

Agenda Item Number 5.0

**SOLID WASTE ROAD MAP**

Metro Council Work Session  
Tuesday, April 19, 2011  
Metro Council Chambers



## **Solid Waste Roadmap**

*Tom Chaimov, Project Manager*

*Paul Slyman, Project Sponsor*

**PURPOSE:** Guide the evolution of the region’s solid waste system.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Metro’s actions over the next five years will have a profound effect on the region’s future solid waste system, with impacts on jobs, climate change, air and water quality, and other attributes that define a great place. When the region’s current disposal system began to take shape in the 1980s, Metro’s actions around replacement of the St. Johns landfill led to the garbage transfer and long-haul disposal system that has served the region well for over 20 years. A milestone nearly as significant as St. Johns’ closure is December 31, 2019, when Metro’s contract for disposal in eastern Oregon expires. Metro again has an opportunity to shape the future of the solid waste system—further reducing the need for disposal—and enhance attributes that make a great place. What others see in 2020 when they examine the Metro region depends in part on the decisions we make now.

Conditions have changed since Metro developed the current disposal system in the 1980s: with over half the region’s discards now being routinely recycled, and the emergence of multiple regional landfills, the region has ample disposal capacity for decades to come; jobs and sustainability have become key policy drivers; high energy prices have spurred renewed interest in alternative fuels and waste-to-energy technologies; manufacturers increasingly are assuming responsibility for recycling the products they produce.

Metro has the responsibility to help the region plan for the future and can utilize the solid waste system to help bring about desired regional outcomes. The Metro Council will guide the Roadmap by refining, as needed, and answering a number of specific policy questions (see next section).

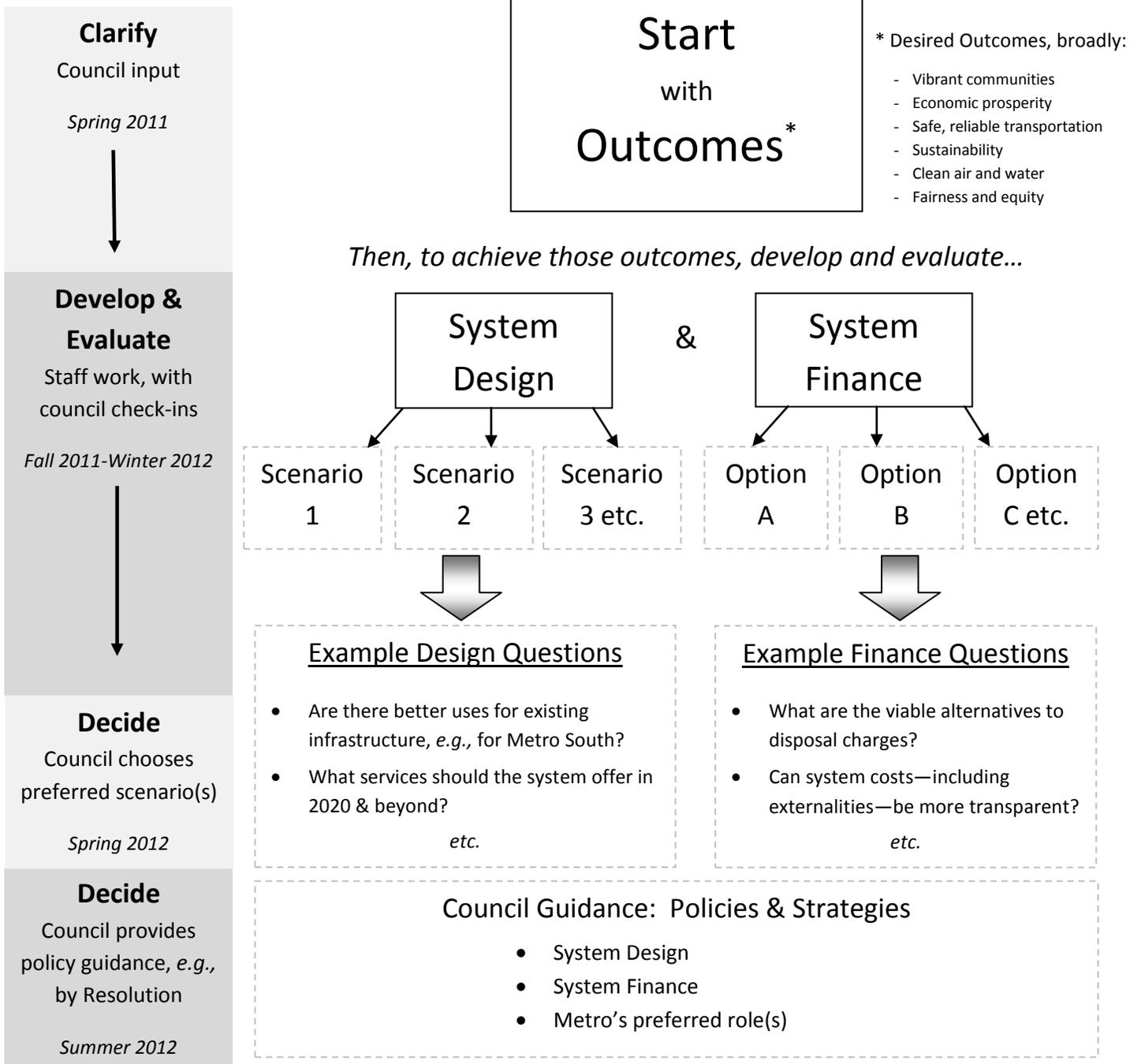
### **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**

