

## **Staff Report**

### **COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE TO COUNCIL AND DISCUSSION**

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Date: November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Department: WPES  
Meeting Date: December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Prepared by: Eric Crandall, Rob Nathan,  
and Jennifer Payne  
Presenter(s) (if applicable): Rob Nathan  
and Eric Crandall  
Length: 30 minutes

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#### **ISSUE STATEMENT**

Community Enhancement Grants (CEG's) improve economic opportunities, neighborhood livability, public safety and more in areas near the region's garbage transfer and reload facilities. The program is funded through an enhancement fee collected by solid waste facilities in the region that accept putrescible waste.

Since 1986, Metro has invested more than \$6 million in communities across the Portland metropolitan area. Seven cities participate in the program, via inter-governmental agreement (IGA), including Forest Grove, Gresham, Portland, Oregon City, Sherwood, Troutdale and Wilsonville.

WPES staff will report to Council on CEG program progress, recent program IGA renewals, current state of the CEG program and future program work.

#### **ACTION REQUESTED**

This is an informational item to update Metro Council on the CEG program.

#### **IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES**

This is an informational item.

#### **POLICY QUESTION(S)**

This is an informational item

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

This is an informational item

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

This is an informational item

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

The purpose of the program is to rehabilitate and enhance the area around eligible solid waste facilities in the Metro region.

This program was established in 1986 and expanded by Metro Council by resolution in 2014. Guiding documents for this program include:

- Metro Code chapter 5.06, Solid Waste Community Enhancement Program (2014), effective July 1, 2015
- Solid Waste Administrative Procedure “Administration of Metro Code Chapter 5.06 Solid Waste Community Enhancement Program” (2015)
- Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with host cities

The solid waste facilities pay the enhancement fee to Metro, which makes a quarterly payment to the local government agencies that host the community enhancement program.

Administered via Metro IGA, the following tasks must be completed by the host local government or committee:

- Convene CEG Committee regularly to evaluate and select projects (at minimum every three years);
- Publish an annual program budget subject to review and approval of the committee;
- Segregate funds in a separate set of accounts for solid waste community enhancement program revenues and expenditures. Carry forward unspent funds to subsequent years;
- Publish and follow the project funding criteria and goals from the solid waste community enhancement program for selecting projects or programs to fund; and
- Provide an annual report to Metro by October 1

Projects must meet one or more of the following goals and solid waste community enhancement committees shall give priority to projects that best meet with goals. A solid waste community enhancement committee may adopt additional funding goals.

- Improve the appearance or environmental quality of the community.
- Reduce the amount or toxicity of waste.
- Increase reuse and recycling opportunities.
- Result in rehabilitation or upgrade of real or personal property owned or operated by a nonprofit organization having 501(c)(3) status under the Internal Revenue Code.
- Result in the preservation or enhancement of wildlife, riparian zones, wetlands, forest lands and marine areas, and/or improve the public awareness and the opportunities to enjoy them.
- Result in improvement to, or an increase in, recreational areas and programs.
- Result in improvement in safety.
- Benefit youth, seniors, low income persons or underserved populations.

There have been 8 CEG programs to date administered by either Metro, a local government, or nonprofit organization. Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) for local governments administering the grants were last established in July 2015. With a 5-year term, the IGA's were originally set for renewal July 2020. Due to COVID-19, and with guidance from Metro Council members, IGA's negotiations were paused and administratively extended 1-year. Through engagement with Metro Council members, regional CEG grant administrators,

grantees and with guidance from Metro's 2030 Regional Waste Plan - CEG IGA's were renewed in July, 2021, for a 5-year term.

New IGA's presented to local governments included additional resources for shared learning and engagement across CEG grant administrators, elevating community voice in grant decision making, and increasing transparency regarding potential conflicts of interest. Specifically:

- Metro will provide, at minimum, one annual CEG grant administrators convening to share grant information and resources across the host organizations,
- All enhancement grant committees are required to include, at minimum, two community members, and
  - At the request of the City, Metro will support the City's citizen member recruitment process and will provide best practices guidelines to the City. The best practices include recruitment of citizens who have experience with populations that are underserved by the community in terms of access to and participation in solid waste activities and benefits.
- All committee members are required to declare conflicts of interest.

There are seven cities that host solid waste facilities eligible for community enhancement fee. In total, five cities elected to renew their C IGA: Forest Grove, Gresham, Oregon City, Sherwood, and Wilsonville. The City of Gresham which opted in for an early IGA renewal to align its program with all others regionally. The City of Troutdale declined the renewal of their CEG IGA and the City of Portland continues to defer grant administration back to Metro.

With both Troutdale and the City of Portland opting out of program administration, WPES program staff are exploring options for administering three different grant funds across both cities. In line with requirements established in IGAs across the program, these grants will be launched within the next three years.

Following guidance provided by the 2030 Regional Waste Plan, WPES staff continue to explore opportunities for partnership with Community Based Organizations (CBO) to administer CEG programs behalf of Metro.

Currently, Metro is embarking on a new partnership with Elevate Oregon to administer funds collected by City of Roses Disposal in the Parkrose/Argay neighborhood. Elevate Oregon provides culturally responsive instruction and mentorship support to BIPOC youth in NE Portland. This new CEG program will be administered by youth served by Elevate Oregon and is set to launch in 2022. This partnership will support multiples goals established in the regional waste plan, including:

1.1 Increase representation of historically marginalized community members, including youth on advisory committees, such as Metro and local government solid waste facilities.

1.2 Partner with organizations to engage youth in leadership opportunities for social, economic and environmental issues related to garbage.

13.1 Expand host community enhancement program to: prioritize diversity, equity and Inclusion elements into grant funding

In 2021, the nonprofit organization that administered the North Portland Vanport Legacy Enhancement Grant (Suttle Road Recovery), North Portland Community Works, dissolved. In 2022, WPES staff will be exploring new opportunities for administering grant programs in both Troutdale and Portland leveraging lessons learned from partnerships with Elevate Oregon and North Portland Community Works.

Thanks to a recent Council amendment, we've hired a dedicated program manager to support the efforts above.

Metro Staff will provide an update on all of the information discussed above.