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## Regional Waste Advisory Committee agenda



**Metro**

600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232-2736

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Thursday, April 24, 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 FY2025-26 Waste Prevention and Environmental Services Proposed Budget and Solid Waste Fees (2:05 PM)

Presenter(s): Marta McGuire, Director, Patrick Dennis, Finance  
Manager

Attachments: Meeting Worksheet, Budget Summary and Fee Setting

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

**4. 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.

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

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ការគោរពសិទ្ធិពលរដ្ឋរបស់ ១ សំរាប់ព័ត៌មានអំពីកម្មវិធីសិទ្ធិពលរដ្ឋរបស់ Metro ឬដើម្បីទទួលបានកម្មវិធីរើសអើងសម្រាប់សេវាសេវាផ្សេងៗ [www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights)។  
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# REGIONAL WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Worksheet

**PRESENTATION DATE:** 4/24/25

**PRESENTERS:** Dr. Marta McGuire, Waste Prevention and Environmental Services Director and Patrick Dennis, Waste Prevention and Environmental Services Finance Manager

**PRESENTATION TITLE:** FY25-2026 Waste Prevention and Environmental Services Proposed Budget and Solid Waste Fees

### 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 fees

### 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 fee adoption on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

### MEETING OVERVIEW

The purpose of the meeting is for the committee to review and provide input on the proposed FY 2025–26 Waste Prevention and Environmental Services budget and fees. The outcomes of the discussion will be developed into an Advisory Report reflecting the committee's input. The Advisory Report will inform Metro Council's consideration and adoption of the FY 2025–26 budget and solid waste fees.

### Meeting materials

The complete Metro proposed FY2025-26 Budget is available on Metro's website [here](#). The detailed summary of the Waste Prevention and Environmental Services programs and services and fee setting overview is included in the packet.

## Discussion Outline

The red, yellow, and green input framework will be used to gather committee members' feedback on the proposed FY 2025–26 budget and fees. Each committee member will be asked to provide input across six key categories—including regional investments and funding mechanisms—using color-coded cards.

-  Green – Indicates clear alignment with regional priorities and system outcomes.
-  Yellow – Indicates uncertainty, a need for further discussion or potential adjustments.
-  Red – Indicates concerns, potential misalignment, or gaps.

The committee will participate in a facilitated discussion using the cards to identify areas of alignment, potential adjustments, and gaps or concerns. The discussion will focus on the categories that receive the most yellow and red input in order to surface key issues, explore suggested modifications, and collect more detailed feedback for Council consideration. The six categories include:

1. Garbage and Recycling Operations
2. Planning and Partnerships
3. Services and Community Education
4. New investments: System Improvements- (System Facilities Plan Phase 1 Planning and Reuse Impact Fund)
5. Regional System Fee Increase
6. Solid Waste Fee Increase

Following the meeting, staff will prepare a formal Advisory Report summarizing the committee's input on the proposed budget and fees. This draft will be shared with committee members by email to ensure accuracy, incorporate any additional reflections, and confirm that it reflects the discussion. The final Advisory Report will be presented to Metro Council on May 8, 2024, for their consideration in advance of the FY 2025–26 budget and fee adoption process.

Committee members are encouraged to begin drafting their input in advance using the green/yellow/red framework.

### Attachments:

- A. Waste Prevention and Environmental Services Proposed budget overview for fiscal year 2025-26
- B. Fee Setting Overview

Online: [Metro Proposed Budget FY2025-26](#)



## WASTE PREVENTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

# Proposed budget overview for fiscal year 2025-26

## Overview

Metro’s Waste Prevention and Environmental Services department leads regional efforts to reduce waste, promote recycling and reuse, manage hazardous materials safely, and ensure that garbage and recycling services are accessible to all. Through innovative policies, partnerships, and education, we help communities reduce their environmental impact and build a more resilient future. The department’s work is guided by the 2030 Regional Waste Plan that serves as the region’s waste reduction plan and the System Facilities Plan that guide infrastructure investments to improve reuse, recycling and garbage facilities and infrastructure across the region. We deliver programs and services in the core areas outlined below.

