

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING)	RESOLUTION NO. 96-2310
THE YEAR 7 ANNUAL WASTE)	
REDUCTION PROGRAM FOR)	Introduced by Mike Burton
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS)	Executive Officer
)	

WHEREAS, The Metro Challenge Program has been an integral part of the region's waste reduction and recycling programs for the past six years in order to attain state mandated regional recovery goals (OAR 340-90-050); and

WHEREAS, The Metro Challenge Programs serves as an implementation tool for the newly adopted Regional Solid Waste Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, Metro Challenge continues to be one of the primary mechanisms for Metro and local governments to establish and improve recycling and waste reduction efforts throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, The means of implementing Metro Challenge is through annual work plans, adopted by Metro and local governments, that define the work to be completed by each jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, A cooperative process for formulating and implementing the Year 7 Annual Work Plans was used by Metro and local governments and ensures a coordinated regional effort to reduce waste; and

WHEREAS, The Year 7 Annual Work Plans are consistent with and meet the intent of the goals and objectives in the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, Metro Challenge grant fund distribution to local governments is tied to adherence to the plan and satisfactory completion of work plan elements; and

WHEREAS, Metro Challenge is funded in the draft 1996-97 budget; and

WHEREAS, the Year 7 Annual Work Plan has been reviewed by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and recommended for Metro Council approval; and

WHEREAS, The resolution was submitted to the Executive Officer for consideration and was forwarded to the Council for approval; now therefore,

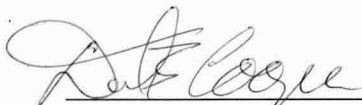
BE IT RESOLVED, That the Metro Council approves the Year 7 Annual Waste Reduction Program for Local Governments (attached hereto as Exhibit "A") and supports increased efforts to reduce waste in the Metro region.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 25th day of April, 1996.



Jon Kvistad, Presiding Officer

Approved as to Form:



Daniel B. Cooper, General Counsel

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MARCH 20, 1996

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 96-2310 FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING THE YEAR 7 METRO CHALLENGE ANNUAL WASTE REDUCTION WORK PLAN FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

Date: April 3, 1996

Presented by: Jim Goddard
Jennifer Ness

PROPOSED ACTION

Adopt Resolution No. 96-2310, Approving the Year 7 Metro Challenge annual waste reduction work plan for local governments.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The Metro Challenge program was established in 1990 to provide local governments with part of the funding they need to complete recycling and waste reduction activities within their jurisdiction. These activities help the region meet the objectives of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan and State Law. Since its inception, the Metro Challenge Program has provided \$3 million in grant funds to local governments.

Through this and other programs, Metro and local governments have worked together to provide single and multi-family residential recycling services, yard debris collection, home composting education, waste reduction consultations to businesses, in-school programs for students and teachers, public outreach and education, and many other valuable programs and services.

Tremendous progress has been made in the region with regard to recycling and waste reduction. The regional recycling rate has jumped from 28% in 1989 to 41% in 1994, all single family residents have the opportunity to recycle at the curb, 79% of the 150,000 multi-family housing units in the region have recycling collection systems in place, and local government comprehensive commercial recycling programs are gearing up to tackle the complex task of providing improved recycling services to the region's businesses.

The Regional Solid Waste Management Plan provides the larger long-term framework for the region's solid waste and recycling infrastructure. The Metro Challenge Program is an important annual implementation tool for achieving the goals set forth by the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan and State Law.

The 1996-97 Metro challenge Grants will continue to help local governments defray the cost of both new and existing waste reduction and recycling programs. The annual work plan which lists the tasks to be completed under the grant program was developed collaboratively with seven local government recycling coordinators representing the twenty-seven jurisdictions in the region, Metro staff and DEQ representatives. The format allows jurisdictions to develop and implement program ideas based on local circumstances while meeting the intent of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan goals and objectives.

The annual work plan has two parts consisting of foundation and expansion elements. Foundation elements are those which should be implemented by every local government to ensure regional continuity and to provide a basic level of service. This portion of Metro Challenge recognizes that

existing programs need attention and resources to stay viable and grow. Currently jurisdictions are at different levels of implementation of foundation elements. Those lagging behind will be able to focus on improvement where needed. The expansion elements contain items that are new and emerging on a region-wide basis or are unique to one jurisdiction. The experience gained from work on an expansion item will be shared with other jurisdictions to provide mutual benefit.

