



Examining the Feasibility of Increasing Compost Use on Food Crops

RFP 14-2457

Metro Sustainability Center

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232
503-797-1700

Project Manager

Will Elder
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503-797-1581

Department Procurement Staff

Scott Steyer
scott.steyer@oregonmetro.gov
503-797-1858

Notice is hereby given that proposals for RFP 14-2457 for Examining the Feasibility of Increasing Compost Use on Food Crops shall be received by Metro, 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland OR 97232 until close of business on August 9, 2013. It is the sole responsibility of the proposer to ensure that Metro receives the Proposal by the specified date and time. Proposals may be mailed, delivered, faxed or emailed. Proposers shall review all instructions and contract terms and condition.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Sustainability Center of Metro, a metropolitan service district organized under the laws of the State of Oregon and the Metro Charter, located at 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736, is requesting proposals for Examining the Feasibility of Increasing Compost Use on Food Crops. Proposals will be due as indicated on the RFP cover page.

Details concerning the project and proposal are contained in this document.

II. BACKGROUND AND GOAL OF PROJECT

The Resource Conservation & Recycling Division (RCR) of Metro's Sustainability Center advances the region's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve natural resources, and protect the environment and human health. The RCR's waste reduction work is guided by the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP), which provides long-term policy and program direction for regional waste management and recycling efforts. The Plan envisions an evolution from today's solid waste management practices to those that more holistically contribute to the sustainable use of natural resources.

The RCR is also guided by its own strategic planning goals, which are to:

- Reduce the environmental and human health impacts associated with the generation and disposal of waste.
- Reduce the toxic chemicals in consumer goods that pose the greatest risks to human and environmental health.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with the region's consumption of goods and food.
- Invest in equitable involvement and benefits for all members of the community in implementing program strategies and actions.

One of the RCR strategies to achieve these goals is to reduce the upstream greenhouse gas, toxics and waste impacts of food consumed in the region.

Currently, the Metro region recovers and composts approximately 26,000 tons of food scraps and 198,000 tons of yard debris annually. There are twelve commercial composting facilities that receive and compost varying amounts of the region's yard debris and/or commercial and residential food scraps. While Metro's work on recovering organic waste for compost reduces environmental and human health impacts associated with the *disposal* of waste, RCR is also working to identify ways to reduce the impacts associated with earlier ("upstream") phases of the lifecycle of food.

To this end, the RCR is interested in working to increase the use of finished compost in the production of food crops as a means of reducing the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. While the scope of this project may include a wide range of farms in Oregon, the RCR has particular interest in those farms that grow food and sell it into the Metro region. The purpose of the work outlined in this RFP is to provide information that will equip Metro and future partners to engage food farmers in discussions about increasing their use of finished compost.

The budget for this project is \$15,000.

III. PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK/SCHEDULE

Metro is seeking proposals from qualified firms to perform the following:

The tasks listed below are a draft list of Metro's minimum considerations to explore that will be refined in partnership with the successful proposer. Metro invites proposers to address all of the tasks listed in this RFP. However, if in the view of the proposer, some tasks are less of a priority, proposers are encouraged to list pricing for those items in an "optional" category. Proposers are also encouraged to add tasks as they see fit and that are within the project budget.

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As this scope of work contains a combination of traditional data collection/market analysis work and knowledge of soil and agricultural sciences, RCR highly encourages interdisciplinary teams to submit proposals. The contact list of RFP interested parties is available upon request. Proposals should include information about how the work will be phased to accomplish the tasks below and should include an overall project timeline and schedule. Tasks do not need to follow the order they are presented in this RFP. Each task should include a timeline and an estimate of the hours that will be required for completion.

