



METRO

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

MEETING SUMMARY
Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Metro Regional Center, Room 370A/B
September 22, 2005

Members / Alternates Present:

Councilor Rod Park, Chair	Robert L. Weeks	Eric Merrill
David White	Dean Kampfer	Ray Phelps
JoAnn Herrigel	Anita Largent	Rick Winterhalter
Lori Stole	Dave Garten	Bruce Walker
Mike Hogle	Wendy Fisher	Jeff Murray
Paul Edwards	Mike Miller	Glenn Zimmerman
Tom Badrick	Loretta Pickerell	Vince Gilbert

Guests and Metro staff:

Janet Matthews	Audrey O'Brien	Lee Barrett
Steve Apotheker	Leslie Kochan	Meg Lynch
Kathryn Schutte	Pat Vernon	Easton Cross
Roy Brower	Bryce Jacobson	Lynnette Mathisen
Robin Hawley	Baron Browning	Barb Leslie

I. Call to Order and Announcements.....Councilor Park

- Councilor Rod Park opened the meeting and bypassed introductions to get through the agenda as quickly as possible. The Councilor announced the formation of a SWAC Subcommittee on Rate Policies as discussed at the last SWAC meeting; and distributed a list of proposed members. Member confirmation is needed quickly to ensure that the work can be completed by March, in time for the next Rate Review Committee.
- Robin Hawley of SW&R Waste Reduction announced new Recycling Fact Sheets. The five updated sheets (Economy, Paper, Glass, Plastic, and Energy), are in response to requests from local government representatives and recycling specialists who work with businesses. They will be instrumental in helping to answer businesses' questions about what happens to recyclable materials and the benefits of recycling.
- Ms. Hawley also presented the group with two fliers from a partnership with the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) in the region. These are for property managers to give to their tenants to educate them about recycling services available in the region. The fliers also announce two workshops in October about recycling regulations in the region. The workshops are open to everyone, not just BOMA members.

II. Solid Waste & Recycling Director's Update Mike Hogle

- Mr. Hogle told the Committee that the Columbia Environmental transfer station application is on the Metro Council agenda this afternoon. Council is scheduled to make a decision at that time, but could withhold a final decision until the next meeting, he said.
- Regarding the DSP (disposal system planning) project, Mr. Hogle explained that the first phase will be consideration of the ownership of Metro's transfer stations. This phase is anticipated to be complete by Spring 2006. Five consultants have been interviewed for this system analysis component. The chosen consultant will be given three models to study – the current system (public/private), private ownership, and an all publicly-owned model. Additionally, an RFP and scope of work are being drafted for a 'Valuation Consultant' to look at the value of our transfer stations from both an appraisal point of view and a business point of view. The third area being worked on tackles legal questions about a number of issues, including the effect of ownership or non-ownership on Metro's contract with Waste Management.
- Mr. Hogle then provided a summary of the Department's facility and services information from the past fiscal year. There were 582,000 tons delivered to Metro transfer stations in FY 2004-05, up 2% from the previous year. Recovered dry waste at Metro's stations was 16.3%, up 1% from the previous year.

377,000 total transactions were completed at the two Metro transfer stations in FY 2003-04 (109,000 credit and 268,000 cash transactions). Over 17,000 loads were taken to Columbia Ridge Landfill in Arlington, Oregon. In the same timeframe, nearly 43,000 customers were served at Metro's hazardous waste collection facilities; another 9,000 citizens were served at the neighborhood roundups.

Metro estimates its waste reduction programs translate into more than 100,000 tons of prevented waste. The recycled latex paint facility (MetroPaint) processed 243,000 gallons of paint and generated \$579,000 of revenue, up 7%. The number of callers to Metro's Recycling Information was down slightly, but was offset by an increase in hits on Metro's website. The Solid Waste & Recycling Department's education programs reach more than 57,000 people annually; last year nearly 20% of area students K-12 were reached. Over 20,000 construction industry recycling "Toolkits" were distributed. In addition, organics collection increased from 20 tons at the program's inception last Spring to over 800 tons in August. The Recycle at Work program distributed 10,000 desk-side recycling boxes to over 1,000 businesses.

