



Frequently asked questions about Recology's Foster Road Recovery Facility license amendment application

What is being proposed?

Recology Oregon Material Recovery, Inc. (ROMR) submitted an application to Metro to amend its existing Metro license. The proposed change would allow ROMR to also accept and reload residential yard debris mixed with food waste in conjunction with existing material recovery activities at its facility in Southeast Portland.

ROMR proposes to accept residential yard debris mixed with food waste collected from the city of Portland's compost program. The residential yard debris mixed with food waste will be delivered by Portland haulers to an enclosed building designed to mitigate potential odors that may be generated from delivery, consolidation and reload activities.

The facility currently accepts and processes mixed non-putrescible ("dry") waste to recover and recycle marketable materials. The facility also currently accepts and reloads other materials, including yard debris (that does not contain food waste) and wood waste.

Where is the facility located?

The facility is located in the Freeway Land industrial complex near the Lents neighborhood at 6400 SE 101st Avenue, Portland, OR. It occupies a 6.2-acre area within a 100-acre heavy industrial park. There are a number of other heavy industrial operations there, including an asphalt batch plant, paper recycling operation, wood pallet recycler, cement company and a variety of equipment and rental businesses.

How much residential yard debris mixed with food waste will the facility handle?

According to the application, five to ten in-bound garbage-type trucks will deliver residential loads per day. The reloading operation will accept yard debris mixed with food waste from the city of Portland's curbside program. No commercial food waste will be accepted at the facility. According to the city of Portland, the amount of food scraps fluctuates seasonally from ten to twenty percent of the total mix when collected with yard debris.

How will the residential yard debris mixed with food waste be managed at the facility?

Yard debris that does not contain food will continue to be received outdoors and reloaded to off-site composting operations. The residential yard debris mixed with food waste will be delivered to ROMR inside an enclosed building that is designed to mitigate potential odors from delivery, consolidation and reloading activities.

Odor controls inside the building will include a negative aeration system that will collect the air from the pile of residential yard debris mixed with food waste and route it to a biofilter designed to neutralize odors. Any liquid waste (i.e., leachate) that may drain from the operations will be collected, contained and transported to an approved, off-site facility. According to the application, the residential yard debris mixed with food waste will be reloaded within 48 hours of receipt and transported to an authorized composting facility outside of the Metro region. No composting will take place on this site. The facility proposes to accept food waste deliveries between the hours of 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

What is Metro's regulatory role in the decision?

Metro is responsible for managing the regional solid waste system to ensure it is maintained in a sustainable, economically healthy, and environmentally sound manner. To carry out its responsibility, Metro regulates private solid waste facilities to ensure that they operate in compliance with Metro's solid waste code, administrative procedures and performance standards and that they pay appropriate Metro fees and taxes that fund programs that benefit the citizens in the region.

Metro is committed to developing the region's food waste collection and processing infrastructure to move the region toward a more sustainable future. One way to accomplish this goal is to expand the region's ability to divert food waste from landfills and, instead, process it for productive use as compost.

What is Metro's decision-making process and what factors will be considered in Metro's decision?

Metro staff will evaluate the ROMR application, including consideration of any public comments; identify options, including inclusion of any special conditions; and prepare a staff report and recommendation for the Chief Operating Officer (COO). Metro's COO will consider whether the applicant is qualified to operate the proposed facility, and whether the applicant meets or complies with all of Metro's applicable regulatory requirements.

Metro invites the public to submit written comments on the application, including concerns, issues and suggestions for improvements at the facility or regarding the proposed new activities. Comments will help inform Metro's decision and any special license conditions that may be necessary.

What can Metro do to minimize the facility's potential impacts to residents and property owners?

Metro's solid waste licenses includes standard provisions that require facilities to take actions to prevent off-site nuisances such as litter, dust, odors and noise, as well as to ensure the facility functions and is managed in accordance with its operations plan. Metro requires an operating plan that includes nuisance complaint section, odor control plan and vector control plan at licensed facilities.

In addition, Metro's licenses include special conditions to address unique characteristics of proposed facilities. Also, Metro conducts periodic facility inspections to ensure that the region's solid waste facilities comply with Metro's Code and other applicable standards.

Metro will also respond to citizen complaints regarding odor, litter or other operational concerns.

What approvals has the facility been granted to date?

The proposed reloading activity was approved for the site through the city of Portland's conditional land use review process that included public hearings. The conditional use approval was upheld on appeal to both the Portland City Council (December 6, 2011) and the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals, or LUBA (June 13, 2012).

[View Portland City Council's final decision](#)

[View LUBA's ruling](#)

According to the city of Portland, the subject property is zoned to allow a mix of uses with a strong industrial orientation. The conditional use land use approval addressed several approval criteria, including traffic impacts, odors, vectors, dust, stormwater, health and safety risks, and impacts to surrounding neighborhoods.

Are there other permits required for the proposed operations?

ROMR has applied for a modification to its existing Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Solid Waste Permit to transfer the residential food waste mixed with yard debris to an approved composting facility. For more information about the DEQ permit modification process, contact Stephanie Rawson by telephone (at 503-229-5562) or by email (rawson.stephanie@deq.state.or.us)

Where can I get more background information or review documents?

For more details and to read the current license or new application, visit Metro's website (www.oregonmetro.gov/recologyfoster).

Where can I send my comments about ROMR's application to Metro?

Written comments can be sent to Metro by mail, fax or email. **Comments about the ROMR application must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. Monday, July 30, 2012.** Comments should be addressed to Bill Metzler, Senior Solid Waste Planner.

US mailing address

Bill Metzler, Senior Solid Waste Planner
Metro Finance and Regulatory Services
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

E-mail address

bill.metzler@oregonmetro.gov

Fax number

(503) 813-7544