- **Clarify** desired outcomes specific to solid waste
- **Develop** alternative system designs ( scenarios) and finance options
- **Evaluate** alternatives against desired outcomes
- **Decide** on new policies (or reaffirm existing) that support achieving desired outcomes

**PROPOSED TIMELINE AND WORK FLOW, WITH COUNCIL ROLES (WORK IN PROGRESS)**

**Process Timeline**

**Proposed Path to a Decision**



**MAJOR MILESTONES**

- **July 2012:** Policy guidance from the Metro Council before the end of FY 2011-12 will be most helpful for staff, stakeholders and for newly-elected Councilors who will be seated in 2013.
- **December 2013:** Private transfer station franchises will expire December 31, 2013. Pride, WRI, Troutdale, and Forest Grove transfer stations all operate under expiring franchises and can be expected to submit franchise renewal applications. Ideally, Metro would consider the need to alter specific franchise terms—such as tonnage caps, rate regulation and service standards—well in advance of franchise renewal applications, which are expected by June 2013.
- **March 2017:** Two major Metro contracts expire. Metro’s contracts for the operation of Metro South and Metro Central transfer stations expire on March 31, 2017. These contracts include a provision for an extension to December 31, 2019, concurrent with expiration of Metro’s waste transport and disposal contracts.
- **December 2018:** The 2008 Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP) is a 10-year plan that expires after 2018. Metro is responsible for coordinating, drafting, and obtaining local, regional and State support for this important planning document and its subsequent revisions. Metro may, by Ordinance, amend the RSWMP in the interim.
- **December 2018:** If private transfer station franchises are renewed in 2013 for five years, as is Metro’s standard practice, then 2018 would provide another opportunity to reexamine franchise provisions prior to 2020.
- **December 2019:** Metro’s contracts for the transport and disposal of solid waste expire December 31, 2019. The current disposal contract guarantees that 90% of the region’s putrescible solid waste will be delivered to Metro’s disposal contractor, Waste Management. That provision will expire with the expiration of the disposal contract, likely resulting in strong competition for control of the final disposition of that waste.

**CONNECTION TO COUNCIL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The Metro Council affirmed via Resolution 08-3940 and Ordinance 10-1244B the definition of a “successful region.” Of the six attributes affirmed therein, outcome #4, “Sustainability: The region is a leader in minimizing contributions to climate change,” is the most commonly associated with implementation of solid waste policy.

For example, Metro’s regional greenhouse gas inventory found resource extraction, manufacturing and distribution of materials, goods and food to be the source of nearly half of the region’s greenhouse gas emissions. Solid waste policy and actions can impact that directly through encouraging smarter consumption, more efficient production, better product design, more recycling, more efficient transport, etc.

Other desired regional outcomes respond to solid waste policies and actions, too. For example, outcome #5, “Clean air and Water: Current and future generations enjoy clean air, clean water, and healthy ecosystems,” is impacted by many things, including the region’s consumption and waste management choices, as are Vibrant Communities, Economic Prosperity, Fairness and Equity. Transportation that enhances quality of life is only remotely affected by solid waste policy.

**DRAFT**

**PROPOSED RESOURCES**

\$250,000 is the identified program need—plus existing internal personal services—for the next fiscal year, with a small initial expenditure possible in FY 2010-11.

Up to \$100,000 expenditure is anticipated for consulting services to assist staff directly with reaching the year 1 project outcomes. Additional, supporting studies may be needed, but these are not yet fully identified or scoped. System modeling, for example, if judged to be important, could exhaust another \$100,000 or more. More detailed use of resources will be available as the scope of these work plans is developed.

\$50,000 is the anticipated need to support broad education and more focused stakeholder engagement events during FY 2011-12.

Solid waste rates have already been adjusted to raise the \$250,000, currently budgeted as PES M&S in FY 2010-11; however, most of that will roll over to FY 2011-12, and there is no effect anticipated on rates in FY 2011-12.

**Solid Waste Roadmap Detail: FY2011-12 - DRAFT 4/11/11**