Inspections of solid waste facilities were increased by the Regulatory Affairs Division from 369 in FY 2003-04 to 405 in FY 2004-05. Staff traveled as far as 160 miles out of the Metro region to conduct these inspections. The Division was also responsible for clean-up of 1,108 illegal dumpsites.

III. System Sustainability Goals Eric Merrill

SWAC member Eric Merrill presented the final recommendations of the SWAC Subcommittee on Sustainability Goals for the RSWMP update (attached). He reported that the Subcommittee had come to a consensus on all the recommendations. The group would like the full SWAC to approve the recommendations and forward them to the Metro Council. The Subcommittee also feels that the recommendations should be applied to other RSWMP chapters, and then all chapters reviewed

for consistency. Concluding his presentation, Mr. Merrill suggested that Metro consider a vehicle other than the RSWMP, with a longer range than 10 years to look at other goals.

Comments from SWAC included:

- Make sure that the way Goal #5 is implemented helps bring more businesses to the region, not push them out of the region.
- To whom does this apply – to all solid waste facilities, regulated and clean MRFs? That needs to be made clearer.
- Are Metro and the cities going to regulate all facilities?
- Follow up on co-operative implementation – make sure there is money to do this (grant money and sustainability issues).
- Did the Subcommittee consider what happens in the next 5 to 10 years if the goals are implemented?

After some discussion, a vote was called to move the recommendations to the Metro Council. The majority agreed, with no objections and two abstentions.

At this point, Councilor Park asked for approval of the minutes from July. A motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as written was passed.

IV. Draft Interim Waste Reduction PlanJanet Matthews and Lee Barrett

Ms. Matthews explained the origin of an interim waste reduction plan, and identified the ground to be covered as pages 16-21 of the draft plan, concerning regional waste reduction programs in the following sectors: Business generators, commercial organics generators, construction and demolition debris, and residential generators (single family and multi-family dwellings).

The meeting was turned over to Lee Barrett, SW&R's Waste Reduction & Outreach Division Manager. Mr. Barrett explained that the goal for this sector is to recover 39,000 additional tons. "We want to improve both the quantity and quality of the materials collected at the curb by a number of methods," Mr. Barrett said. "First, by a more consistent outreach campaign for the residential sector, and continuing to monitor the clean MRFs – seeing the quality of the materials that come into them, seeing what kind of a job they are doing, [and] what difficulties they are having in processing the material." Additionally, Mr. Barrett continued, Metro hopes to find funds to support the facilities, and to have the infrastructure to support material processing.

Moving to multi-family, the biggest hurdle is outreach and education in a sector that continuously changes. An additional 8,000 tons are desired from this area, Mr. Barrett said. Programs that are consistent throughout the local jurisdictions would be a huge help. The biggest portion is anticipated to come from the business sector, with 78,000 additional tons needed. "We are going to be focusing on paper grades and containers from [businesses], to increase the quantity of material coming from this sector by increasing the outreach activities," Mr. Barrett explained. Metro Council increased direct assistance to businesses from \$400,000 to \$600,000 this fiscal year, to fund more visits to businesses, "to help them to improve the quantity and quality of material that is coming from this sector." The RSWMP Contingency Work Group felt that the business sector goal could not be reach with education and outreach alone, but that some sort of regulation would be needed as well, he said.

Moving on to construction and demolition debris (C&D), the goal is an additional 35,000 tons. A system that is uniform throughout the region would help ensure that this material gets recovered.

The Contingency Work Group thought that in this sector, too, some sort of regulation may be needed in addition to outreach.

In conclusion, Mr. Barrett said that 10,000 additional tons are needed from commercial organics. The biggest hurdle has been to find a processor for the material, but that puzzle piece is now in place. The next step is to increase the quantity of material sent to that market.

The question was asked, "How are we going to measure these goals?" Mr. Barrett responded, "Right now, we measure in tonnage, by the reports that are given to us, but we have been given the instruction to look at other methods of measuring. We would like to measure other elements that we should be considering, if we could find a way to do it."

