

Metro garbage and recycling system overview



Reference document
January 2023

This document includes information and links to resources which collectively provide an overview of Metro’s regulatory requirements for the garbage and recycling generated within the region and the facilities that accept and manage the material.

Metro oversees the region’s garbage and recycling system, a responsibility that includes ensuring that all of the waste generated in the region is managed in a manner that protects public health and safety and safeguards the environment.

The region’s garbage and recycling system includes a variety of different facilities that receive and process waste such as transfer stations, material recovery facilities, compost facilities, landfills, etc. Metro requires that the region’s waste be transported to an appropriate destination, and Metro staff inspect facilities to monitor for compliance and provide technical assistance.

Metro sets operating, record keeping, and reporting requirements for the facilities that receive the garbage and recycling generated within the region. Metro collects data from these facilities to monitor the flow of waste, inform system planning efforts, and ensure that the regional system fee and excise tax is paid as required.

In general, Metro area waste must be transported to a facility or disposal site that is either designated as part of the region’s garbage and recycling system or under the authority of a Metro issued non-system license.

Metro solid waste system webpage resources:

- [Solid waste authorizations](#) - Active licenses and other authorizations issued by Metro
- [Application and reporting forms for solid waste facilities](#) – Information and forms to apply for Metro authorization
- [Public notices](#) – Information about proposed solid waste facility licenses and how to provide comment during active public comment periods
- [Regional solid waste facilities](#) – Information about where to take Metro area solid waste, including designated facilities of Metro’s system and a map.
- [Metro facilities map](#) - Map of Metro’s boundary, solid waste facilities, and garbage hauler boundaries. Note that not all facilities included in this map are authorized by Metro.
- [Metro Code](#) - Title V governs Metro’s jurisdiction for solid waste under the Charter.
 - [Chapter 5.00](#) – Solid waste definitions
 - [Chapter 5.01](#) - Governs regulated solid waste activities
 - [Chapter 5.05](#) – Governs regulation of solid waste transported and disposed at locations outside of the Metro regional boundary
- [Solid waste administrative rules and guidance](#) - Rules and guidance documents that further implement the obligations and requirements of Metro Code Title V.
- [Solid waste facility complaint form](#) – Webform for community to make Metro aware of possible operational issues at solid waste facilities by reporting conditions and impacts.

Waste Prevention and Environmental Services webpage resources:

- [WPES Diversity, Racial Equity and Inclusion \(DEI Work Plan 2018-2022\)](#)
- [2030 Regional Waste Plan](#)
- [Metro South trash cam](#)