Local governments with populations over 30,000 will select a total of eleven expansion elements as part of their annual work plans; one from each program area and four additional from any area. Local governments with populations under 30,000 will select one expansion element from each program area and one additional item for a total of eight elements. Joint projects between local governments, Metro and DEQ or combinations thereof are encouraged.

Each local government will submit a brief description of how each selected element will be completed in FY 1996-97, making each work plan unique. The 1996-97 work plans and 1995-96 final program reports will be due to Metro by August 1, 1996. Work plans will be reviewed by a Metro committee consisting of representatives from the Waste Reduction & Planning Services Division and Metro Council department. Discussions will be held with each local government to review areas of concern, make clarifications and to finalize the elements for that jurisdiction's plan. The review committee is charged with granting administrative approval of the work plan to the jurisdiction. The 1995-96 program final reports will also be reviewed by the committee.

The review committee will meet with local governments at their request throughout the year to review status and assist with amendment of work plans if necessary. At the end of FY 96-97 local governments will submit a final program report which describes how they have accomplished their planned work items. The same Metro committee will review these reports. If any work plan items were not completed or were found to be deficient, the committee will meet with the local government to determine the cause and appropriate action to allow the problem to be remedied. Penalties may be applied if other options for resolution are exhausted.

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee reviewed the Year 7 Annual Work Plan in May and has recommended that it be forwarded to the Metro Council for approval.

BUDGET IMPACT

A total of \$600,000 has been budgeted for this program.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Officer recommends approval of Resolution No. 96-2310.

EXHIBIT "A"

FY 96-97 FRAMEWORK FOR METRO CHALLENGE

The "Metro Challenge" program provides local governments with partial funding to complete recycling and waste reduction activities within their jurisdictions. Future advances in waste reduction will be more difficult requiring greater creativity in the development of new programs and approaches.

Local governments allocate a substantial amount of resources towards developing and implementing waste reduction programs. Metro Challenge provides only a portion of the total costs. This is particularly true as the breadth and depth of programs have increased substantially over the past few years but Metro funding has not kept pace with the expansion of programs. Local governments will quite likely have program areas outside of Metro Challenge. Metro Challenge does not necessarily provide a complete listing of all waste reduction activities that local governments will implement.

The basic framework for administering the FY 96-97 Metro Challenge program is as follows:

1. The work plan consists of two parts: **Foundation** and **expansion** elements. Foundation elements are those which should be implemented by every local government to ensure regional continuity and to provide a basic level of service. This portion of Metro Challenge recognizes that existing programs need attention and resources to stay viable and grow. Currently jurisdictions are at different levels of implementation of foundation elements. Those lagging behind will be able to focus on improvement where needed. The expansion elements are defined as those activities, whether new or continuing, that are above and beyond tasks required of all jurisdictions in the foundation section. Expansion elements contain items that are new and emerging on a region-wide basis or are unique to one jurisdiction.
2. Local governments with populations over 30,000 will select eleven expansion elements as part of their annual waste reduction work plans; one from each program areas and four additional from any area. Local governments with populations under 30,000 will select one expansion element from each program area and one additional item for a total of eight elements. Joint projects between local governments, Metro and DEQ or combinations thereof are encouraged. In all cases, the experience gained from the expansion elements will be shared throughout the region.
3. The agreement between Metro and local governments will be customized to reflect the work items selected by that jurisdiction.
4. Foundation and expansion elements will be developed to coincide not only with the needs of individual jurisdictions and with the broad-based long and short-term benchmarks in the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.
5. Local governments have the option of choosing more expansion elements than are required in order to determine, according to local conditions, which tasks will be completed to meet the implementation requirement. If an expansion element change is requested by a local government, a brief written note stating which option(s) will be dropped will be submitted to Metro.

EXHIBIT "A"

6. In order to receive total funding allocation, the local government must complete the foundation elements and all expansion items selected. Reporting of the previous year's activities will also be tied to release of funds.
7. Funding for Metro Challenge will continue to be based on the population of the jurisdiction.
8. Many of the foundation elements will center around achieving the minimum regional goal. For program areas which do not have a regional goal, [by each local government] the goal will be developed as a work item.
9. In their work plans, each local government will submit a brief description of how selected element will be completing in FY 96-97. Each work plan will be reviewed by a Metro committee consisting of representatives from the Waste Reduction & Planning Services Division, Metro Council and one other division or department. After the committee's initial review, discussions will be held with each local government to review areas of concern, make clarifications and to finalize the work plan elements for that jurisdiction's Metro Challenge Grant. The 1996-97 work plans and 1995-96 program reports will be due to Metro by August 1, 1996. If any work plan items were not completed or were found to be deficient, the committee will meet with the local government to determine the cause and appropriate action so that the problem can be remedied rather than automatically levying a penalty. Local governments are strongly encouraged to discuss potential deficiencies or any changes to the plans submitted at the time they occur. Penalties such as proration of grant funds, may still be applied if other options are exhausted.

