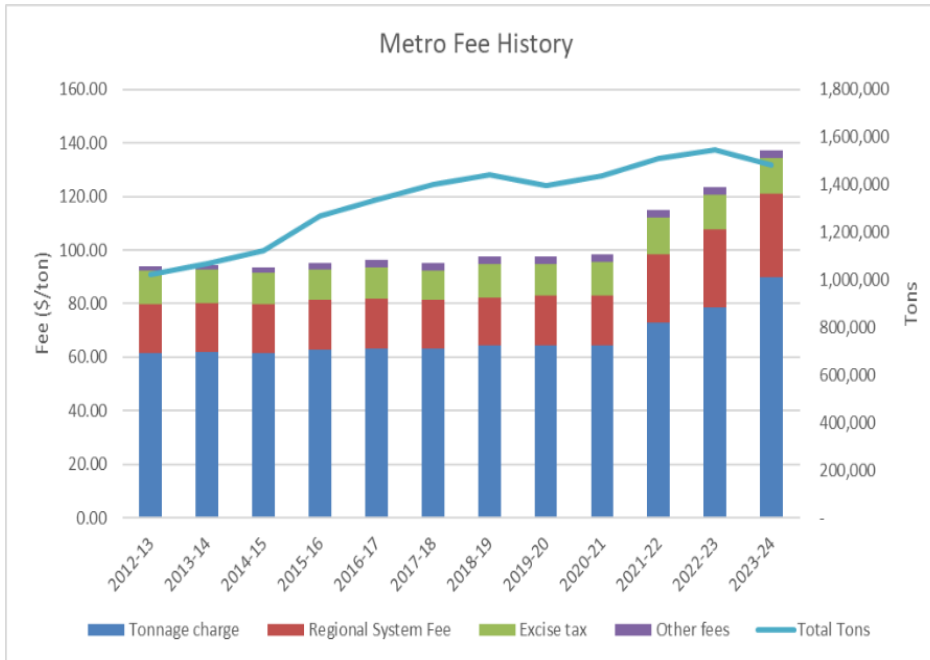
Spotlight: Metro Council direction on solid waste fee setting

In the winter of 2023, Metro convened the Waste Fee Policy Task Force to evaluate the solid waste fee-setting criteria. Metro Council will implement the recommendations from the task force by:

- Improving engagement in budget and fee development by expanding the scope and membership of the Regional Waste Advisory Committee.
- Update Metro’s financial and solid waste fee policy based on the task force recommendations and bring forward a fee based on the updated criteria.

View full recommendations: [Metro Waste Fee Policy Task Force Recommendations](#)

Metro solid waste fee history



Fee Adjustments (2012-2020): From 2012 to 2020, fees increased at a rate below inflation on average, including two years when they decreased.

COVID-19 Response (2020): In 2020, Metro froze fees during the economic uncertainty caused by the pandemic, despite rising operational costs.

Cost of Service Increases (2021-2024): The 2020 freeze led to larger fee increases from 2021 to 2024 to address accumulated costs and to maintain essential services.

What we get for the investment

Fees cover the costs of providing safe disposal and recovery of materials and are adjusted every year. They pay for programs to reduce waste, promote recycling and clean up garbage on public lands. Highlights of Metro’s Waste Prevention and Environmental Services programs funded by solid waste fees are outlined below.

Regional garbage and recycling operations

- Metro South Transfer Station
- Metro Central Transfer Station
- Household Hazardous Waste
- St. John’s landfill
- Safety, environmental and ADA compliance
- Asset management and maintenance

Planning and partnerships

- Garbage and recycling service improvements
- Regulation of private facilities
- Grants to local governments
- Planning for new facilities and services
- Disaster debris planning

Services and community investments

- Youth leadership and waste prevention education programs
- Grant and sponsorship programs
- Neighborhood collection events
- Cleaning up dumped garbage
- Paint recycling and graffiti clean-up



Arts and events
Garbage and recycling
Land and transportation
Oregon Zoo
Parks and nature

oregonmetro.gov