

Recycling System Improvements: Options for Metro Actions

Metro Council work session
Dec. 3, 2019



Previous Work Session: Challenges and Opportunities



- Loss of, and/or changes to, what's accepted by international end markets
- Rapid changes in the types of packaging



- Materials are still getting recycled
- Private and public investment
- New domestic end markets emerging for paper



Previous Work Session: Staff Comments

- Update on regional and statewide work to strengthen the recycling system
- Solicit feedback on future Council engagement



Previous Work Session: Council Direction

Council

- Continue to collaborate in statewide process, but don't be beholden to its timeline and outcomes
- Within 3 months, bring us options for actions that Metro can take within 2 years
- Within 6-9 months, put a public-private partnership in place
- We're also interested in items other than curbside recyclables



Today's conversation

1. Which actions should staff begin to develop and implement?
2. Are the timetables for the associated actions appropriate?

Action Areas

1. Single-use Food Service Items
2. Systemic changes: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Performance Standards
3. Mattresses and Currently Hard-to-Recycle Plastics

Summary of actions by potential timing (Att. C)

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| <u>CY</u> | 1. Council resolution on mattress recycling |
| 2020 Q1 | 2. Metro begins work to establish depot and mobile collection for hard-to-recycle plastics |
| 2020 Q3 | 3. Council adopts mattress producer responsibility and disposal ban if no Legislative action |
| | 4. Council single-use products resolution and "by request" ordinance |
| | 5. Council recyclable take-out packaging resolution and Metro business assistance begins |
| 2020 Q4 | 6. Council resolution on producer responsibility for packaging |
| 2021 Q3 | 7. Council adopts performance standards for MRFs |
| 2021 Q4 | 8. Council adopts recyclable take-out packaging requirement |
| | 9. Council adopts regional producer responsibility for packaging requirement if no Legislative action |

Summary of actions by area (Att. D)

Attachment D: Sheet 1

Area 1: Single-Use Food Service Items

	Metro Action	Metro Implementation Costs	Dependencies	Council Action Timeframe	Implementation Time Frame	Public and stakeholder acceptance	Scale of Impacted Parties	Things to Figure Out
Single-use statement and single-use food service items by request	(1) Council adopts statement of intent to address single-use items	Education and awareness campaign Compliance activities	None	2020 Q3	2021 Q3	Minimal opposition	Thousands of businesses, including Metro venues	Approach to compliance
	(2) Council adopts regional "by-request by customer" requirement for the provision of stirrers, utensils and individually packaged condiments for dine-in, drive-through, take-out or delivery					Public support. Opposition from some food service businesses and some local governments.		
	Metro Action	Metro Implementation Costs	Dependencies	Council Action Timeframe	Implementation Time Frame	Public and stakeholder acceptance	Scale of Impacted Parties	Things to Figure Out
Single-use food packaging reduction and recycling policy	(1) Council adopts resolution stating intent in 2022 to ban single-use food service take-out packaging that cannot be recycled in local programs and intent to support efforts by businesses to shift to recyclable packaging and durable reusable food serviceware	Education and awareness campaign, and technical assistance Financial support for incentives or grants that support shift to reusables	Ability to recycle some types of food service packaging locally	2020 Q3	2022 Q1	Public support. Likely support from some members of business community and opposition from others. Some opposition from those who would like to see Styrofoam banned regardless of recycling availability. Likely opposition from compostable food serviceware manufacturers if their materials are banned	Thousands of businesses, including Metro venues	Recycling markets and their capacity Approach to compliance
	(2) Council adopts the ban on single-use food service take-out packaging that cannot be recycled in local programs			2021 Q4				

Summary of actions by area (Att. D)

