

MAKING A  
GREAT  
PLACE



# Solid Waste Community Enhancement Program Update

Solid Waste Advisory Committee - March 12, 2014

## Project Purpose:

- Review current program (Chapter 5.06 Metro Code).
- Recommend changes to the Metro Council.

# Metro's Current Program

- Based on provisions in ORS 459 (1987).
  - ✓ 459.280 – Identifies facility types that are eligible and ineligible.
  - ✓ 459.284 – Requires fees used for rehabilitation and enhancement of the area around the site where fees are collected. No more than \$1 per ton.
  - ✓ 459.290 – Requires an advisory committee to select plans and programs for funding.

# Metro's Current Program

## Regional Solid Waste Management Plan

### **Regional Policy 11.0: Host Community Enhancement.**

*Any community hosting a solid waste "disposal site" as defined by ORS 459.280 shall be entitled to a Metro-collected fee to be used for the purpose of community enhancement.*

# Metro's Current Program

- Chapter 5.06 (1990) provides:
  - ✓ *\$.50 per ton collected on solid waste delivered to each site within Metro.*
  - ✓ *Funds used for enhancement of the area in and around the site where fees collected.*
  - ✓ Administrative and funding criteria for Metro Central.
- Program administered by Metro committee or IGA with host local government.

# Examples of Community Projects

- Environmental education for at risk youth.
- Ivy removal and restoration in parks.
- Fire escapes for senior citizens.
- Summer concert programs in local parks.
- Tree planting in parks and streets.

# Problem Overview


- Significant changes to solid waste system since ORS 459 was adopted in 1987.
- Metro Code not updated in almost 25 years.
  - Legal basis not explicit in Code (state law or Metro charter).
  - No guidance about types of facilities in program.
  - No process for starting a new program.
  - No fee adjustment process – state law maximum up to \$1.00 per ton.

# Why Now?

- Position region for future solid waste system.
- Many solid waste system changes since 1991.
  - 1998 - MRFs convert to transfer stations (e.g., Pride, WRI, Troutdale).
  - Transfer stations become multi-purpose “hybrid” operations – e.g., recycling, dry waste recovery, MSW waste transfer.
  - 2010: Enhancement fees on food waste (Columbia Biogas).
- Requests by LG’s to increase enhancement fees.
- Existing Code outdated – no longer useful for decision-makers.

Questions?



An aerial photograph of an industrial or utility site, possibly a waste management facility, with various buildings, parking lots, and roads. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image. The background shows a large paved area, several buildings, and some greenery. A road labeled 'SW 15th St' is visible at the top, and another road labeled 'Sherwood Rd' is visible in the middle. The text 'Eligible Facility Types (ORS 459.280)' is prominently displayed in the upper center. Below it, a list of five facility types is provided, each preceded by a square bullet point.

# Eligible Facility Types

(ORS 459.280)

- Landfills
- Transfer stations
- Anaerobic digestion facilities
- Composting facilities
- Energy recovery facilities

# Ineligible Facility Types

(ORS 459.280)

- Reuse facilities
- Recycling facilities
- Material recovery facilities

# What About “Hybrid” Facilities?

- Not addressed in state law or Metro code.
- Modern multi-purpose facilities may conduct both *eligible* and *ineligible* activities.

*Option:* Base fees on *facility activity* – and consistent with state law.

- Eligible activity: Putrescible waste and food waste activities (disposal, transfer, energy recovery, composting, digestion).
- Ineligible activity: Dry waste activities (reuse, recycling, and recovery).