Another question was, "It seems like we are really struggling to reach the last one, two, three, four percent. Think about it for a moment as a resident, typically if we go to any market and we reach a saturation level – typically, general outreach advertising does not work. Typically outreach would get focused on segments, to find out who is not buying, and why is Metro going to look at markets in a sub-set way?" Waste Reduction Supervisor Meg Lynch replied that a focus group is going to look at recycling patterns among residents – what they do and don't recycle and why, with the goal of creating outreach that targets the real issues. Mr. Hoglund added said that the Departments plans to bring in a consultant with a marketing background, "to look at everything we have done and what will help us achieve further progress."

Staff were asked why there isn't a waste reduction goal beyond 2009. They responded that no further goal has as yet been adopted by either the State or Metro, but the RSWMP is a living document and the goals will definitely be revisited.

V. Other Business and Adjourn.....Councilor Park

The City of Portland's Bruce Walker raised an issue about the disposal of source-separated recyclables by a clean MRF. He maintained that this matter has caused erosion of public confidence in the entire system: Haulers, local governments, Metro, privately-operated MRFs, private paper mills, and other industries. He asked how the public can be assured that recyclables set out at the curb, both residential and in the business place, are actually being recycled. Mr. Hoglund offered to create a work group to discuss the issue and make some recommendations. This item, he said, will be put on the October SWAC agenda.

Next meeting:
Thursday, October 27, 2005
Room 370 A/B

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SWAC Subcommittee - Sustainability Goals
 Report to SWAC
 July 28 and September 22, 2005

Sustainability Definition

The group adopted the State of Oregon definition: *“Sustainability” means using, developing and protecting resources in a manner that enables people to meet current needs and provides that future generations can also meet future needs, from the joint perspective of environmental, economic and community objectives.* [ORS 184.421 (4)]

Sustainability Framework

The decision-making framework for implementing sustainable practices was defined as follows: "The sustainable operation of the solid waste system considers economic, environmental and societal resources and is consistent with the Natural Step system conditions so that nature is not subject to systematically increasing:

1. Concentrations of substances from the Earth's crust,
2. Concentrations of substances produced by society, or
3. Degradation by physical means;
and in that system
4. Human needs are met worldwide."

Potential Goals and Objectives for the Solid Waste System

Goal 1: Reduce greenhouse gas and diesel particulate air emissions.
Objective 1.1: Implement plans for greater energy efficiency.
Objective 1.2: Utilize renewable energy sources.
Objective 1.3: Reduce direct emissions of greenhouse gases from landfills and other facilities.
Objective 1.4: Reduce diesel particulate emissions in existing trucks, barges and rolling stock through best available control technology.
Objective 1.5: Implement long-haul transportation and collection alternatives where feasible.
Goal 2: Reduce storm water run-off.
Objective 2.1: Implement storm water run-off mitigation plans.
Goal 3: Reduce natural resource use.
Objective 3.1: Implement resource efficiency audit recommendations.
Objective 3.2: Implement sustainable purchasing policies.
Objective 3.3: Reduce disposed waste.
Goal 4: Reduce use and discharge of toxic materials.
Objective 4.1: Implement toxics reduction and management plans.
Goal 5: Implement sustainability standards for facility construction and operation.
Objective 5.1: Implement sustainability standards for site selection.
Objective 5.2: Require new construction to meet the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards of the U.S. Green Building Council.
Objective 5.3: Provide incentives for existing facilities to meet LEED standards.

Goal 6: Adopt best practices for customer and employee health and safety.
Objective 6.1: Reduce injuries by automating operations where effective.
Objective 6.2: Implement health and safety plans that meet or exceed current minimum legal standards.

Goal 7: Provide training and education on implementing sustainable practices.
Objective 7.1: Train key regional waste industry employees, government waste reduction staff and political officials in The Natural Step.
Objective 7.2: Inform suppliers, contractors and customers of solid waste operations of the adoption of sustainability goals and practices.

Goal 8: Support a Quality Work Life
Objective 8.1: Pay living wage and benefits to all workers.
Objective 8.2: Promote community service.
Objective 8.3: Strive to employ a diverse work force.

Goal 9: Employ sustainability values in seeking vendors and contractors.
Objective 9.1: Request sustainability plans from potential vendors and contractors.
Objective 9.2: Assist vendors and contractors in achieving sustainable practices.
Objective 9.3: Support local vendors when feasible.

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