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## Regional Waste Advisory Committee agenda



**Metro**

600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232-2736

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Thursday, February 27, 2025

2:00 PM Metro Regional Center Council Chambers

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

(Webinar ID: 819 1761 5913

Passcode:320959)

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**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 Regional System Facilities Plan (2:05 PM)

Presenter(s): Marta McGuire (she/her) WPES Director

Estee Segal (she/her), Principal Planner, Metro

Attachments: Meeting Worksheet

2.2 Waste Prevention and Environmental Services Budget and Solid Waste Fees Overview (3:30 PM)

Presenter(s): Marta McGuire (she/her) WPES Director

Cary Stacey (she/her) WPES Deputy Director

Patrick Dennis (he/him) WPES Finance Manager

Attachments: Meeting Worksheet

**3. 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.

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

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# REGIONAL WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Worksheet

**PRESENTATION DATE:** February 27, 2025

**LENGTH:** 60 mins

**PRESENTATION TITLE:** Regional System Facilities Plan – Provide Input on Questions

**DECISION TYPE:** N/A - Consultative

**RELATED REGIONAL WASTE PLAN GOALS:** Goal 16: Maintain a system of facilities, from smaller recycling drop-off depots to larger full-service stations, to ensure equitable distribution of and access to services.

**PRESENTER(S):** Marta McGuire, Estee Segal

### ISSUE STATEMENT

In January, staff presented a detailed overview of the Regional System Facilities Plan including how regional facility and service gaps were identified, how the investment strategy was developed, and how engagement with community partners contributed and shaped the plan. Committee members had time to ask clarifying questions and discuss their priorities for the future system.

At the February meeting, staff will provide a brief recap of the plan and facilitate a discussion to seek each committee members' input on two questions:

- Do you have feedback on the sequence of the project proposed in Phase 1?
- Do you have feedback or additional comments for Metro Council as they deliberate on adoption of the plan?

### ACTION REQUESTED

Consultative - The goal is for the Regional Waste Advisory committee members to provide input on the projects proposed for implementation in Phase 1 and to provide feedback for Metro Council as they consider plan adoption in March 2025.

### BACKGROUND

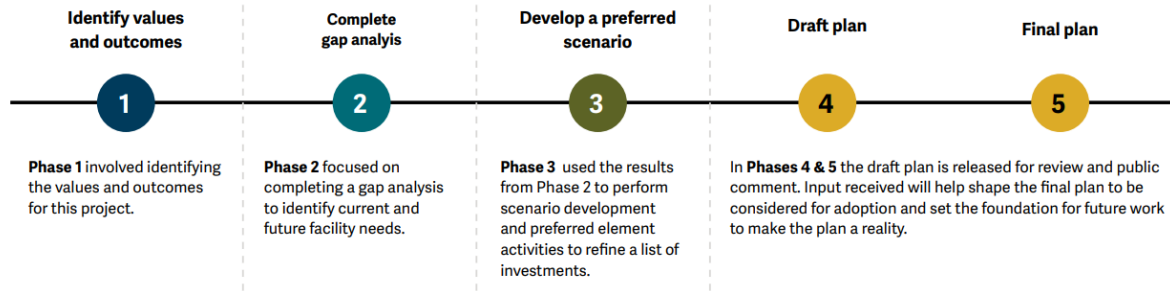
The [Regional System Facilities Plan](#) project reviewed the region's existing public, private and non-profit garbage, recycling and reuse infrastructure, identified service gaps, and presented potential approaches and a draft plan for future system investments. Specifically, the project has produced over the last two years:

- An overview of the facility-based garbage, recycling and reuse services necessary for achieving the goals of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan.
- The current and anticipated gaps in those services.
- Alternative scenarios for the public, private and non-profit sectors to fill the gaps or mitigate the need to fill them over the next 20 years.
- An implementation plan and financing options for Metro's role in advancing the plan and building new facilities.

