

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

10:30 AM

**Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber,
[https://www.youtube.com/live/b-SmDlun6qw?
si=yOyzRghHWqbz_Bel](https://www.youtube.com/live/b-SmDlun6qw?si=yOyzRghHWqbz_Bel), <https://zoom.us/j/615079992> Webinar ID:
Council Work Session**

This meeting will be held electronically and in person at the Metro Regional Center Council Chamber. You can join the meeting on your computer or other device by using this link: <https://zoom.us/j/615079992>, or 877-853-5257 (toll free) (Webinar ID: 615079992). https://www.youtube.com/live/b-SmDIun6qw?si=yOyzRghHWqbz_Bel

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Deputy Council Lewis called the Metro Council Work Session Meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Present: Council President Lynn Peterson, Council Deputy Christine Lewis, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal Councilor Duncan Hwang, and Councilor Ashton Simpson

2. Public Communication

Work Session Topics:

10:30 Panel: Innovative Solid Waste Systems

Presenter(s): Marta McGuire, WPES Director, Metro
Anna Bergström, ReTuna Reuse Mall
Julie Dickinson, Auckland Council
Andrew Doi, Metro Vancouver
Suzanne Jones, Eco-Cycle

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Council Deputy Christine Lewis called on Marta McGuire (she,her), Director of waste prevention & Environmental Development Metro, Anna Bergstrom, ReTuna Reuse Mall, Julie Dickinson, Auckland Council, Andrew Doi, Metro Vancouver, and Suzanne Jones, Exo-Cycle to present on the Waste Prevention and Environmental Services.

Staff pulled up the Presentation.

Summary of Presentation:

The presentation commenced with an overview of various aspects related to waste management, including the entire

life cycle of products, system facilities planning, and framing questions aimed at learning from the panelists' experiences in transitioning from waste-processing facilities to increasing material recovery for reuse, recycling, and composting. The presentation also addressed minimizing environmental and human health impacts on customers, workers, and host communities, as well as the financing of facilities and infrastructure.

Julie Dickinson, Principal Advisor for Waste Solutions, provided insights into bulky waste infrastructure, highlighting challenges, resource recovery networks, and revenue streams.

Anna Bergstrom, representing ReTuna Reuse Mall, shared the journey of ReTuna, focusing on waste reduction goals, and the process leading to the mall's current state.

Andrew Doi, from Metro Vancouver BC, discussed Extended Producer Responsibility in British Columbia, covering waste management, planning, generators, processors, end markets, facility designs, and infrastructure efficiency.

The presentation concluded with the remark from McGuire that these presentations aimed to showcase what is possible in waste management.

Suzanne Jones, Eco-Cycle Boulder, Colorado, then presented her portion of the discussion.

Summary of Presentation:

Jones outlined the history of Eco Cycle and its commitment to zero waste. She elaborated on zero waste facilities in Boulder, including the CHaRM (Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials), plastic pollution reduction efforts, mission-based recycling with an emphasis on policy promotion for genuine recycling, and future goals.

Council Discussion and Questions:

Deputy Council Lewis expressed gratitude to the panelists for sharing their insights.

Councilor Gonzales raised the question of the appropriate balance between grants, private sector partnerships, and public initiatives.

Bergstrom emphasized shared responsibility and the role of private sectors in innovation, alongside government support.

Doi explained the self-selection process in recycling partnerships, where producer responsibility organizations collaborate with both government and private sectors.

Jones stressed the importance of government setting standards and rules before allowing public and private sectors to participate, prioritizing public contracts over profits.

Councilor Hwang inquired about Portland's local analogs, financial incentives, and diversion goals.

McGuire explained Portland's collaboration with community organizations through grant programs.

Councilor Hwang sought clarification on community recycling centers and their differences from transfer stations.

McGuire highlighted that community recycling centers have limitations in terms of acceptable materials.

Councilor Hwang asked about Portland's approach to

recovery goals and incentives.

McGuire explained Oregon's 60% recovery goal and the incentive structure based on waste generation.

Councilor Hwang questioned the panelists about accessibility and coverage for communities served and consolidation approaches.

Bergstrom cited the example of ReTuna's reuse system in Sweden, which redistributes leftover materials to local schools and communities.

Doi stressed the importance of aligning community interests with practical solutions.

Jones emphasized convenience and the complexities of composting in ensuring accessibility.

Councilor Hwang thanked the panelists for their responses.

Councilor Nolan raised the issue of equity and asked about the panel's experiences with reducing landfill waste and scaling programs for a larger population.

Bergstrom discussed waste management strategies and budget considerations.

Doi presented statistics on recycling rates and per capita disposal, emphasizing steady progress.

Jones highlighted the impact of natural disasters on landfill numbers and the need for preparation.

Councilor Rosenthal inquired about the challenges of financing, staffing, technology, and education in reuse and recycling.

Bergstrom identified financing as the most challenging aspect.

Doi emphasized the critical role of all three elements and the significance of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

Jones highlighted Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) as a transformative solution to financing and staffing challenges.

Councilor Lewis asked about land selection processes, neighbor engagement, and transport cart dependency.

Doi emphasized the flexibility in land selection arrangements, sometimes offering community amenities.

Bergstrom discussed transportation difficulties for private individuals and their preference for repurposing existing infrastructure.

Jones mentioned land use challenges in Colorado and the importance of industrial-zoned locations without residential proximity.

Councilor Gonzales asked about headwinds in recyclable markets and requested advice from the panel.

Doi recommended the use of recycled content in new products and increased producer accountability.

Councilor Nolan asked the panel for initiatives that proved surprisingly effective, seeking ideas for Portland's waste management.

Bergstrom highlighted ReTuna's role as a sustainable shopping solution.

Jones discussed Colorado's swift implementation of EPR and the importance of transparent regulations and education.

End of Discussion

12:30 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Marissa Madrigal provided an update on the following events or items:

Madrigal reported that the Capital Asset Management Department and Facilities Team have achieved LEED Gold certification for Metro. The U.S. Green Building Council will honor this accomplishment with an award ceremony scheduled for October 12th.

Furthermore, Madrigal shared that Metro has successfully transformed the Metro campus, optimizing office space for hybrid use and earning an impressive 77 LEED points.

12:35 Councilor Communication

Councilors shared updates from recent meetings and events as follows:

Councilor Rosenthal reported attending a local gathering in his district last Friday. During this event, he engaged in discussions with the mayor and local representatives, primarily focusing on the topic of tolling.

Councilor Nolan provided insights from the CORE (Council on Regional Engagement) meeting held last week. The discussions were productive, and the council is actively recruiting three individuals to fill essential roles within the organization.

Councilor Lewis informed the council about the recent meeting of the Supportive Housing Services Oversight

Committee. The committee is diligently working on pressuring staff to expedite report processing and reduce the lag time in delivering reports.

12:40 Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Lynn Peterson adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 1:01PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sermad Mohamad

Sermad Mohamad, Legislative Assistant