

Executive Summary

Solid Waste Advisory Committee August 19, 2002

I. Call to Order and Announcements

Susan McLain

- Councilor McLain announced that the Council passed three ordinances amending the Regional System Fee (and excise tax) Credit Program recently. In response to Mr. White's question, she clarified why Metro chose to identify materials that do not count, rather than referencing DEQ's list of what counts toward recovery rate calculations.
- Councilor McLain also said that the ordinance revising term limits for advisory bodies passed Council. Representatives of associations are no longer subject to term limits. In addition, a non-voting position (Clark County haulers' representative) was added to the SWAC.
- Approval of Minutes: Mr. Korot motioned to move the summary; Mr. Gilbert seconded the motion; none opposed; Executive Summary passed as read.

II. REM Director's Update

Janet Matthews

- Metro's latex paint recycling facility was recognized by SWANA with a gold award in the special wastes division. The facility was built in 1999, recovers nearly 80% of the paint received and generates enough revenue to cover 80% of the operating costs of the facility.
- REM's Budget Advisory Committee has its first meeting next month. They will review the department's reserves and Metro's role in e-waste management. The Rate Review Committee meets during the winter and will review cost and revenue allocations to ratepayers. If anyone is interested in more information they should contact Tom Chaimov.

III. Regional E-waste Management Report

Scott Klag

Mr. Klag said that Metro's consultant, Cascadia Consulting Group, recently submitted a report identifying the following: estimates of how much e-waste is in the region; an assessment of current collection and processing infrastructure; what information is still needed to assess region's needs; and, recommendations for e-waste collection and processing in the Metro region. The report finds that there are tens of thousands of pounds of e-waste in the region that will become obsolete in the near future. The strengths of the existing infrastructure are reuse and refurbishing options, but more environmentally sound processing options are needed. Areas identified for Metro action are to obtain better estimates of how much old electronics equipment is out there, support existing re-use infrastructure, and consider formal environmental and sustainability actions such as using and promoting bidding and procurement services to ensure safety. The committee was interested in Metro's involvement in national and regional efforts, such as NEPSI and WEPSI, and industry participation. Mr. Klag stated that Metro is involved in national and regional efforts. Advance recycling fees are being considered at those levels, but it is going to take time to resolve. Ms. Crockett suggested that a cost-benefit analysis for various options would be valuable. Collection options were also discussed. Ms. Storz asked if anyone is doing environmental certification. Mr. Klag said that regulators do due diligence, but that it is difficult to track the chain of custody. Councilor Atherton asked if haulers are finding e-waste in their loads. Mr. Apotheker said that e-waste is showing up at Metro transfer stations and DEQ's waste composition studies indicate that the percentage of electronics in the wastestream has tripled in the past few years. Ms. Gilliland announced that DEQ does have a fact sheet and interim rules posted on their web site. Mr. Klag introduced Mr. Sampson of StRUT, an operation that does total reclaim of CRTs domestically.

IV. Regulatory Framework for Solid Waste Activities

Janet Matthews

Ms. Matthews referred to potential changes that may be made to Metro's regulatory framework by early next year, and the need to provide background information to SWAC prior to further discussions. She began by reviewing the solid waste delivery diagram that shows when non-system licenses (NSL) and designated facility agreements (DFA) are appropriate. Mr. Brower clarified that these delivery mechanisms only apply to putrescible waste, with no distinction

between vegetative and non-vegetative at this point. Ms. Matthews then reviewed what type of regulatory oversight there is for various types of activities (see Tables 1 – 3). The REM department and Council are reviewing DFAs right now and are considering changes to the Metro Code that could subject certain designated facilities to the same requirements as in-region facilities, such as minimum recovery rates. Mr. Kampfer asked if NSLs are working as a regulatory mechanism. Councilor McLain, Ms. Matthews and Mr. Brower explained that NSLs are effective in ensuring the proper disposition of waste leaving the region and for capturing fees and taxes on such waste.

VII. Other Business and Adjourn

Susan McLain

There was no further business.

Documents to be kept with the record of the meeting:

Agenda Item III:

1. Overhead presentation (copy available upon request)
2. Report: Executive Summary (included in 8/19/02 agenda packet)
3. Report: Assessment of E-waste Collection and Processing Issues for the Metro Region (copy available upon request)

Agenda Item IV:

1. Solid Waste Delivery Diagram (included in 8/19/02 agenda packet)
2. Table 1 – Purpose of Metro's Solid Waste Regulatory System (included in 8/19/02 agenda packet)
3. Table 2 – Regulatory Framework for Solid Waste Activities (included in 8/19/02 agenda packet)
4. Table 3 – Summary of Regulatory Tools including the New Service Areas for Local Transfer Stations (included in 8/19/02 agenda packet)

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Study's questions

- 1) How much e-waste exists and is expected to be generated in the near future?
- 2) Can these wastes be collected and handled, given the existing infrastructure? If not, what new services or facilities are needed?
- 3) Can these wastes be processed and reused in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner?
- 4) What next steps should Metro take to manage these wastes?

Study's Findings

1) *E-waste generation* - Significant and growing quantities needing management

2) *Existing infrastructure* -

Strengths: excellent reuse/refurbishing services; interest of service providers in Metro market

Weaknesses: capacity of existing reuse infrastructure; markets for certain recovered materials (glass, plastics)

3) *Environmentally sound management*

Standards and regulatory framework emerging but attention required

Study's Recommendations

- 1) Improve estimates of e-waste
- 2) Support the reuse infrastructure
- 3) Set environmental & sustainability standards
- 4) Service - level & type of service; guidelines on procuring services

SWAC Discussion

What do we want in a regional system?

- Accessibility
- Cost sharing
- Other?
- Metro's role