If adopted by Metro Council, the plan will help guide Metro's future investment in facilities and infrastructure and help to close the gap between those with access to services and those without. The planning process was structured in five phases and is anticipated to be complete in spring 2025.

## Planning Phases

### Development Phases



## Engagement

To develop the draft Regional System Facilities Plan, Metro engaged with tribal, city and county governments, community groups, garbage and recycling businesses and reuse organizations throughout every phase of the plan. Engagement opportunities included meetings, roundtables, workshops and a symposium at which diverse partners identified preferred scenarios for facility investments across the region. Metro also convened a community advisory group to help guide development of the plan. Members were chosen for their unique perspectives and connections to communities as well as their interest and experience in advancing environmental justice.

Since 2022, engagement has included more than 40 meetings with Metro’s advisory committees including twelve meetings with the Regional Waste Advisory Committee, six meetings with the Metro Policy Advisory Committee, five meetings with the Committee on Racial Equity and 20 meetings with the project’s community advisory group. In addition, staff conducted interviews with private industry and convened roundtables with nonprofit, industry and local governments to inform plan development.

The draft plan was released for public review on October 1, 2024, and public comment was solicited through November 6, 2024. The public comment period provided the opportunity to provide feedback on the plan through an online form, by email or phone and by taking an online survey. In addition, staff conducted briefings with partners to present the draft plan and collect feedback.

An engagement summary report will provide an overview of engagement activities completed in Phase 4 of the project and will be presented to Metro Council in March 2025.

The project team has provided previous updates to the Regional Waste Advisory Committee on this project in January 2025, July 2024, February 2024, October 2023, August 2023, July 2023, April 2023, December 2022, and October 2022.

## QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Do you have feedback on the sequence of the projects proposed in Phase 1?
- Do you have feedback or additional comments for Metro Council as they deliberate on adoption of the plan?

## NEXT STEPS

- Summarize input from the February meeting to share with Metro Council as they consider the plan for adoption in March.
- If/when adopted, the Regional Waste Advisory Committee will provide ongoing input on the development of each investment project’s implementation plan and budget.

# REGIONAL WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Worksheet

**PRESENTATION DATE:** FEBRUARY 27, 2025

**LENGTH:** 15 minutes

**PRESENTATION TITLE:** Waste Prevention and Environmental Services Budget and Solid Waste Fee Overview

**DECISION TYPE:** Informational

**PRESENTERS:** Marta McGuire, Cary Stacey, Patrick Dennis

### 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. This includes advising on regional investment priorities for waste reduction including the development of Metro's Waste Prevention and Environmental Services budget and solid waste fees. This presentation will be part of a three-part engagement on FY2025-26 budget and fee development. The upcoming engagements are outlined below.

#### Meeting 1: February 27<sup>th</sup>

The first meeting will include an informational presentation outlining the budget development process and FY2024-25 Waste Prevention and Environmental Services budget. It will also cover core programs, investment priorities, and key performance metrics.

Committee discussion question:

- Do you have questions on FY2024-25 programs and investment priorities, key performance metrics, or the overall budget process?

#### Meeting 2: March 27<sup>th</sup>

The second meeting will include a presentation on the solid waste fee policy and fee setting process. It will provide an overview of the solid waste fee setting process, the historical context of fee adjustments, and key factors influencing fee outcomes.

Committee discussion question:

- Do you have questions on the fee setting policy, process, history, or factors that influence fee outcomes?

#### Meeting 3: April 24<sup>th</sup>

The third meeting will include a presentation and discussion focused on the FY2025-26 proposed budget and regional investment priorities to seek guidance from the committee for Metro Council consideration.

Committee discussion questions:

- What feedback or recommendations do you have on the FY2025-26 proposed budget and solid waste fees?
- Are there specific investment priorities or adjustments you believe Metro Council should consider before adoption?

### ACTION REQUESTED

Consultative- The committee will provide input to Metro Council on the FY2025-26 proposed budget and solid waste fees in preparation for their adoption this spring. The committee meetings in February, March, and April will provide opportunities for committee members to receive information related to the budget and solid waste fees to develop input and recommendations to advise Metro Council on budget and fee adoption.

