

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF DIRECTING STAFF TO) RESOLUTION NO. 24-5435
DEVELOP METRO CODE AND)
ADMINISTRATIVE RULE LANGUAGE TO) Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
PROHIBIT THE LANDFILL DISPOSAL OF) Marissa Madrigal in concurrence with
COMMERCIAL FOOD WASTE GENERATED) Council President Lynn Peterson
WITHIN THE REGION EFFECTIVE JANUARY
1, 2027

WHEREAS, Metro regulates solid waste generated within the Metro region pursuant to Metro’s constitutional, statutory, and charter authority and as set forth in the Metro Code; and

WHEREAS, food represents one of the largest single recoverable materials sent to landfills; and

WHEREAS, when sent to landfill, food waste generates methane, which is 25 times more potent a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide; and

WHEREAS, the 2030 Regional Waste Plan addresses food waste and outlines actions to reduce its environmental impact, which guides Metro and local government work; and

WHEREAS, any solid waste facility that receives commercial food waste from the Metro region must manage the waste in accordance with Metro’s requirements to ensure benefits to the public and to minimize environmental and human health impacts; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 Metro Council directed staff to develop a commercial food waste disposal prohibition for Council consideration no later than December 31, 2019 (Resolution No. 18-4864), and

WHEREAS, later that year, Metro Council established the business food waste requirement to increase the recycling of food waste and to assist the Metro region with achieving its waste reduction goals (Resolution No. 18-1424); and

WHEREAS, in 2020 Metro Council directed staff to develop Metro Code and administrative rule language to prohibit the landfill disposal of commercial food waste generated within the Metro region with an effective date of January 31, 2025 (Resolution No. 20-5067); and

WHEREAS, the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted food generating businesses throughout the Metro region resulting in delays to implement the business food waste requirement established through Ordinance No. 18-1424; and

WHEREAS, extending the effective date of the landfill disposal prohibition aligns with the delayed implementation of the business food waste requirements caused by COVID-19 and allows time for continued implementation of the requirement and further stakeholder engagement; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council directs staff to:

1. Develop Metro Code and administrative rule language to prohibit the landfill disposal of commercial food waste generated within the Metro region with an effective prohibition date of January 1, 2027.

2. Develop and track the key milestones needed to implement the requirement on January 1, 2027.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council on this 12th day of December 2024.

Approved as to Form:

Lynn Peterson, Council President

Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney