

IN CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 24-6068, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING METRO CODE CHAPTER 2.19.130, METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEES, TO MODIFY THE REGIONAL WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Date: April 30, 2024

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Department: Waste Prevention and Environmental Services

Presenters: Rosalynn Greene, Strategic Initiatives Manager

Meeting date: June 4, 2024

Length: 20 min

### **ISSUE STATEMENT**

The Metro Regional Waste Advisory Committee advises Metro Council on implementation of the Regional Waste Plan and management of the garbage and recycling system. In 2023, Metro Council directed Waste Prevention and Environmental Services staff to convene a Waste Fee Policy Task Force to provide recommendations to the Metro Council to guide the development of the FY24-25 solid waste fees. The committee recommendations endorsed by Metro Council included expanding the scope and membership of the Regional Waste Advisory Committee.

### **ACTION REQUESTED**

Staff requests approval of Ordinance 24-5413 to modify the Regional Waste Advisory Committee in Metro code 2.19.130 by: 1) expand membership including adding a Metro Council chair and co-chair, two representatives from private garbage and recycling facilities and one reuse representative to better represent stakeholders in the garbage and recycling system and 2) expand the scope of the committee to include advising Metro Council on the Waste Prevention and Environmental Services budget and fee development.

### **IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES**

In March 2024, Metro Council endorsed the recommendations from the Waste Fee Policy Task Force. Modifying the Regional Waste Advisory Committee helps advance two primary policy outcomes:

- Increase transparency and build trust in the fee setting process through increased collaboration and engagement with public, private, reuse and community partners.
- Improves composition and industry representation on the committee. RWAC was adopted by Council in its current state on June 6, 2019. Previously it was known as the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) and unlike its predecessor, RWAC includes greater representation of communities of color and other historically marginalized communities that helps advance progress towards both Metro's racial equity objectives. Increasing the representation of industry and non-profit reuse

partners on the committee will increase transparency and build trust through broader engagement and inclusion.

- Further aligning the committee composition with other formal Metro advisory committees and will provide ongoing engagement and support from the Metro Councilors who will chair and cochair the committee.

### **POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER**

1. Approve the ordinance and committee composition as written or with amendments.
2. Do not approve the ordinance.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

Staff recommends adoption of Ordinance No. 24-5413.

### **STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

The 2030 Regional Waste Plan guides the greater Portland area's efforts to reduce the environmental impacts of the products we make, use and discard, provide a more equitable distribution of services and benefits to communities of color and other historically marginalized communities, and ensure a high quality, resilient garbage and recycling system. To help achieve this, the plan identifies an oversight structure to include:

- Metro Council
- Metro Committee on Racial Equity
- Metro Policy Advisory Committee
- Metro Regional Waste Advisory Committee

The modified Regional Waste Advisory Committee is intended to:

- Align the committee's structure with other Metro advisory committees.
- Increase membership to better represent key garbage and recycling system stakeholders.
- Advise Council on the development of the Waste Prevention and Environmental Services department budget and fees.

The membership is structured to ensure the highest likelihood that the committee will focus on outcomes that best achieve the public interest in terms of the plan's focus on equitable system benefits and services, and environmental and human health benefits. The membership is proposed as:

- Metro Councilor to chair the committee
- Metro councilor to serve as co-chair
- Five city or county government representatives
- Three individuals representing the interests of communities of color and other historically marginalized groups
- One individual representing the interests of environmental or health advocates
- One user of the solid waste system

- One representative from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- One reuse organization representative (NEW)
- One representative of a permitted private transfer station that services the Metro region (NEW)
- One representative of a permitted material recovery facility that serves the Metro region (NEW)
- The Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association's (ORRA) Metro-area regional director or representative of a collection company that serves the Metro region (Updated)
- COO designated Waste Prevention and Environmental Services staff person

Approving this ordinance directs Metro staff to conduct the solicitation process for membership. Staff plans to conduct the solicitation process over the summer and return to council in September 2024 to confirm new members.

### **Legal Antecedents**

Ordinance No. 87-740 (For the Purpose of designating solid waste as an area and activity appropriate for development of a functional plan and has a significant impact upon the orderly and responsible development of a metropolitan area) March 12, 1987; Metro Charter; Metro Code Title V Solid Waste; ORS Chapters 268 and 459; Ordinance No. 09-1222 (For The Purpose Of Amending Metro Code Section 2.19.130 to Revise The Purpose and Membership of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee Ordinance) November 12, 2009; and No. 19-1431 (For The Purpose of Adopting the 2030 Regional Waste Plan) March 7, 2019.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Ordinance 24-5413  
Draft Code Change