Definitions:

Foundation:

Those program elements or activities which are implemented by every local government to ensure regional continuity and to provide a basic level of service. These elements are tied closely to the benchmarks set forth in the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.

Expansion:

Those program elements or activities, whether new or continuing, that are above and beyond tasks required of all jurisdictions in the foundation section. Expansion elements contain items that are new and emerging on a region-wide basis or are unique to one jurisdiction.

Investigate and Report:

Research conducted on proposed program elements or activities to determine feasibility of future implementation. A brief and concise written report will include methods and results of investigation, determination of implementation feasibility, timeline for implementation or reasoning behind the choice not to implement. The report will be included as part of the year-end report to Metro due August 1, 1996.

Year 7 Local Government Work Plan

January 16, 1996

Background: Local Jurisdictions will be required to implement or continue to implement all tasks listed under Foundation. One Expansion element from each category and four additional from any category for a total of eleven expansion items will also be required for jurisdictions or cooperative programs with populations totaling over 30,000 residents. Those jurisdictions or cooperative programs with total populations of under 30,000 will implement one expansion item from each category and one additional expansion item for a total of eight. Cooperative projects between local governments and/or Metro are encouraged to reap the maximum benefit from minimal resources.

RESIDENTIAL:

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

FOUNDATION	Selected Tasks
1. Comply with all applicable OAR 340-90-040 chosen menu items.	X
2. Weekly curbside collection (or equivalent) of yard debris and scrap paper.* (1/97 assessment of scrap paper)	X
3. Participate in Regional Media Campaigns that emphasize waste prevention (funding plan by 10/96, trial program 1996, evaluation 10/97).	X
4. Shift local education programs to a greater emphasis on waste prevention.	X
5. Include information about HHW in public education where appropriate. Utilize Metro educational materials.	X
6. Promote home composting and Metro home composting workshops.	X
7. Assist with "Earth-Wise" purchasing and waste prevention programs targeted at households (7/97 eval).	X
EXPANSION	Selected Tasks
1. Investigate and report on addition of new materials and access to recycling for non-curbside materials.	
2. Work with Metro on home compost bin distribution program.**	
3. Target low-participant neighborhoods with special education and promotion efforts.	
4. Develop and implement a program to target reduction of yard debris in drop boxes and/or self-haul loads at disposal facilities. Local governments choosing to participate would facilitate coordination with haulers in a joint program w/Metro.**	
5. Participate in mobile household hazardous waste collection events held in your jurisdiction.**	
6. Continue cooperative development of promising new technologies (co-collection, etc.)	
7. Assist with the development of new home composting demonstration sites developed to serve all parts of the region.	
8. Other.	

*Programs that divert an amount of material from the waste stream that is considered equivalent to the weekly collection standard.

** If your jurisdiction does not participate in the program, you must implement an alternative expansion item.

METRO

FOUNDATION	Selected Tasks
1. Continue yard debris weighing and measuring amounts left in can/monitor YD programs.	X
2. Continue home compost bin distribution (cooperative with Local Governments).	X
3. Evaluate effectiveness of bin distribution program.	X
4. Coordinate the development of "Earth-Wise" purchasing and waste prevention tools and programs.	X
5. Continue Regional Media Campaign; emphasize waste prevention.	X
6. Develop methods to evaluate the effectiveness of waste prevention programs (7/98).	X
7. Provide copy and educational materials for HHW promotions to local governments.	X
8. Continue semi-annual home composting workshops.	X
9. Develop home compost sites to serve all parts of the region (7/97).	X
10. Target reduction of yard debris in drop boxes and/or in self-haul loads delivered to solid waste disposal facilities (in coordination with local governments).	X

MULTI-FAMILY

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

FOUNDATION	Selected Tasks
1. Ensure placement of containers for at least 4 materials (scrap paper included where feasible) to substantially all (85%) of multi-family units by 12/96. Maximum feasible by 7/97.	X
2. Update and distribute educational materials.	X
3. Provide data to Metro to help maintain accurate database.	X
4. Modify/improve existing systems in place on an ongoing basis.	X
EXPANSION	Selected Tasks
1. Conduct surveys of program effectiveness (Cooperative with Metro).	
2. Investigate additional materials/perform trials.	
3. Other	