## 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></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>• Household Hazardous Waste</li><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 sale</li></ul>

## Funding sources

Waste Prevention and Environmental Services is funded through two primary sources: the Solid Waste Fee and Regional System Fee. The Solid Waste Fee supports operations at Metro Central and Metro South transfer stations, the region’s only public transfer stations. This fee is charged per ton of solid waste delivered to the Metro transfer stations. The Regional System Fee supports essential regional services including waste reduction programs, household hazardous waste collection, grants to local governments and garbage cleanup on public lands. This fee is applied to all solid waste disposed of in the region.

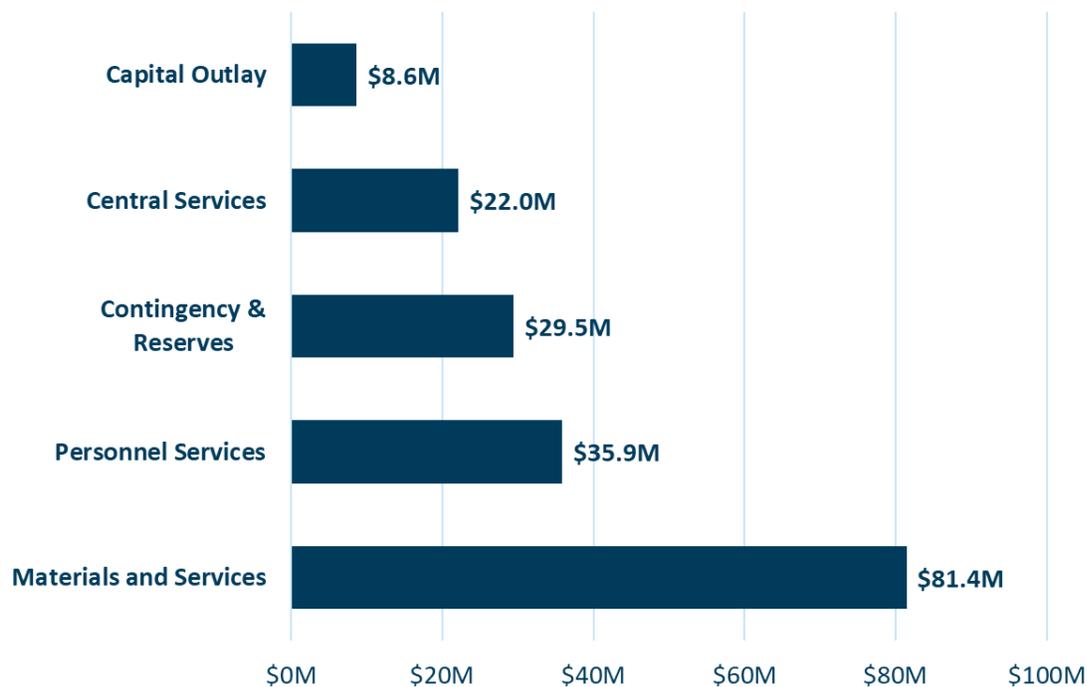
## 2025-26 Proposed budget overview

As a regional utility, Waste Prevention and Environmental Services is responsible for ensuring that garbage and recycling services remain safe, reliable and accessible for all communities. Like other essential services, the cost of operations continues to rise due to inflation, increasing labor costs and the need for ongoing infrastructure investments. These costs affect every aspect of the system including transfer station operations, hazardous waste collection, cleanup of dumped garbage and waste reduction programs—all of which are critical to maintaining an efficient and effective regional waste

system. 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 on the community.

The department’s operating budget includes funding for materials and services, personnel and central services. In addition to these core operating costs, the department manages a capital improvement plan that includes investments in equipment and infrastructure at Metro facilities. The budget also includes contingency funds and reserves, including a 45-day operating reserve and restricted fund balance for management of St. Johns landfill.

### Fiscal Year 2025-26 Proposed budget overview



The chart above provides an overview of the proposed FY 2025-26 Waste Prevention and Environmental Services budget by major expenditure categories. The largest portion is allocated for Materials and Services (\$81.4 million), which encompasses the cost of operational work including programs, contracts and funding for community investments necessary to deliver services – such as grants and sponsorships. Budget modifications included in this proposed budget and chart above include 3.0 FTE for System Facilities Plan implementation core team, \$1.3M for System Facilities phase 1 planning and \$1.05M for the Reuse Impact Fund grant program.