## BACKGROUND

### Budget Overview

Metro’s annual budget process incorporates strategic direction into a comprehensive policy and financial plan for all programs and services. The process begins in September with analysis of a five-year forecast that predicts how many tons of waste will pass through transfer stations as well as anticipated operational costs. The process ends in June with Metro Council’s adoption of the budget. The fee-setting process runs parallel to the budget process, with fees typically adopted in the spring.

The timeline below highlights key milestones throughout the budget process:

Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jun	Jul	
<b>Budget preparation</b>				<b>Department budget request</b>			<b>Budget proposal</b>			<b>Budget approval</b>		<b>Budget adoption by Metro Council</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital improvement</li> <li>• Project scoping</li> <li>• Forecasts updated</li> </ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council retreat</li> <li>• Budget direction</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings with COO</li> <li>• Council presentations</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential updates to budget based on council review</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council approval of budget</li> </ul>			

### Waste Prevention and Environmental Services

The Waste Prevention and Environmental Services department 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. The department’s work is guided by the 2030 Regional Waste Plan that serves as the region’s waste reduction plan.

### Core Service Areas

Regional garbage and recycling operations	Planning and partnerships	Services and community investments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metro South Transfer Station</li> <li>• Metro Central Transfer Station</li> <li>• Household Hazardous Waste</li> <li>• St. John’s landfill</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulation of private facilities</li> <li>• Garbage and recycling service improvements</li> <li>• Grants to local governments</li> <li>• Planning for new facilities and services</li> <li>• Disaster debris planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth leadership and waste prevention education programs</li> <li>• Grant and sponsorship programs</li> <li>• Neighborhood collection events</li> <li>• Cleaning up dumped garbage</li> <li>• Paint recycling and graffiti clean-up</li> </ul>

### Funding Sources

Waste Prevention and Environmental Services is funded through regional solid waste fees, which consists of two primary sources: the solid waste fee and the regional system fee. The solid waste fee supports the operations of Metro’s two public transfer stations, Metro Central and Metro South. The

regional system fee funds key regional services including grants, household hazardous waste collection, waste reduction, disaster resilience planning, education programs, and garbage cleanup on public lands.

### **FY2024-25 Budget Highlights**

Waste Prevention and Environmental Services oversee several key operational sites across the region, including St. Johns Landfill, Metro Paint, Metro Central, Metro South, and the RID deployment center. Keeping our garbage and recycling facilities running smoothly requires ongoing investment in repairs and improvements—ensuring Metro can continue to provide reliable services while protecting the health and safety of both customers and workers. Like many essential services, Metro is also navigating rising costs due to inflation and fixed operational expenses.

The department works to balance rising operational costs and the need for increased investment in facilities and services with the potential impacts of fee adjustments. Maintaining a resilient and effective waste management system while reducing landfill waste remains a priority. Each budget cycle, options for cost reductions are carefully evaluated, recognizing the financial challenges faced by residents and businesses in the region. As costs continue to rise, these economic pressures—alongside other community needs—are thoroughly considered when proposing any new programs.

Over the last three years, the department has focused on maintaining levels of service, evaluating opportunities for increased efficiencies and cost reductions. This has included no major program expansions, reallocating resources where possible and seeking outside grants. While the 2025 budget doesn't include major program expansions, Metro made thoughtful investments to strengthen services and support our communities. Two new positions were added to help fill staffing gaps in garbage and recycling operations, along with a 0.4 FTE at the Recycling Information Center to reduce reliance on variable-hour employees. Additionally, Metro Council allocated one-time emergency funding to help nonprofit reuse organizations continue their important work. These investments reflect our commitment to maintaining high-quality services and supporting a more sustainable region.

### **QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- Do you have questions on programs and investment priorities, key performance metrics, or the overall budget process?

### **NEXT STEPS**

- Return to the Regional Waste Advisory Committee meeting in March and April to share input on the FY2025-26 budget and fees.