METRO

FOUNDATION	Selected Tasks
1. Maintain database of multi-family units served, measure completion (cooperative with LGs).	X
2. Assist with the update, production and provision of educational materials.	X

COMMERCIAL

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

FOUNDATION	Selected Tasks
1. Assure appropriate recycling services ¹ are made available to businesses for collection of paper and containers (glass, tin, aluminum, PET and HDPE). For businesses that do not generate significant amounts of paper and containers, assure collection of other prevalent materials consistent with the regional objectives in the RSWMP.	X
2. Assure appropriate recycling services are made available to all small businesses consistent with the regional objectives in the RSWMP.	X
3. Create service provision plan which details waste evaluation requirements and procedures. Scope should include complete WR package i.e. reduce, reuse, recycle, buy recycled, etc.	X
4. Ensure provision of waste evaluations utilizing a standardized approach within each local jurisdiction consistent with the regional objectives in the RSWMP.	X
5. Continue to work with Metro to target generator sectors for customized waste reduction programs.	X
6. Participate in coordinated regional and local media campaigns emphasizing business waste prevention (funding plan by 10/96)	X
7. Participate in commercial work group to develop program goals, standards and baselines for program measurement.	X
8. Continue to provide government in-house recycling collection programs.	X
9. Continue to provide school in-house recycling programs	X
10. Participate in "Earth-Wise" programs including promotion campaigns, model procurement policies for targeted generators, and recycled product guides that assist in the development of markets for recycled materials.	X
11. Continue to provide BRAG business recycling recognition programs.	X

¹ Appropriate recycling services include at a minimum: a) All new commercial collection service customers shall each receive a packet of educational materials that contains information listing the materials collected, the schedule for collection, proper method of preparing materials for collection and an explanation of the reasons why source separation of materials for recycling should be done; b) provision of recycling containers where needed; and c) timely and efficient schedules for collection of recyclables from businesses.

EXPANSION	Selected Tasks
1. Investigate and report on regulations (ordinances, franchises) and funding sources for commercial recycling to establish new and/or improved business recycling services.	
2. Investigate and report on the development of non-residential yard debris programs.	
3. Participate with Metro to develop collection and off-site processing of source-separated food and nonrecyclable paper from businesses (pilot 7/95-6/96)	
4. Plan collection systems for larger food generators (3-5 year project).	
5. Assist with siting and development of processing capacity for regional organic wastes.	
6. Encourage development of regional processing facilities for mixed dry waste with sufficient capacity to serve the region and with reasonable access for all haulers..	
7. Assist with the development of markets for recovered materials through technical assistance to processors and end users of recovered materials.	
8. Investigate and report on weight-based collection systems for waste and recyclables.	
9. Other	

METRO

FOUNDATION	Selected Tasks
1. Develop model waste prevention programs for different types of businesses consistent with the regional objectives of the RSWMP.	X
2. Continue working with business, trade and industry associations to provide ownership of recycling programs to their members (cooperative with local governments).	X
3. Continue ongoing information gathering and exchange with local governments and businesses regarding business recycling: database, case studies, analysis, etc.	X
4. Maintain business contact database on the GIS system. (This would include business name, address (site and mailing), business type and employee size.	X
5. Develop coordinated regional and local media campaigns emphasizing waste prevention (funding plan by 10/96)	X
6. Coordinate "Earth-Wise" programs including promotion campaigns, model procurement policies for targeted generators, and recycled product guides that assist in the development of markets for recycled materials.	X
7. Investigate, analyze and report on how businesses can substitute recycled feedstock in the manufacturing process.	X
8. Investigate and report on non-residential yard debris programs with local governments.	X
9. Continue Earth-Wise Compost designation and testing.	X
10. Encourage development of regional processing facilities for mixed dry waste with sufficient capacity to serve the region and with reasonable access for all haulers (pilot 7/95-6/96 with local governments).	X
EXPANSION	Selected Tasks
11. Assist with the development of markets for recovered materials through technical assistance to processors and end users of recovered materials.	
12. Determine measurement methods in conjunction with local governments for items 1, 2, and 4 consistent with the intent of RSWMP	