Personnel Services (\$35.9M) supports staff who deliver core services across the department. The work of Waste Prevention and Environmental Services is carried out through people-powered service delivery. From facilitating grant funding to local governments and sponsorships to community organizations, to providing household hazardous waste collection events across several communities, our region depends on personnel to deliver waste reduction services. More detailed information on the programs and services delivered by Waste Prevention and Environmental Services staff is available below.

Contingency and Reserves (\$26.7M) fulfill Metro’s 45-day minimum operating reserve requirement and include restricted reserves for long-term management of St. Johns Landfill. Central Services (\$22M) cover essential department-wide expenses including technology. Capital Outlay (\$8.6 million) funds

critical equipment and infrastructure improvements at Metro’s garbage and recycling facilities.

## 2025-26 Proposed budget highlights

Maintaining a resilient and effective waste management system, while continuing to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills, remains a top priority. Over the last three years, the department has focused on maintaining levels of services and identifying opportunities for increased efficiencies and cost reductions. This included no major program expansions, reallocating resources where possible and seeking grant funding. Looking ahead, new investments are needed to modernize the garbage and recycling system and address existing gaps in areas that lack essential services as outlined in the Regional System Facilities Plan. While these investments will require additional resources, the department has discontinued other programs to balance costs and shift resources.

To address areas that lack services, the budget proposes needed resources to help launch the initial planning of the Regional System Facilities Plan, while the department looks internally for resources to realign towards this priority work. The first phase of work focuses on planning for network community drop-off depots that increase access to recycling and disposal options for people across the region. These depots are a cornerstone of the Regional System Facilities Plan, designed to fill critical service gaps. Once fully implemented, everyone in the region will be within a 20-minute drive of a drop-off site.

**Balancing core service delivery with targeted investments to address service gaps and system modernization.**



### New investments

- Planning for community depots
- Reuse Impact Fund

These investments include funding to establish the core System Facilities Plan implementation comprised of 3.0 new full-time equivalent positions (FTE) and existing staff. It also includes funding for the first phase for System Facilities Plan phase 1 project refinement including planning for the Cornelius community depot and feasibility study for utilizing the RID Patrol deployment center property in central eastside Portland as a smaller community drop-off depot site. The proposal also includes launching the Reuse Impact Fund, a \$1 million grant program, designed to strengthen the regional reuse economy by investing in organizations that are building innovative and community-driven reuse systems. The fund will be managed by existing staff and ensure that valuable materials are diverted from the landfill into a circular economy. Although a large effort will be made towards planning and design in FY26, the proposed Reuse Impact Fund is intended to provide immediate grant-funded support to the region’s reuse sector.

## Service areas in detail

Waste Prevention and Environmental Services delivers a wide range of essentials programs that are required by Metro Charter and state law and guided by the goals of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan. These programs not only fulfill regional and state requirements, but are strategically structured to

support Waste Prevention and Environmental Services’ role in protecting natural resources, reducing waste and supporting healthy, resilient communities across the region. Further details on these programs are outlined below.

## Regional garbage and recycling operations

Operating Metro Central and Metro South transfer stations is a core function of Waste Prevention and Environmental Services. These facilities serve as critical hubs in the region’s garbage and recycling system, offering a wide range of waste disposal and recycling services for people, businesses and commercial haulers to drop off garbage, recyclables and household hazardous waste.