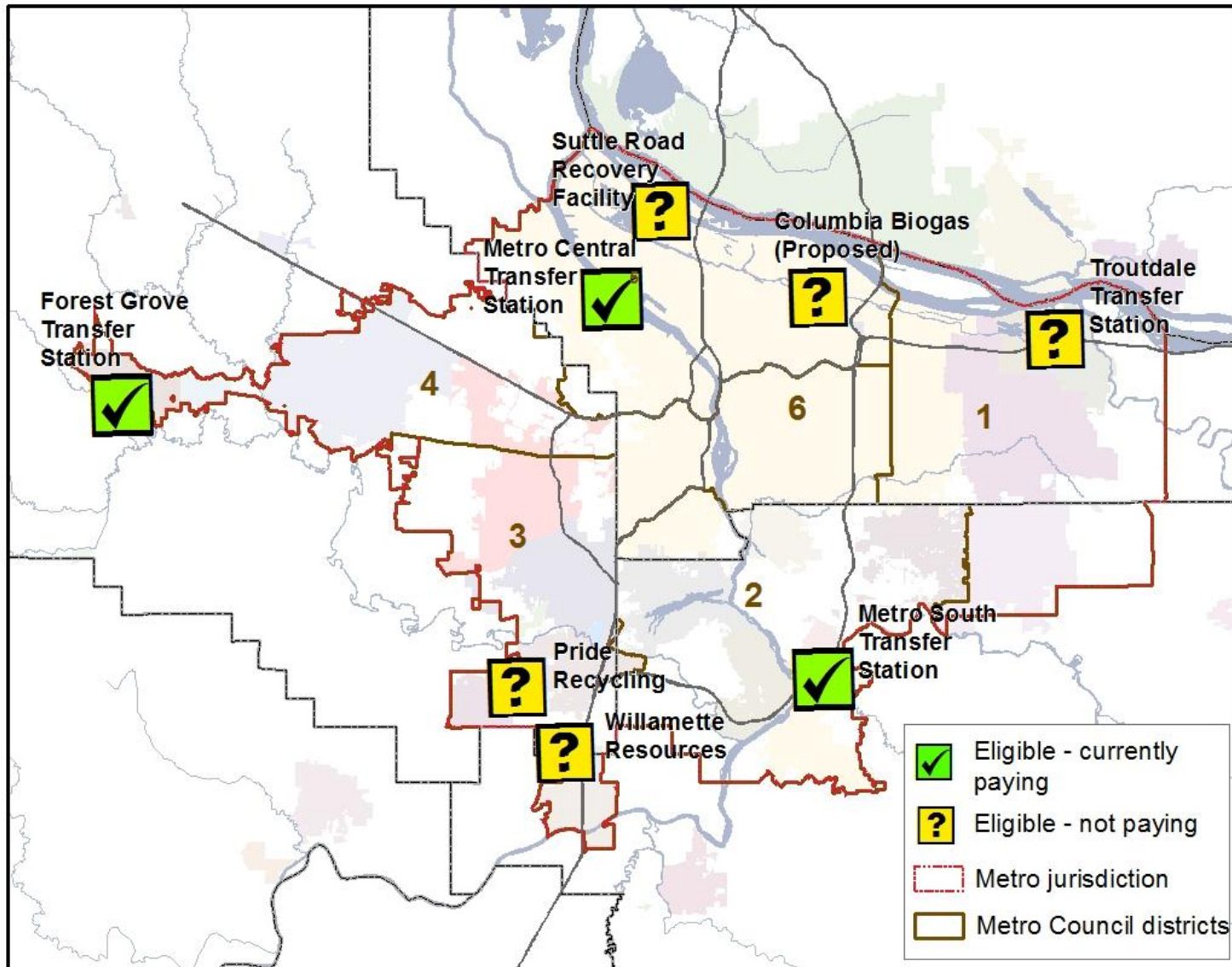
# Participating Facilities

- 1) St. Johns Landfill - closed (Metro committee).
- 2) Metro South (IGA /Oregon City).
- 3) Forest Grove Transfer Station (IGA).
- 4) Metro Central Station (Metro committee).

# Other Eligible Facilities

- Pride Disposal (Sherwood).
- Troutdale Transfer Station (Troutdale).
- WRI (Wilsonville).
- Recology Suttle Road (food waste transfer – Portland).
- Columbia Biogas (food waste anaerobic digestion, Portland – not built).

# Program Eligible Facilities



Questions?

# ***Draft Key Staff Recommendations***

Code update should:

1. Continue to rely on framework established in state law (ORS 459.284) – don't reinvent new program.
2. List the program eligible *solid waste facility activities* (helps resolve hybrid facility concerns).
  - Continue to exclude yard debris-only activities from the program.
3. Establish process for starting programs in coordination with host local government.



# ***Draft Key Recommendations***

4. Provide options for administering the program.
  - ✓ Metro-administered committee (existing).
  - ✓ IGA with local government (existing).
  - Metro contract with neighborhood association.
  - Facility administered (good neighbor agreement and Metro franchise).
5. Increase enhancement fee from \$.50 to \$1 per ton. Include process for considering future adjustments if fee increased in state law.

**Questions?**

# Stakeholder Process

An aerial photograph of a large industrial facility, likely a factory or warehouse. The building has a prominent yellow roof and a blue facade. In front of the building is a large parking lot with several white trucks parked. The surrounding area includes other industrial buildings, a road, and some greenery. The image is slightly faded, and the text is overlaid on the top left.

1. Host local government.
2. Industry.
3. Community groups.

# Key Topics for SWAC

1. Uniform application of program.
2. Administrative options.
3. Influence of a local government tonnage tax on a community enhancement program.

# Key Questions for SWAC

## **1. Should the program be applied uniformly at all eligible facilities?**

Standardized regional program, or based on local government option?

- Concern about competitive playing field for all eligible facilities (e.g., one collects fees and the other does not).

# Key Questions for SWAC

## **2. What administrative models should remain under consideration?**

- a) Metro-administered committee.
- b) IGA with host local government.
- c) Contract w/ neighborhood association.
- d) Facility administered committee.

# Key Questions for SWAC

- 3. Should a local government imposed tonnage tax on waste at a facility influence Metro's decision to collect a fee and establish a program?**
- Provisions in two existing Metro IGAs don't allow collection of local tonnage taxes and Metro enhancement fees .
  - Taxes are dedicated *general fund* revenue.
  - In contrast, enhancement fees can be used only for community initiated projects in facility impact area.

# Next Steps

- April 15 - Council Work Session.
- April 28 – Metro Policy Advisory Committee.
- August – Ordinance to Council (1<sup>st</sup> reading).
- September – Council public hearing.
- July 2015 – New program / fees effective.