BUILDING INDUSTRY

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

FOUNDATION	Selected Tasks
1. Ensure availability of on-site services for two or more materials (7/97)	X
2. Assist with the "Earth-Wise" building program to train builders about salvage, waste reduction, recycling, and buying recycled, along with other environmental building practices.	X
3. Continue to assist with provision of on-site evaluations at construction sites or targeted assistance to promote waste prevention practices (Metro to provide training to local governments).	X
4. Assist with the provision of technical assistance and educational information for builders and others on waste prevention practices for building trades waste.	X
EXPANSION	Selected Tasks
1. Tie "Earth-Wise" building to local government environmental programs, i.e., on-site water management, etc.	
2. Other	

METRO

FOUNDATION	Selected Tasks
1. Continue "Earth-Wise" building program to train builders about salvage, waste reduction, recycling, and buying recycled, along with other environmental building practices.	X
2. Continue provision of on-site audits at construction sites to promote waste prevention practices (Metro to provide training to local governments).	X
3. Continue with the provision of technical assistance and educational information for builders and others on waste prevention practices for building trades waste.	X
4. Assist with the implementation of strategies developed by LGs during 1995-96 regarding promotion of and education about recycling collection services.	X
5. Develop educational materials that target new recoverable materials for source separation when markets are available.	X
6. Develop markets to support recycling rather than energy recovery: support salvage practices, support development of industries using recycled C&D materials (25% reduction 1/97, 50% reduction by 7/00).	X
7. Provide building industry/Earth-Wise Builder displays to local governments	X

IN-SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

FOUNDATION	Selected Tasks
1. Provide for in-school presentations and resources (cooperative with Metro and DEQ).	X
2. Provide curriculum that fits into the School Reform Act (cooperative with Metro and primarily DEQ).	X
3. Continue to provide school recycling recognition program.	X
4. Participate in in-school program tracking system in coordination with Metro.	X
EXPANSION	Selected Tasks
1. Sponsor school events such as Earth Day.	
2. Provide assistance to school Earth Clubs	
3. Other	

METRO

FOUNDATION	Selected Tasks
1. Provide kits and activities that face real world problems to local government recycling educators for teachers to use in class work.	X
2. Provide in-school presentations and resources (with Local Governments)	X
3. Develop in-school education program tracking system for region. Provide Metro information to local governments	X

BUY RECYCLED

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

FOUNDATION	Selected Tasks
1. Continue to promote the use of yard debris compost on City/County projects.	X
2. Establish and adopt clear buy-recycled policies for all city or county offices.	X
EXPANSION	Selected Tasks
1. Work with Metro to hold buy recycled shows within local jurisdiction.	
2. Promote/educate general public on buying recycled utilizing Metro materials.	

METRO

FOUNDATION	Selected Tasks
1. Publish Buy Recycled guides.	X
2. Take Buy Recycled trade show on the road, include procurement in targeted generator strategy (cooperative with local governments).	X
3. Provide samples of recycled products to local governments	X

FACILITIES

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

FOUNDATION	Selected Tasks
1. Investigate and report on adoption of clear and objective siting standards that do not effectively prohibit the siting of yard debris processing facilities.	X
2. Investigate and report on adoption of clear and objective siting standards that do not effectively prohibit the siting of organic waste processing facilities.	X
EXPANSION	Selected Tasks
1. Other	

METRO

FOUNDATION	Selected Tasks
1. Adopt clear and objective standards for franchising or otherwise authorizing yard debris processors (1/96).	X
2. Develop a Metro regulation system for processors of food and other organic waste. Could include Metro franchise with performance standards similar to standards proposed for yard debris facilities (7/96).	X
3. Explore and provide recommendation about level of recycling at transfer station which is acceptable. Determine if co-collection could or should be accepted at transfer stations.	X

DEQ support: The DEQ will continue to support related activities to augment the local government programs. These support elements are included here to provide a regional perspective with all players involved. The DEQ is not part of the Metro Challenge Grant Program.

**Evaluation Methods for the Annual Waste Reduction
Program for Local Governments
(Metro Challenge Program)
March 12, 1996**

Introduction:

The Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP) states that "Program monitoring is a qualitative element of plan assessment and monitoring. It tracks the level of implementation by jurisdiction, materials and service level."¹ The Metro Challenge program will be monitored in this fashion. Metro will track the progress of program implementation through the collection of data on the programs offered, levels of service and materials collected. The individual local government programs will be monitored by this qualitative method. (For purposes of clarity, "annual program" as stated in this document refers to the waste reduction elements set forth in the Annual Waste Reduction Program for Local Governments and does not refer to individual local government programs nor specific tasks in the Annual Plan; "local government program" refers to specific programs implemented by local governments.