Transfer station operations support a range of needs, including:

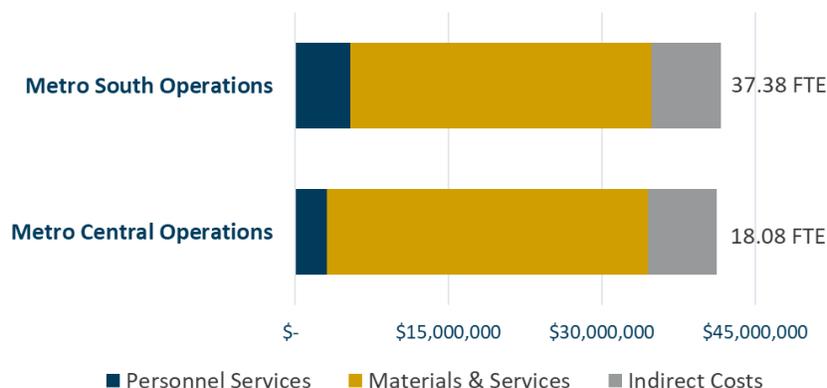
- Waste consolidation and disposal to improve the efficiency of hauling to landfills and processing facilities
- Environmental protection through the safe handling of hazardous and non-hazardous materials
- Public access to waste services, particularly for those without curbside collection
- Resource recovery through the acceptance and sorting of reusable and recyclable materials

Metro Central and Metro South transfer stations accept a broad range of materials. Metro Central is open six days a week and Metro South is open seven days a week. The transfer stations also house full-service household hazardous waste facilities, which accept potentially dangerous materials that require special disposal. The transfer stations also provide customers with the opportunity to drop off appliances, metals, yard debris, construction and demolition debris, and bulky items like furniture and mattresses. Metro Central transfer station also accepts commercial food waste.

These facilities serve a wide range of users including homeowners, renters, small businesses, construction contractors and commercial haulers. They also support the broader community by helping reduce illegal dumping and contributing to public health and safety.

In addition to program services, funding in this area is primarily driven by fixed costs including staffing, operations, contracts and equipment maintenance. Over the past year, operational expenses increased due to supply shortages as well as increases in major operations contracts and policy changes aimed at improving wages.

### Metro Central and Metro South operating costs



## Proposed FY2025-26 Solid Waste Fee Increase

The Solid Waste Fee supports operations at Metro Central and Metro South transfer stations. This fee is charged per ton of solid waste delivered to the Metro transfer stations. It covers the operational and maintenance costs of these public facilities, which manage garbage and recycling. The fee is reviewed and set on an annual basis.

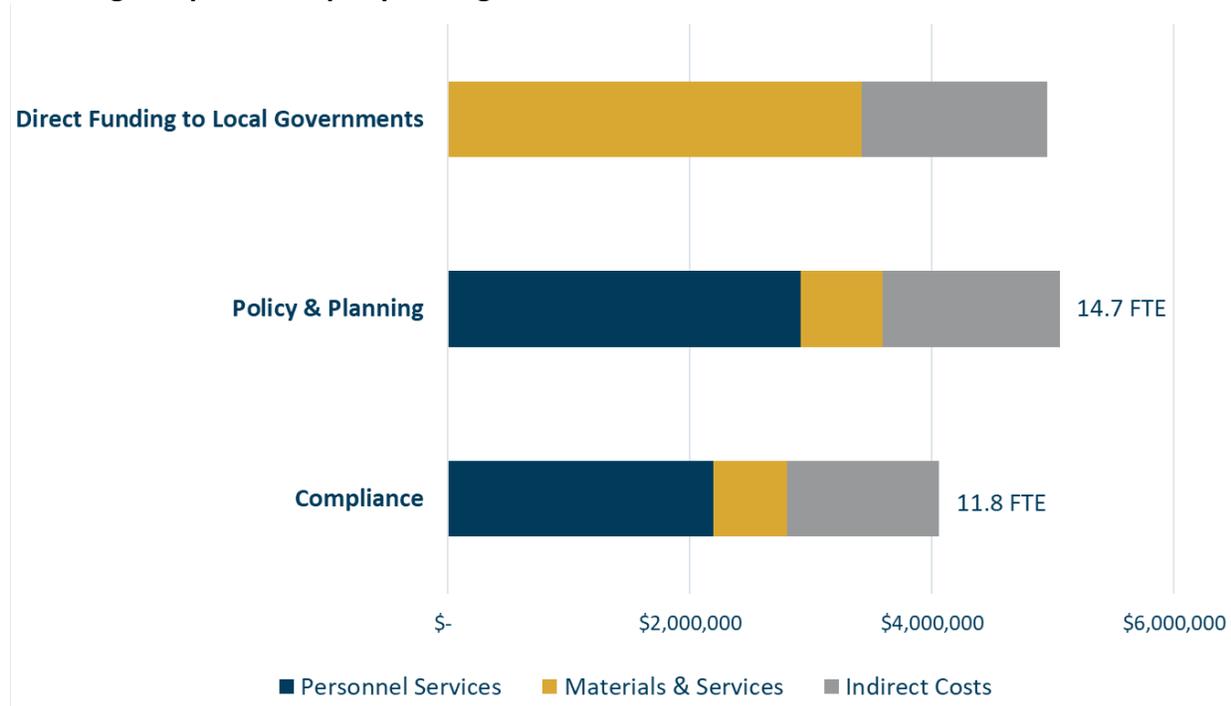
Current Rate	\$104.37	<b>Cost Increases</b> \$780K or 7% personnel \$707k or 1% Metro transfer station contracts  No additions proposed  <b>Tonnage Decrease</b> 21K tons or 3.7%
<b>Proposed solid waste fee</b>	<b>\$115.86</b>	
<b>Annual fee increase</b>	<b>11.01%</b>	

