
Regional Waste Advisory Committee agenda



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Thursday, March 27, 2025

2:00 PM Metro Regional Center Council Chambers

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

(Webinar ID: 819 1761 5913

Passcode:320959)

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): Estee Segal, Principal Planner

2.2 Metro Solid Waste Fee Setting (2:20PM)

Presenter(s): Cary Stacey, Deputy Director, Patrick Dennis, Finance

Manager, Brian Kennedy, Metro Chief Financial Officer

Attachments: Meeting Worksheet

1. Consideration of Meeting Minutes (3:45 PM)

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. 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.

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. Individuals will have three minutes to testify unless otherwise stated at the meeting.

4. Adjourn (4:00PM)

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សេចក្តីជូនដំណឹងអំពីការមិនរើសអើងរបស់ Metro

ការគោរពសិទ្ធិពលរដ្ឋរបស់ ១ សំរាប់ព័ត៌មានអំពីកម្មវិធីសិទ្ធិពលរដ្ឋរបស់ Metro ឬដើម្បីទទួលបានកម្មបណ្តឹងរើសអើងសូមចូលទស្សនាគេហទំព័រ www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights។
បើលោកអ្នកត្រូវការអ្នកបកប្រែភាសាទៅលើអង្គប្រជុំសាធារណៈ សូមទូរស័ព្ទមកលេខ 503-797-1700 (ម៉ោង 8 ព្រឹកដល់ម៉ោង 5 ល្ងាច ថ្ងៃច្រើនការ) ប្រាំពីរថ្ងៃ ថ្ងៃច្រើនការ មុនថ្ងៃប្រជុំដើម្បីអាចឱ្យអ្នកបកប្រែភាសាសំរាប់លោកអ្នក ។

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REGIONAL WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Worksheet

PRESENTATION DATE: 3/27/25	LENGTH: 90 minutes
PRESENTATION TITLE: Metro Solid Waste Fee Setting	PRESENTERS: Cary Stacey, WPES Deputy Director Brian Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer Patrick Dennis, WPES Finance Manager

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 engagements are outlined below.

- Meeting 1: February 27 – Overview of Metro’s budget process and FY2024-35 budget
- Meeting 2: March 27 – Solid waste fee policy and fee-setting process
- Meeting 3: April 24 – FY 2025-26 proposed budget and investment priorities

ACTION REQUESTED

Advisory- The committee will provide input to Metro Council on the FY 2025-26 proposed budget and solid waste fees in preparation for adoption this spring.

BACKGROUND

Budget and Fee-Setting Overview

Metro’s annual budget process integrates strategic priorities into a comprehensive policy and financial plan for all programs and services. The fee-setting process runs parallel to the budget process, with fees typically adopted in the spring following Metro Council review.



Fee Adoption



The fee-setting timeline aligns with the budget development process, beginning with a five-year financial forecast that estimates tonnage and projected costs. Fees are determined based on the funding needed to sustain operations, invest in critical infrastructure, and maintain regulatory compliance.

Solid Waste Fees

The Waste Prevention and Environmental Services department is funded by two primary fees:

- **Solid Waste Fee**– This fee is assessed per ton of solid waste received at Metro's transfer stations, specifically Metro Central and Metro South. It covers the operational and maintenance costs of these public facilities. Different rates are set for various materials, such as clean wood, yard debris and organic waste.
- **Regional System Fee** – This fee is applied to all solid waste disposed of in the region. The revenue supports essential regional services, including grants for community projects, household hazardous waste collection, waste reduction initiatives, and cleanup of public lands.

Policy Considerations in Fee-Setting

Metro's solid waste fee-setting policy is guided by key criteria outlined below. The fee structure promotes waste reduction, encouraging the highest and best use of materials to keep valuable resources out of landfills and minimize climate and environmental harm. Affordability is also a critical factor, ensuring that fees account for economic impacts on residents, businesses, and other regional stakeholders. Additionally, Metro recognizes the importance of a public-private waste system, ensuring that fees fairly reflect the operational and capital needs of both public and private service providers.

Other considerations in fee development include ensuring predictability for long-term planning, fostering a resilient economy, maintaining consistency with Metro's broader planning goals, and balancing administrative efficiency to align costs with benefits. Together, these criteria help create a transparent, balanced, and future-focused fee-setting approach that supports a strong regional waste system.

SOLID WASTE FEE CRITERIA

Prioritized criteria:

- **Accessible and Equitable System:** Fee setting should encourage public, private and nonprofit investment in services that provide regional benefit, emphasizing geographic equity, access to service and a reduction in local environmental and human health impacts.
- **Healthy Environment :** The fee structure should encourage keeping valuable materials out of the landfill, reducing climate and environmental impacts through highest material use, and safe disposal of hazardous waste.
- **Affordability:** Fee setting should consider the economic effects and distribution of benefits to the various types of users in the Solid Waste System, including the cost of living on residential waste generators and the cost of doing business on non-residential generators, as well as the economic effect on others in the region.
- **Public-Private System:** Fees should give fair weight to the operational and capital needs of all providers: publicly owned, privately owned, and nonprofit.

Important considerations

- **Predictability:** Metro fee adjustments should be predictable and orderly to allow local governments, haulers, and rate payers to perform effective planning.
- **Resilient Economy for All:** Fee setting should consider the economic effects of short- and long-term fee changes.

- **Service Provision:** Charges to users of the waste disposal system should be directly related to disposal services received. Fee impacts to residents of the Metro service district who may not be direct users of the disposal system should be related to other benefits received.
- **Consistency:** Solid waste fee setting should be consistent with Metro’s agency-wide planning policies and objectives, including but not limited to the Regional Waste Plan.
- **Administration:** Fee setting should evaluate the relative cost and benefits of administering the fees with financial and policy goals.

Fee Setting Process



Metro’s solid waste fee-setting process is designed to ensure fiscal responsibility, accountability, and public benefit while balancing financial obligations and policy priorities. The process begins with financial policies that guide fee-setting criteria, ensuring that fees align with Metro’s broader goals. The revenue requirement is then determined by assessing the total financial needs of the system, including operating costs, debt service, and financial reserves. Next, a cost-of-service analysis is conducted to fairly distribute expenses across different customer groups based on their impact on the system. Finally, the fee design process works with Metro Council to establish rates that generate the necessary revenue, reflect the true cost of services, and support Metro’s waste reduction and sustainability goals.

Relationship Between Regional Fees and Local Collection Rates

Metro sets regional solid waste fees, while local governments determine curbside collection rates. Each city and county has an independent rate-setting process that factors in service levels, franchise fees, and administrative costs.

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Do you have questions

NEXT STEPS

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