

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**METRO SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMITTEE (SWAC)**  
 Metro Regional Center, Rooms 370 A/B  
 Thursday, March 4, 2010

**Members / Alternates Present:**

Matt Korot, Chair	Susan Millhauser	Michelle Poyourow
Scott Keller	Amy Pepper	Dave White
Bruce Walker	Rick Winterhalter	John Lucini
Theresa Koppang	JoAnn Herrigel	Paul Ehinger, Alternate
Adam Winston		

**Members / Alternates Not Present:**

Audrey O'Brien

**Guests and Metro staff:**

Reed Wagner, Metro	Jim Desmond, Metro	Paulette Rossi
Ray Phelps, Allied Waste	Chris Carey	Kevin Six, Metro
Roy Brower, Metro	Jeff Murray, Far West Fibers	Andrew Bartlett
Dean Large, Waste Connections	Matt Stern	Gina Cubbon, Metro
Dan Blue, City of Gresham	Dean Kampfer, Waste Mgmt	
Marv Fjordbeck, Metro	Mike Dewey, Waste Mgmt	

**I. Call to Order and Introductions .....Matt Korot**

Matt Korot welcomed the attendees and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**II. Conduct of Meetings .....Matt Korot**

Mr. Korot explained that the Committee will meet at least once per month, and more frequently as the group wishes. Regarding public comment at the meetings, Mr. Korot received head-nodding agreement to his suggestion of up to ten minutes per agenda item, and no time for non-agenda topics. If more time is needed, additional written comments may be submitted via email to Gina Cubbon at Metro.

Meeting proceedings will not follow Robert's Rules of Order, but votes will be taken in a proper manner. While voting members are those representing local governments, Metro Council will be given reports that reflect the full flavor of discussions, including ideas and minority opinions from both voting and non-voting members.

**III. SWAC Purpose and First Area of Focus .....Matt Korot**

Mr. Korot reminded the group of SWAC's purpose as established in Metro Code:

*To develop policy options that, if implemented, would serve the public interest by reducing the amount and toxicity of waste generated and disposed, or enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of the system through which the region's solid waste is managed.*

The Committee's role will be to use its expertise and creative ideas to provide the Council with thoughtful, well-vetted options to serve this purpose, including pros, cons, and indicative opinions of group members. Its role is not to present one recommendation per issue to Council.

Mr. Korot said that Metro staff suggests that the first area on which the Committee focus is food waste. Mr. Korot used a PowerPoint presentation to outline the subject (attached). The issue is compelling region-wide from a number of perspectives, and is a priority element of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP) in the form of reuse (useable food donated to rescue agencies) and recovery (commercial food waste organics). There are a number of potential actions the Metro Council could take to advance the food system more sustainable, including many that fall within SWAC's area of responsibility.

The Committee discussed how wide a focus should be used to start the discussion. A number of members felt the broad sustainability perspective illustrated in the PowerPoint should be used, while others felt it best to immediately focus "on end-of-life" work, i.e., the point at which food doesn't get used and disposal, recycling and donation are all still options.

Other questions/comments:

- What's the problem statement? Is it that there's too much going to the landfill, or that too much is wasted, or something else?
- Is any of this Metro's problem to solve? New programs aren't cheap – if it's somebody else's problem, maybe they should be informed and let them take care of it.
- Will Council be looking at tonnage or percentages?

Mr. Korot took a stab at summarizing it all: everyone sees the need to quickly focus our deliberations, but more members are in support of starting broadly than immediately focusing on end-of-life. He said he would present the focus area and this approach to Council for its approval and report back to SWAC. Members asked for more information on the elements of the sustainable food system presented in the PowerPoint to use as a roadmap to develop the problem statement and begin to identify options for narrowing the group's focus..

**IV. Scheduling of Future Meetings .....All**

A web-based poll will be conducted to ascertain what day/time works best for all or most members. The group prefers morning or late afternoon meetings; Fridays are not ideal because some local government offices are closed.

**V. Other Business and Adjourn.....All**

With neither further announcements nor new business, Mr. Korot adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Prepared by:

Gina Cubbon  
Assistant to the Director  
Metro Parks & Environmental Services

gbc  
Attachments

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Queue


# Metro Solid Waste Advisory Committee

March 4, 2010

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## Metro Solid Waste Advisory Committee

**Purpose:** to develop policy options that, if implemented, would serve the public interest by reducing the amount and toxicity of waste generated and disposed, or enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of the system through which the region's solid waste is managed.

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## Proposed First Area of Focus: Food

### *Why?*

- Regional interest in Sustainable Food Systems
- Regional Solid Waste Management Plan
- Significant component of the waste stream
- Availability of end-of-life management options
- Opportunity for Metro policy role

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## Proposed First Area of Focus: Food

### *Why?*

#### *Regional interest in Sustainable Food Systems*

- Local food
- Healthy food
- Food insecurity
- Environmental and health impacts of food production
- Reducing food waste

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## Proposed First Area of Focus: Food

### *Why?*

*Regional Solid Waste Management Plan*

Commercial Organics

- “Reuse”
- Recovery

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## Proposed First Area of Focus: Food

### *Why?*

*Significant component of the waste stream*

184,000 tons per year = 14% of garbage

Of this . . .

- Commercial sector = 55-60%
- Residential sector = 40-45%

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## Proposed First Area of Focus: Food

### *Why?*

*Availability of end-of-life management options*

Composting

Bioenergy

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## Proposed First Area of Focus: Food

### *Why?*

Opportunity for Metro policy role

- **Food production, distribution, consumption** (examples)
  - Land use, incentives, market development, education
- **Capacity building for food discards** (examples)
  - Investments, incentives or disincentives for reuse
  - Increase reload, transfer and processing capacity through public facility development, investment in private facilities, facility permitting changes
- **System management** (examples)
  - Rate setting, disposal bans, flow control

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### **Food Waste – Components of a Problem Statement**

- Opportunity for improving sustainability of regional food system.
- There are a number of potential policy tools that Metro could use to improve the sustainability of the regional food system.
- Given SWAC's charge, it is the appropriate body to identify and analyze these policy options, particularly those that would reduce the amount of food waste generated and disposed in the region.

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