

BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE
METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING A) RESOLUTION NO. 87-738
MARKETING PLAN FOR YARD DEBRIS)
COMPOST) Introduced by the
) Executive Officer

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Service District adopted a Solid Waste Reduction Program to achieve maximum feasible reduction of yard debris currently being landfilled through the use of regional processing facilities and collection of source separated yard debris; and

WHEREAS, The Solid Waste Reduction Program determined that 75 percent of the yard debris waste stream was potentially recoverable (about 77,000 tons) and that such a level of recovery would have the effect of reducing approximately 10 percent of the total amount of solid waste being landfilled; and

WHEREAS, Metro desires to extend the life of the St. Johns Landfill until a new landfill and resource recovery facility can be sited; and

WHEREAS, A Metro-sponsored Market Analysis of Portland Metropolitan Area Yard Debris determined that 75 percent of yard debris being landfilled could be successfully marketed as compost; and

WHEREAS, The marketing program is designed to be flexible, providing marketing assistance for the amount of compost or other products from yard debris which become available according to processor capacity and the presence of a collection system for source-separated yard debris; and

WHEREAS, It is Metro continued expectation that a successful marketing program will stimulate demand for commercial compost such that additional source separation and delivery of yard debris to processors will be encouraged as a natural response to market forces; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Council adopts the Marketing Plan for Yard Debris products.

ADOPTED by the Council of the Metropolitan Service District
this _____ day of _____, 1986.

NOT ADOPTED
Richard Waker, Presiding Officer

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7143C/496-2
03/16/87

10. CONSIDERATION OF THE "DRAFT" SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR CONCLUSIONS, Recommendations and Evaluation of Alternatives Report and Initiation of a Public Hearing and Adoption Process

Andy Cotugno, Transportation Director, reviewed staff's report and the schedule for public hearings on the draft report. He explained this matter had been brought before the Council for informational purposes only and that staff would bring the matter back to the Council for adoption in May.

Councilor Van Bergen noted the document was a highly sophisticated study and would be important for Washington and Clackamas counties project planning. He said he was proud of Metro for its well performed work on the project.

A discussion followed on how the study had addressed light rail transit for the Sunset Corridor. Mr. Cotugno reported no specific conclusion had been reached but options were discussed in the study. He added that any plan for light rail transit would be subject to a separate decision-making process.

Deputy Presiding Officer Gardner announced a public hearing on the draft report before the Joint Policy Alternatives Committee on Transportation (JPACT) was scheduled for 7:00 p.m., April 15 at St. Vincent Hospital.

11. RESOLUTIONS

11.3 Consideration of Resolution No. 87-738, for the Purpose of Adopting a Marketing Plan for Yard Debris Compost as Part of Metro's Solid Waste Reduction Program

Jon Allred and Becky Crockett, Solid Waste Analysts, presented staff's report as printed in the meeting agenda packet.

Motion: Councilor Ragsdale moved the Resolution be adopted and Councilor Van Bergen seconded the motion.

Councilor Knowles asked staff to describe reaction to the proposed yard debris marketing plan from other yard debris processors. Mr. Allred answered that a consultant to staff had determined ample markets existed for all parties in the business of marketing the material.

Councilor Cooper asked if the study had determined whether yard debris could be sold at a price competitive with bark dust. Ms. Crockett responded that the study did not address pricing in order to avoid the perception of price fixing or collusion.

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Councilor Van Bergen noted the difficulties staff had experienced in processing the large pile of yard debris at the St. Johns Landfill. Mr. Allred explained that situation had little to do with the success or failure of markets for composted materials. He was confident staff would find uses for the St. Johns material because yard debris was a viable product.

Jerry Herrman, 15178 South Highland Road, Oregon City, Director, John Inskip Environmental Learning Center, testified markets did exist for compost. He said composted materials were used on the grounds of the Learning Center and the Center had developed programs to educate the public on how to compost and how to use the material. He noted commercial uses for compost had recently increased due to the higher cost of bark dust. He concluded that what had once been a disposal problem as a result of the DEQ burning ban was now becoming a viable marketing opportunity. He commended Metro for developing the yard debris marketing plan and urged the Council to implement it.

Rod Grimm, No. 8 Hotspare, Lake Oswego, owner of Grimm's Fuel Company, presented Councilors with potted pansies grown in composted yard debris material. Mr. Grimm testified that Metro's proposed marketing program would greatly contribute to solving the region's solid waste problems to the benefit of everyone. He discussed research being conducted by pathologists using composted materials as a growing medium. He said Metro's efforts would help business develop a guaranteed supply of raw material.

Responding to Councilor Ragsdale's question, Mr. Grimm said he did not see Metro in a role of competing with private business. Rather, he thought Metro's efforts to help develop markets for private business were to the benefit of everyone. He explained the region's solid waste disposal problem was very real, public problem. Any efforts to reduce the amount of yard debris landfilled were important.

Estle Harlan, 2202 Lake Road, Milwaukie, representing the Tri-County Council of solid waste haulers, testified the Tri-County Council supported Metro's role in developing markets for yard debris. Her only concern was if McFarlane's, a private company processing yard debris, were flooded with material, they could not process the material fast enough or that adequate markets would not exist for the material. Ms. Harlan also asked staff and the Council to assure her that Metro would not involve itself in collection of yard debris. Councilor Van Bergen confirmed that Metro's appropriate role was to develop markets for yard debris, not to collect the material.

Kathleen Keene, 124014 S.E. Raymond Street, Portland, representing McFarlane's Bark, Inc., testified McFarlane's and Grimm's operations had already added two years to the life of the St. Johns Landfill and that Metro's public information program encouraging proper disposal of yard debris had helped the two companies. She was not concerned about stockpiles of yard debris, explaining those stockpiles were valuable inventory.

Responding to Councilor Van Bergen's question, Ms. Keene said since McFarlane's radio ads had been aired, about three times more yard debris had been brought to their facility than was brought in the same time last year.

A discussion followed about the cost of the Metro yard debris marketing program. Councilor Ragsdale asked staff to explain total costs and whether those costs were included in the budget. Ms. Crockett said the budget would have to be amended to include program costs. She explained the yard debris program had been budgeted in both the Public Affairs and Solid Waste departments and Table 4 of staff's report had listed only expenses included Solid Waste budget.

Councilor Ragsdale requested adoption of Resolution No. 87-738 be set over to another meeting until all program costs were clearly reported to the Council. The Councilor explained he supported the program but needed more information in order to vote on the matter.

Executive Officer Cusma said staff would present a complete expense overview of the proposed yard debris program for the April 9 Council meeting. Councilor Cooper requested the revised report also include information about the financial impacts of the program on other markets.

Withdrawal of Motion: Councilor Ragsdale and Van Bergen withdrew their previous motion to adopt Resolution No. 87-738 with the understanding staff would return to the Council on April 9 with the information requested.

11.2 Consideration of Resolution No. 87-743, for the Purpose of Amending the Pay Plan to Upgrade the Position of Waste Reduction Manager

Randy Boose, Personnel Officer, briefly reviewed staff's written report. He explained if the Resolution were adopted, the base salary for the position would increase from \$29,328 to \$32,300 and the incumbent would receive a 5 percent pay increase per provisions of the Personnel Rules.