**Fees charged to Metro Central and South transfer station customers**

## Planning and Partnerships

Successful implementation of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan and System Facilities Plan requires collaboration between public agencies, private and non-profit organizations. Each plays a vital role, and collaboration is essential to achieving the for advancing the plans. Through planning and partnerships, the department supports local jurisdictions in their waste reduction efforts, ensuring the benefits are realized across the entire region. This includes planning for new facilities, advancing policy improvements related to garbage and recycling service standards, and regulating private facilities to align with regional policies and environmental best practices. Waste Prevention and Environmental Services also continues to strengthen regional collaboration through coordinated disaster debris planning and by administering grants to local governments and community organizations to support staff and services that advance local waste reduction initiatives.

### Planning and partnerships operating costs



## Direct funding to local governments

Waste Prevention and Environmental Services department provides direct funding to cities and counties to support regional coordination and programming required by the Oregon Opportunity to Recycle Act and Metro’s regional service standards. This funding enables local governments to plan and deliver essential education, outreach and technical assistance services across the region. For example, local governments receive funding to help implement regional business food waste requirements. Funding levels are determined based on actual full time equivalent (FTE) costs and the number of affected businesses within each jurisdiction. Additionally, waste reduction funds are allocated based on each jurisdiction's per-capita share of the regional population. By supporting these efforts, Metro strengthens partnerships with cities and counties, encourages innovation in recycling and waste reduction programs, and ensures we collectively meet both state and regional goals.

## Proposed local government funding by jurisdiction for fiscal year 2025-26

Jurisdiction	Waste Reduction Funds	Food Scraps Policy Funds	Total
City of Beaverton	\$ 115,241	\$ 186,020	\$ 301,261
Clackamas County Cooperative	\$ 490,160	\$ 340,095	\$ 830,255
City of Fairview	\$ 12,088	\$ -	\$ 12,088
Cities of Gresham & Wood Village	\$ 138,070	\$ 189,956	\$ 328,026
Multnomah County (Uninc)	\$ 16,235	\$ -	\$ 16,235
City of Portland	\$ 738,068	\$ 303,586	\$ 1,041,654
City of Troutdale	\$ 18,225	\$ -	\$ 18,225
Washington County Cooperative	\$ 590,440	\$ 282,771	\$ 873,211
Total	\$ 2,118,527	\$ 1,302,429	\$ 3,420,956

## Compliance

Waste Prevention and Environmental Services regulatory compliance program provides oversight of the regional garbage and recycling system to protect public health and the environment. Compliance staff ensure that solid waste is properly managed and disposed of through a combination of Metro code implementation, enforcement and oversight of private solid waste facilities. Key responsibilities include:

- Monitoring and enforcing Metro code and administrative rules
- Conducting facility inspections and responding to complaints
- Investigating illegal dumping
- Administering and reconciling solid waste fees and taxes

