

MEETING SUMMARY
METRO SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMITTEE (SWAC)
Metro Regional Center, Council Chambers
Thursday, July 15, 2010

Members / Alternates Present:

Matt Korot, Chair	Bruce Walker	John Lucini
Scott Keller	Amy Pepper	Michelle Poyourow
Audrey O'Brien	Rick Winterhalter	Susan Millhauser
Theresa Koppang	JoAnn Herrigel	

Members / Alternates Absent:

Dave White
Adam Winston
Paul Ehinger, Alternate

Guests and Metro staff:

Jennifer Erickson, Metro	Alando Simpson, City of Roses	Jerry Green, Washington Cty.
Meredith Sorenson, Harvest Pwr.	Dan Blue, City of Gresham	Jim Desmond, Metro
Holly Stirnkorb, Tabor Conslt.	Dean Kampfer, WMO	Gina Cubbon, Metro

I. Welcome and Review of Work To-date.....*Matt Korot*

Matt Korot opened the meeting and briefly previewed the agenda. Bruce Walker (City of Portland) mentioned that this day and time conflicts with another obligation; Mr. Korot said the members would be contacted again to try and find an amenable monthly meeting time.

II. Food System Questions and Information Needs.....*Matt Korot*

Mr. Korot asked if, based on the information provided at the last meetings and in the distributed materials, anyone would like additional information that staff might be able to provide. Michelle Poyourow said she'd like to know exactly what composting facilities and programs currently exist in the region (and general area). Jennifer Erickson said she would forward a full list, but off the top of her head mentioned Cedar Grove (where most of the food waste arriving at Metro facilities is sent), a facility in Pierce County, and Silver Springs Organics in Tenino, WA that is currently not taking Oregon waste. PRC in Corvallis is taking limited quantities of commercial food waste and all of the residential food waste mixed with yard debris from the City of Portland pilot project, and Nature's Needs (owned by Recology) has a franchise through Washington County and is in the process of obtaining a DEQ permit. Recology's facility in Aumsville is in the process of permitting, and there's a small facility in McMinnville already permitted. In addition, reload facilities are being discussed for moving the waste, and she knows of a facility in Pendleton, as well. A commercial pilot program is underway in Lake Oswego; Mr. Walker added that the City of Salem has just launched a residential food waste program in conjunction with Allied Waste. Over all, Ms. Erickson concluded, capacity is growing quickly, but most facilities are focusing taking food waste from their local communities first.

III. Food System Opportunities Exercise.....Facilitator: Jennifer Erickson

Jennifer Erickson referenced a worksheet sent to the members prior to the meeting, in which she asked for ideas to improve sustainability in the system by reducing the environmental and human health impacts associated with the region’s consumption of food products.

Ms. Erickson asked the members to put their ideas onto post-it notes, by material life-cycle stages. All the suggestions were collected, grouped, and narrowed to the following:

ACTION REFINEMENT / PRODUCTION

Gleaning	Education
Waste to animals or compost	Urban agriculture / local food sources
Inputs -	Packaging
Reduce toxics, GHG, etc.	Seasonal / slow food
Water	Worker health / working conditions
Link farm to people	

PROCESSING & DISTRIBUTION

Toxics	Collaboration with outside groups
Packaging	Looking at end of life
Food rescue / donation	Farmers’ markets (mobile)
Processing	Worker health / working conditions

RETAIL

Composting / processing	Packaging
Food rescue	Waste prevention
Incentives / education / mandates	Carbon tax

HOUSEHOLD

Composting (collection / backyard)	Infrastructure – access to food, school programs, building community
Education (environmental impacts, WP, local food)	Toxics and additives
Packaging	Facilities – need more available, regulatory / permitting issues

IV. Criteria for Screening and Ranking OpportunitiesAll

Next, the Committee discussed possible criteria for prioritizing their ideas for a sustainable food system. The goal is to look closely at each idea, making sure that it’s feasible, fundable, and within the goals of the Metro Council.

- Is it something Metro and local governments can directly influence?
- Would it become a policy or a program?
- To how many parts of the food life cycle does it pertain?
- How much food waste will it divert, or how much carbon will it reduce?
- Is the idea feasible financially? Through which avenues can it be funded?
- In what way does the idea increase sustainability: Energy use, GHG generation, pollution, social justice, worker safety and health, toxics, water use, or perhaps helping under-served populations?

- How will it affect competition? (i.e., think about its impacts on the playing field)
- Will it be effective?
- Does it capitalize on political interest? (Note: Mr. Walker commented that it would be unwise to cross an idea off on the grounds that it's politically unpopular, as many far-reaching policies have started out that way.)

V. Public Comment.....All

Alex Schay introduced himself as the owner of Carbon Solutions and said that he was at the meeting at the request of Dick Springer of West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District. The District and other stakeholders are looking into the feasibility of siting an organics digester in the Portland area and are interested in talking with additional potential partners and supporters. Mr. Schay can be contacted at 503-460-9502 or alex@carbonsolutionsnorthwest.com.

VI. Focus of Next Meeting

Mr. Korot said that at the next meeting the Committee will work to further refine the opportunities and criteria discussed today, and then prioritize the opportunities by screening them against key criteria.

Mr. Korot adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Prepared by:

Gina Cubbon
 Assistant to the Director
 Metro Parks & Environmental Services

gbc
 Attachments
 T:\SWAC_New\2010 meetings\7-15-10 meeting\SWAC071510min.docx