Program Monitoring (local jurisdictional level):

The cycle of monitoring specific local government programs begins in the Fall of each year. Local jurisdictions apply for Metro Challenge grants to assist with funding. The application process consists of supplying Metro with a complete local government annual plan for the coming fiscal year as well as a report detailing the accomplishments and satisfactory completion of the previous year's local government program.

The data provided by local jurisdictions is compiled for individual qualitative monitoring as well as for annual reporting to the Department of Environmental Quality. Data provided allows Metro to monitor local government programs including residential curbside collection, residential yard debris programs, public education and promotion efforts, levels of service provision at multi-family residences, in-school educational efforts, building industry recycling and waste reduction, local government buy-recycled programs and commercial recycling service provision and educational efforts.

Neither Metro nor local governments have the resources to collect specific quantitative data for all local government programs. It is not cost-effective to do so. Some jurisdictions collect and analyze specific data from waste haulers or perform independent studies of specific portions of their programs. These studies are limited in scope and require substantial staff time and resources. In conjunction with local jurisdictions, Metro conducts surveys and studies on specific program areas. To date, Metro has performed several studies including residential can-weight studies, residential recycling behavior studies, a region-wide inventory of multi-family units and services provided, construction waste reduction case studies and infrastructure assessments, curbside yard debris recycling program effectiveness assessments, and is now in the process of developing a commercial sector profile including waste and recycling service levels.

Program Evaluation:

The RSWMP states that "it is not necessary that every RSWMP program be subject to a complete program evaluation; rather, some programs shall be identified for evaluation in the annual work plans."² The evaluations are intended to determine the effectiveness of the recommended practices. Metro is responsible for identifying the specific areas to be evaluated annually. The chosen program area will change from year to year and the Local Government Recycling Coordinator Work Group will assist in developing the evaluation criteria. Some of the evaluation process may be performed by outside parties contracted by Metro. Year 6 (1995-96) evaluation will consist of measurement of the multi-family program area through analysis of recycling container provision completion levels. This evaluation will begin in December of 1996. Evaluation of the commercial elements including waste prevention programs will be considered for Year 7 of the program (1996-97).

RSWMP

The program monitoring and evaluation efforts done in conjunction with the Metro Challenge Program are part of the overall RSWMP monitoring and assessment process. Additional assessment occurs through the general system benchmarks supplied via the Recycling and Recovery Level Survey and periodic Waste Characterization Studies. The next Waste Characterization Study is scheduled to take place during fiscal 1997-98.

¹Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, Chapter 9: Monitoring and Assessing Plan Performance, P. 9-1.

² Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, Chapter 9: Monitoring and Assessing Plan Performance, P. 9-2.

**Approval of Alternative Practices
as Applied to the Metro Challenge Program
March 12, 1996**

Background:¹

The recommended practices in the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP) are intended to provide a path to achieve the region's adopted goals and objectives. The purpose of adopting recommended practices is to:

- Identify areas of regional interest.
- Set expectations regarding what can be accomplished.
- Provide a strategy or approach that can also serve as the basis of an alternative practice.

The distinction between recommended and alternative practices allows for local flexibility in meeting RSWMP goals and objectives. Recommended practices will serve as performance standards that alternative practices will be required to equal. The performance standard will be based on criteria that will include, as appropriate, the following:

- participation levels;
- amounts of waste prevented, recycled recovered or disposed;
- consistency with the waste reduction hierarchy and the source separation priority;
- economic and technical feasibility;
- impact on other waste reduction activities.

Alternative Practices and Metro Challenge:

The Metro Challenge Program establishes a funding base for the annual waste reduction work plan for local governments and Metro. The framework consists of foundation and expansion elements. Local jurisdictions and Metro are required to implement all foundation elements, and depending on the size of the jurisdiction, at least one expansion element from each project area and up to an additional three from any program area. It is designed to incorporate flexibility to recognize jurisdictional differences and available resources.

If a local jurisdiction decides to substitute a task in place of any particular foundation item, approval from Metro must be received prior to implementation. The local jurisdiction will be required to submit a justification for the substitution. If the substitution involves an alternative to the recommended practices, the alternative must be demonstrated to be equivalent to the recommended practice.

The approval will be given by the Regional Environmental Management Department Director after staff recommendation. SWAC may be asked to advise if requested by the Director.

¹Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, Chapter 7: Recommended Solid Waste Practices, p.7-3, 7-4.