Attachment D: Sheet 2

Area 2: Systemic changes: EPR and MRF Performance Standards

	Metro Action	Metro Implementation Costs	Dependencies	Council Action Timeframe	Implementation Time Frame	Public and stakeholder acceptance	Scale of Impacted Parties	Things to Figure Out
Extended producer responsibility (EPR) policy for printed paper and packaging	(1) Council adopts resolution stating that Metro will enact regional producer responsibility requirements for paper and packaging if Legislature does not do so in 2021	None	None	2020 Q4	NA	Likely strong public support. Support from some local governments, environmental groups and others. Opposition from garbage haulers, grocers/retailers, product producers, e-commerce platforms and some local governments.	Producers and retailers of packaged products and printed paper sold in the region, including online retailers	How to best advance equity in an EPR system
	(2) Enact regional producer responsibility requirements for common packaging items	Administration of regional producer responsibility program	No statewide law approved by Legislature	2021 Q4 to 2022 Q4 depending on extent of stakeholder work done for State legislative proposal	1 year after Council implementation and ongoing	Same mix as above, with added opposition from those that believe only in statewide approach		
	Metro Action	Metro Implementation Costs	Dependencies	Council Action Timeframe	Implementation Time Frame	Public and stakeholder acceptance	Scale of Impacted Parties	Things to Figure Out
Material Recovery Facility (MRF) investments and performance standards	(1) Continue to support MRF system improvements through the Investment and Innovation program	Grant funds	None	Approval of FY 2020-21 and subsequent budgets	Ongoing from current fiscal year	Broad support from public and private stakeholders	MRFs in the region	Best MRF performance measures to use. Most effective environmental and social sustainability certifications
	(2) Metro Council adopts performance standards for MRFs, including sorting outcomes and end-market certifications for environmental and social sustainability	Technical assistance and compliance monitoring		2021 Q3	2022 Q1	Likely opposition from MRFs and their trade association	MRFs in the region and potentially ratepayers if leads to higher MRF net costs	

Summary of actions by area (Att. D)

Attachment D: Sheet 3

Area #: Mattresses and Currently Hard-to-Recycle Plastics

	Metro Action	Metro Implementation Costs	Dependencies	Council Action Timeframe	Implementation Time Frame	Public and stakeholder acceptance	Scale of Impacted Parties	Things to Figure Out
Mattresses	(1) Council resolution stating that it will enact regional producer responsibility requirements and a disposal ban for mattresses if Legislature does not do so in 2020	None		2020 Q1	NA	Support from public and recyclers; some retail/manufacturer industry opposition.	Mattress manufacturers and retailers	Best convenience standard for people who live in multifamily homes
	(2) Council adoption of regional mattress producer responsibility and disposal ban	Administration of regional producer responsibility program	Adequate processing capacity in place to manage mattresses and no statewide law approved by Legislature	2020 Q3	1 year after Council implementation and ongoing			
	Metro Action	Metro Implementation Costs	Dependencies	Council Action Timeframe	Implementation Time Frame	Public and stakeholder acceptance	Scale of Impacted Parties	Things to Figure Out
Plastics	Metro establishes a robust depot and mobile collection system for Styrofoam and other currently hard-to-recycle plastics	Building a system of fixed depot sites and mobile collection equipment, and the resources to service them	Partnerships with markets for these materials and with site hosts	NA	2020 Q1 to 2021 Q2	Strong public support. Likely support from business community. Some opposition from those who would like to see Styrofoam banned.	NA	Site locations and approach to mobile collection

Discussion and direction

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| 2020 Q1 | 1. Council mattress resolution |
| | 2. Metro begins work on depot and mobile collection for hard-to-recycle plastics |
| 2020 Q3 | 3. Council adopts mattress producer responsibility and disposal ban if no Legislative action |
| | 4. Council single-use products resolution and "by request" ordinance |
| | 5. Council recyclable take-out packaging resolution and Metro business assistance begins |
| 2020 Q4 | 6. Council resolution on producer responsibility for packaging |
| 2021 Q3 | 7. Council adopts performance standards for MRFs |
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1. Which of the actions should staff begin to develop and implement?
2. Are the timetables for the associated actions appropriate?