

FY 2023-24 Budget Note #7: Clarifying Outcomes to Guide Reforms of the Waste System and Solid Waste Fees

Council directs the COO to work with the WPES Director and Metro Council President to clarify regional waste outcomes to guide reforms of the waste system and solid waste fees for FY24 annual budget. Staff will evaluate whether any additional resources are required for this work and if so, make requests through the mid-year budget amendment process.

Activities to Date

With COO and Council guidance, staff developed a multi-prong approach to implement this budget note. The approach included three major efforts:

- A year-long council engagement to clarify Regional Waste Plan outcomes and Council priorities and provide ongoing technical information on budget and fees. This work kicked off with a series of engagements with Council last Fall.
- A series of stakeholder roundtables in each phase of budget development for local governments, non-profit and industry partners to provide input to Council on regional priorities. The first set of roundtables were held in August and continuing to take place throughout the Spring budget process.
- A Waste Fee Policy Task Force was convened to evaluate the solid waste fee policy and provide recommendations to Council to inform the FY24 budget. The task force was comprised of a diverse set of stakeholders including Metro Councilors, garbage and recycling facility operators, local governments, and non-profit organizations. The task force kicked off in November and provided recommendations to Metro Council in March.

Future Activities

Staff will be implementing the Waste Fee Policy task force recommendations including updating Metro's fee and financial policies and expanding the scope and membership of the Regional Waste Advisory Committee.

In addition, staff will continue to work on strategies to further expand on top council priorities to determine how to best accelerate progress toward waste reduction goals. Additional efforts will include expanding opportunities and partnerships for reuse, advancing food waste reduction efforts and market development for high priority materials.

Budget

No fiscal impacts. Budget note implemented relied on existing staff and budget.