## Policy and planning

Waste Prevention and Environmental Services policy and planning staff develop and implement policies that minimize the impact of waste generated in the region. This includes advancing regional goals related to reuse, recycling, food waste reduction and bulky waste management. Additionally, policy and planning staff support regional coordination and the development of consistent standards and programs. Core activities include:

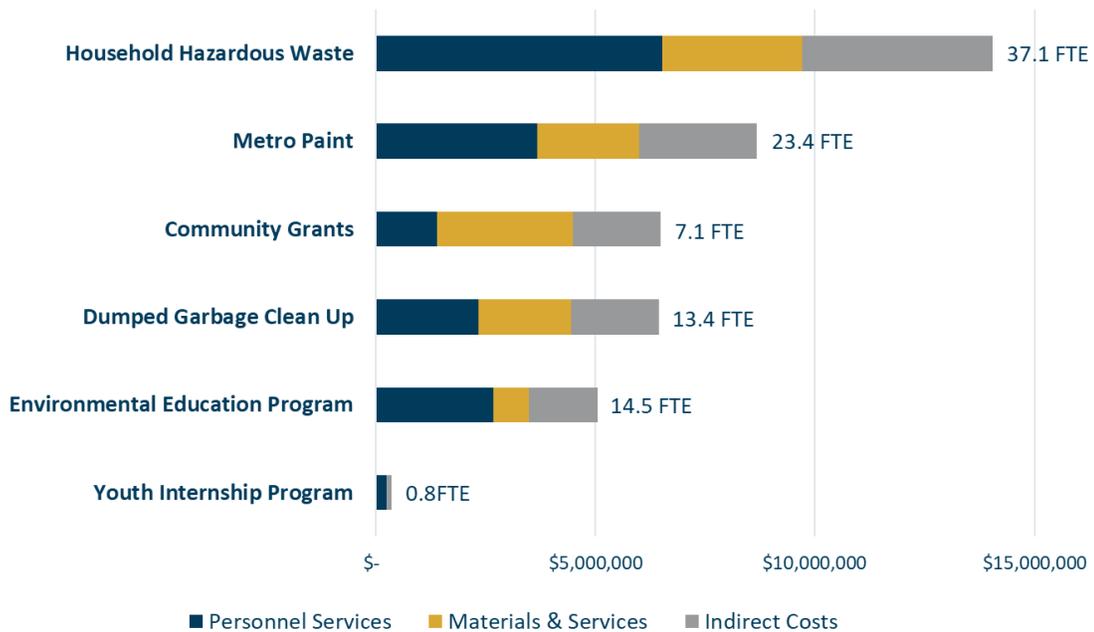
- Policy research, analysis and recommendations
- Program development in alignment with adopted policies
- Long-term system planning and coordination of the Regional System Facilities Plan

- Implementation of regional service standards
- Coordination with state-level programs, including the Recycling Modernization Act
- Legislative support and development of extended producer responsibility initiatives

## Services and community investments

This core service area delivers a wide range of education, community-based programming and services that promote waste prevention and support community health and resilience. Programs under this service area are people-focused and community-driven, helping people safely manage materials, increasing access to services and supporting community partners.

### Services and community investments operating costs



### Household hazardous waste

Waste Prevention and Environmental Services operates full-service household hazardous waste collection facilities housed at both Metro Central and Metro South transfer stations, offering people safe and accessible options for disposing of items like batteries, cleaners, solvents and pesticides. Household hazardous waste collection helps protect human and environmental health by ensuring these materials are properly handled, stored and treated. The program also hosts community collection events across the region to reach people who may not have access to Metro facilities. More than 4 million pounds of material are collected annually across the two facilities.

### MetroPaint

MetroPaint recycles latex paint collected from across the state and produces affordable, high-quality recycled paint for sale and donation. The program plays a critical role in Oregon’s PaintCare product stewardship system, reducing the environmental impacts of leftover paint and keeping usable materials out of landfills. In addition to paint recycling and production, MetroPaint supports education and outreach, provides paint donations to community organizations and partners with local retailers to distribute products. The program also helps raise awareness about product stewardship and waste prevention.

