



DATE: May 18, 2023

TO: Washington County Garbage and Recycling Advisory Committee

FROM: Kathy Folsom, Senior Policy Coordinator

RE: Proposed Solid Waste and Recycling Administrative Rules

Background

Washington County Code Section 8.04.050 allows for the establishment of reasonable rules and regulations that pertain to the administration of the collection, storage, transportation and disposal of wastes and solid wastes. The Solid Waste and Recycling Administrative Rules (Administrative Rules) establish standards for general provisions of the code such as definitions, reporting, education, promotion, and residential and commercial collection service standards.

Following the Garbage and Recycling Advisory Committee's (Committee) recommendation regarding the proposed rules, the next step in the process will be to present them to the Washington County Board of County Commissioners (Board) for consideration.

Proposed Revisions to Current Administrative Rules

The proposed amendments to the Administrative Rules are shown in Attachment A (Note: Additions to the Administrative Rules are shown as "underlined" and deletions are shown as "strike through".)

Urban Residential Food Waste Rules:

Currently, the urban unincorporated Washington County residential collection service bundle includes garbage, recycling and yard debris collection services. Common, regional waste management practices include the diversion of food waste into the yard debris cart resulting in expanded compostable material collection service. Residential food waste collection programs reduce the amount of putrescible waste sent to landfills and diverts it to a properly permitted composting facility – reducing methane emissions from landfills and contributing to the production of nutrient-rich finished compost.

Several factors have limited the County's ability to introduce a residential food waste collection program including limited processing capacity, a lack of system resiliency for permitted facilities and restrictions on disposal options for yard debris mixed with food waste due to the Japanese Beetle yard waste quarantine in the Cedar Mill area. Staff is confident that new material reload

capacity, site and capacity improvements at Recology Oregon Compost – North Plains, and coordination with the Department of Agriculture have overcome these barriers. Also, over the past several years Solid Waste & Recycling division staff have received considerable community member input expressing a desire for a residential food waste collection program.

Developing a new program requires adjustments to service standards in the Solid Waste and Recycling Administrative Rules and the adoption of rates for the new collection service. Rates for the new collection program element are included in a separate action item. The proposed rules before the Committee include provisions related to urban residential food waste collection that:

- Authorize the start of residential food waste collection for urban unincorporated customers, beginning October 1, 2023.
- Change definitions to include the collection of food waste with yard debris in the same cart.

Reduced Rate Program Rules:

During the 2022 annual rate review, your Committee recommended, and the Board approved, a reduced rate program for low-income community members throughout unincorporated Washington County. To increase awareness of the program, staff is proposing adjustments to the Administrative Rules that:

- Require collection service providers at least annually notify customers of the availability of the residential Reduced Rate Program.
- Require collection service providers notify customers with past due balances of the availability of the residential Reduced Rate Program.
- Require collection service providers include information about the residential Reduced Rate Program in service termination notices.

Note: Customers are responsible for payment of all past due balances even if approved for the residential Reduced Rate Program. Also, customers must continue to make regular payments until their Reduced Rate Program application is approved.

Additional Recycling Collection Service (Recycle+) Administrative Rules:

Amendments to the Administrative Rules in 2022 created an Additional Recycling Collection Service (Recycle+) for all urban unincorporated residential customers. On July 1, 2023, Recycle+ will expand to become available to urban multifamily households. Additionally, since the program implementation, staff has received program feedback from community members and has identified several provisions within the existing Administrative Rules that are recommended for amendment. To fully implement the Recycle+ program in a multifamily setting and to improve the program’s performance, staff is proposing adjustments to the Administrative Rules that:

- Create a new section within the Administrative Rules for provisions related to Recycle+ that clarifies its availability to both urban residential and multifamily households.
- Require collection service providers offer electronic on-call pick-up request options.
- Require County approval of hauler provided collection bags.

Review Process

On March 17, 2023, the proposed rule revisions were sent to the Washington County Haulers Association (WCHA) for review and comment. On April 6, 2023, the WCHA submitted written comments regarding the proposed Administrative Rules.

As a result of those comments and additional discussion, many of the issues raised have been resolved and are reflected in the draft rules.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Washington County Garbage and Recycling Advisory Committee favorably recommend to the Washington County Board of County Commissioners that the proposed administrative rules be adopted.

Attachment:

Attachment A – Proposed Amendments to Solid Waste and Recycling Administrative Rules