

Fee Setting Criteria May 2026

Rationale: During the process of fee development, staff relies on Metro's legal authority as determined by Metro Code and Oregon Revised Statute, as well as policy adopted by the Metro Council and other informal guidance. In addition, the solid waste fee setting process is guided by core set of criteria used to ensure effective management of the regional solid waste system.

Action: Solid waste fee and rate setting guidance recommends that fee and rate setting policy be periodically reviewed. The fee setting principles below are based on recommendations from the Waste Fee Policy Task Force appointed by the Metro Council in FY 2023-24. The fee setting criteria were presented to both the Metro Council and the Regional Waste Advisory Committee in FY 2025-26. By adopting fees and the fee setting criteria, Council has reviewed the below fee setting criteria that are to be used during fee development.

Prioritized criteria in fee development:

Accessible and Equitable System: Fee setting should encourage public, private, and nonprofit investment in services that provide regional benefit, emphasizing geographic equity, access to service and a reduction in local environmental and human health impacts.

Healthy Environment: The fee structure should encourage keeping valuable materials out of the landfill, reducing climate and environmental impacts through highest material use, and safe disposal of hazardous waste.

Affordability: Fee setting should consider the economic effects and distribution of benefits to the various types of users in the Solid Waste System, including the cost of living on residential waste generators and the cost of doing business on nonresidential generators, as well as the economic effect on others in the region.

Public-Private System: Fees should give fair weight to the operational and capital needs of all providers: publicly owned, privately owned, and nonprofit.

The following criteria are important considerations, but are not prioritize as those above:

- A. **Predictability:** Metro fee adjustments should be predictable and orderly to allow local governments, haulers, and rate payers to perform effective planning.
- B. **Resilient Economy for All:** Fee setting should consider the economic effects of short- and long-term fee changes.
- C. **Service Provision:** Charges to users of the waste disposal system should be directly related to disposal services received. Fee impacts to residents of the Metro service district who may not be direct users of the disposal system should be related to other benefits received.
- D. **Consistency:** Solid waste fee setting should be consistent with Metro's agency-wide planning policies and objectives, including but not limited to the Regional Waste Plan.