### **Community grants and sponsorships**

Metro’s grant programs provide critical funding to community organizations, local governments, and businesses to reduce the impacts of the garbage and recycling system, support waste prevention efforts, and maintain clean and healthy communities. Key programs include:

- **Community Enhancement Grants**, which support projects in communities near solid waste facilities
- **Disaster Debris Grants**, which help local governments manage post-disaster cleanup when existing solid waste systems are overwhelmed
- **Regional Refresh Fund**, which offers flexible, low-barrier funding for community-led cleanups, particularly in underserved areas
- **Reuse Impact Fund**, a pilot grant program supporting the expansion of reuse and repair infrastructure

### **Dumped garbage clean up provided by RID Patrol**

RID patrol provides cleanup and response services for dumped and abandoned garbage in public spaces across the region. The program works in partnership with local, state and federal governments, as well as community-based organizations, to respond to reports of dumped garbage and reduce the environmental and public health impacts of improperly discarded materials. The program also provides trash services for people experiencing houselessness and cleanup support to jurisdictions managing impacts related to houselessness.

RID Patrol’s workforce transition program is an essential component of this work. It offers job training and employment opportunities in the solid waste sector to individuals facing employment barriers, such as those reentering the workforce after incarceration. This program supports Regional Waste Plan goals related to workforce development, equitable access and livability (Goals 4 and 11), and aligns with Metro Council’s commitment to reducing the impacts of dumped garbage and litter across communities.

### **Education and information**

Waste Prevention and Environmental Services provides comprehensive education and outreach services to people across the region including students, businesses, and local governments. The program helps people understand how to safely and responsibly participate in the waste system—whether through prevention, recycling, reuse or managing toxics. Core services include:

- **Recycling Information Center**, a multilingual call center and online resource hub for waste-related questions
- **Youth education**, which includes school presentations, tours and food waste audits
- **Master Recycler and Environmental Promoters**, which train volunteers to lead local waste prevention education efforts
- **Toxics and food waste prevention education**, which is provided to people, businesses and partner organizations

### **Youth internships**

Waste Prevention and Environmental Services offers paid internship opportunities for youth ages 16–20 to gain job skills, explore environmental careers and engage in leadership opportunities. The program focuses on increasing representation of historically marginalized communities within the solid waste sector and across regional government decision-making.

Youth interns contribute directly to Metro programs while building skills and connections that support long-term career development. Metro Council consistently supports this program to bring youth voices into policy and program design.

### Proposed FY2025-26 Regional System Fee Increase

The Regional System Fee is applied to all solid waste disposed of in the region. The revenue supports programs services outlined in Planning and Partnerships and Services and Community Investments. The fee is reviewed and set on an annual basis.

Current Rate	\$31.72
<b>Proposed Regional System Fee</b>	<b>\$33.62</b>
<b>Annual Increase</b>	<b>5.97%</b>

**Cost Increases**  
\$1.8M or 9% personnel  
\$658k or 7% central services

\$2.9M proposed modifications

**Tonnage decrease**  
3.3% or 50k tons

### Community Spotlight: City of Portland

- 5,030 sites cleaned up
- \$1.04M in direct funding
- \$360,000 in Regional Fresh Grants
- \$170,000 in Environmental Promoters partnership program
- 23 household hazardous waste events
- 15,243 callers to Recycling Information hotline
- 2,800 students reached through waste prevention

Rebuilding Together Portland



Rebuilding Together PDX provided bulky waste cleanup for 24 low-income homeowners disposing of 150 tons of bulky waste and recycling 1,000 lbs. of material.

Metro’s investments in Portland reflect a strong partnership focused on clean, healthy neighborhoods and community-driven solutions. Regional funding supported widespread cleanup efforts, safe disposal of hazardous materials, and direct assistance to thousands of residents seeking recycling information.

Community grants helped empower local organizations and neighborhoods to lead on-the-ground cleanup and waste prevention work. Education programs reached students across the city, helping build the next generation of environmental stewards.

Together, these efforts highlight how Metro’s regional services and investments show up every day in Portland—creating safer public spaces, supporting community resilience, and strengthening access to core services.



WASTE PREVENTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

# Fee Setting

## Overview

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, which serves as the region’s waste reduction plan and is implemented in partnership with cities and counties. 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.

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>			

Fee Adoption



## Garbage fees

Metro's Waste Prevention and Environmental Services Department is primarily funded through two key fees.



### Fees paid on disposal of all solid waste

This fee is applied to all solid waste disposed of in the region. The revenue supports essential regional services, including waste reduction programs, household hazardous waste collection, grants to local governments, and cleanup of public lands.



### Fees paid only by Metro Central and South Transfer Station Customers

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, which manage garbage and recycling. Different rates are set for various materials, such as clean wood, yard debris, and organic waste.

In addition to the regional system and solid waste fees, several other charges help fund waste management services. The community enhancement fee supports grants that benefit neighborhoods near transfer stations, and the excise tax helps fund Metro's general agency operations. Finally, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality tax is a state-mandated fee that supports Oregon's garbage and recycling programs. These combined fees ensure the comprehensive funding of waste prevention, environmental services, and the maintenance of essential waste management infrastructure in the region.

## Policy considerations in fee setting

Metro's garbage and recycling fee-setting policy is guided by a core set of criteria and Metro's solid waste financial policy. 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. The four prioritized criteria to guide fee setting are listed below in order of importance.

<b>Accessible and Equitable System</b>	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.
<b>Healthy Environment</b>	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.
<b>Affordability:</b>	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.
<b>Public-Private System</b>	Fees should give fair weight to the operational and capital needs of all providers: publicly owned, privately owned, and nonprofit.

Other important 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.

## How are solid waste fees set?



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 model is presented to Metro Council who adopts fees that generate the necessary revenue, reflect the true cost of services, and support Metro’s waste reduction and sustainability goals.

## 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.

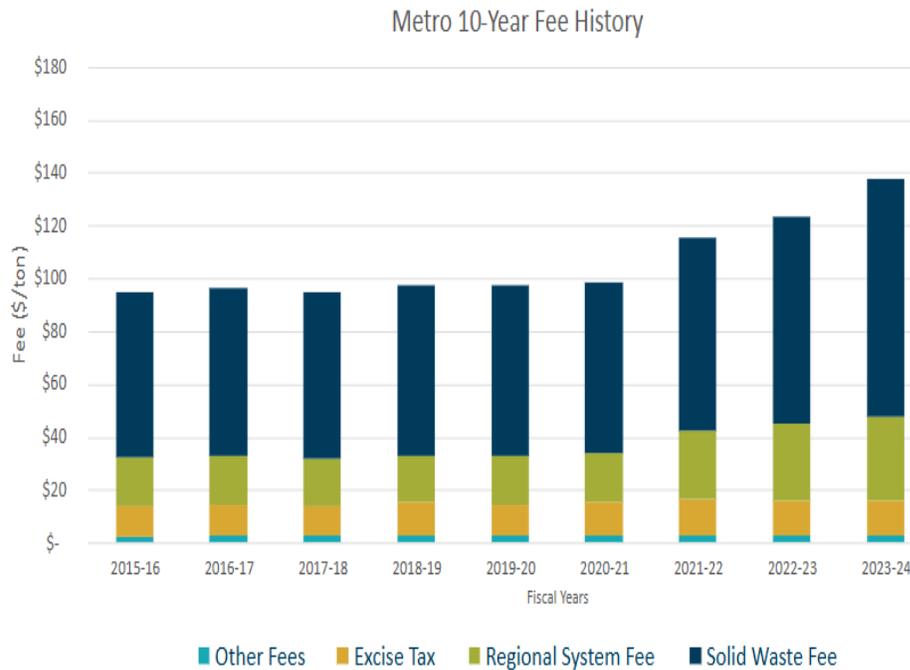
### Spotlight: Metro Council direction on solid waste fee setting

In the winter of 2023, Metro convened the Waste Fee Policy Task Force to evaluate the solid waste fee-setting criteria. Metro Council implemented 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.
- Updating Metro’s financial and solid waste fee policy based on the task force recommendations.

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	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> </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>• Household hazardous waste collection</li> <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</li> </ul>

## 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 have an independent rate-setting process that factors in service levels, franchise fees, and administrative costs.



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

[oregonmetro.gov](http://oregonmetro.gov)