Tasks:

1. Identify the requirements that will need to be satisfied for food farmers to consider using compost as a soil amendment.
 - a. Nutrient/fertilizer value of compost.
 - b. Pathogen and weed seed profile.
 - c. State rules on use of compost in agricultural applications.
 - d. Compost batch quality and consistency-over-time.
 - e. Conditions under which farmers' use of compost would lead to reduced use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.
 - f. Suitability for specific crops.
 - g. Composting process satisfies specifications by USDA National Organic Program for use by certified organic farms as specified in CFR Part 205.203(c)(2).
 - h. Compost contaminant tolerance levels (both physical and chemical).
 - i. Appropriate compost application rates, timing and other requirements for specific crops.
 - j. Access to and/or delivery of compost in a cost-effective and convenient manner for farmers.
 - k. Outreach and education efforts delivered by agricultural professionals viewed by farmers as credible, trustworthy and free from any conflicts of interest
2. Perform compost use market analysis.
 - a. Estimation of current supply of finished compost from compost facilities that accept feedstock from the Metro region.
 - b. Characterize the current market for finished compost in Oregon by the non-agricultural, agricultural non-food and food agriculture sectors expressed in:
 - i. percentage of total compost produced by facilities that accept feedstock from the Metro region used by each sector annually, and
 - ii. tons used by each sector annually.
 - c. Food crops for which the potential for increased use of compost is greatest.
 - d. Potential increased demand for compost, in tons, based on alternative market penetration scenarios for crops for which potential use is greatest.
3. Develop a business case for the use of compost by food farmers, for example:
 - a. Cost to use compost to meet all/some fertilizer needs for particular food crops vs. cost to use synthetic fertilizers including historic pricing trend lines linked to changing energy costs.
 - b. Capital or other investments necessary to use compost for particular food crops.
 - c. Number of years it would take for up-front costs to be returned, on average, as a result of using compost instead of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.
 - d. Incentives that may be useful to encourage compost use.
 - e. Economic value of production and environmental benefits resulting from the use of compost (e.g., increased crop yields, improved soil health and water quality, improved water retention in soil and associated resiliency to drought conditions).
 - f. Maximum economically viable distance from compost production site to farm.
 - g. Provide case studies demonstrating the effectiveness and benefits of compost on food crops, with a particular focus on crops grown in Oregon.

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4. Reporting
 - a. Provide Metro project manager with a mid-term report due within 60 days of project commencement.
 - b. Provide Metro project manager with a comprehensive final report due no later than 30 days after project completion. The final report should include a summary of findings and conclusions from Tasks 1-3 noted above as well as a set of key recommendations for possible next steps tied specifically to the goal of the project as noted in Section II. of this proposal.

The term of the contract is anticipated to be August 15, 2013 through January 31, 2014.

IV. QUALIFICATIONS/EXPERIENCE

Proposers shall have the following minimum experience:

- (1) Agricultural sciences, with an emphasis on crop nutrient management systems
- (2) Market analysis
- (3) Knowledge of agricultural economics
- (4) Research in similar fields

V. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

Will Elder, Metro's project manager, will administer the project. Proposer shall identify one point of contact for the resulting contract.

VI. PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

A. Submission of Proposals

Metro recommends proposal submission be emailed to will.elder@oregonmetro.gov or faxed to 503-797-1795. However, one (1) copy of the proposal can be mailed or hand-delivered to Metro, addressed to:
Metro Sustainability Center, RCR Division
Attention: Will Elder RFP 14-2457
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-2736

B. Deadline

Proposals will not be considered if received after the date and time indicated on the RFP cover page.

C. RFP as Basis for Proposals:

This Request for Proposals represents the most definitive statement Metro will make concerning the information upon which Proposals are to be based. Any verbal information which is not addressed in this RFP will not be considered by Metro in evaluating the Proposal. All questions relating to this RFP should be addressed to will.elder@oregonmetro.gov. Any questions, which in the opinion of Metro, warrant a written reply or RFP addendum will be furnished to all parties receiving this RFP. Metro may not respond to questions received after 3:00 p.m. on July 26, 2013.

D. Information Release

All Proposers are hereby advised that Metro may solicit and secure background information based upon the information, including references, provided in response to this RFP. By submission of a proposal all Proposers agree to such activity and release Metro from all claims arising from such activity. In Accordance with Oregon Public Records Law (ORS 192), proposals submitted will be considered part of the public record, except to the extent they are exempted from disclosure.

E. Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business Program

In the event that any subcontracts are to be utilized in the performance of this agreement, the Proposer's attention is directed to Metro Code provisions 2.04.100, which encourages the use of minority, women and emerging small businesses (MWESB) to the maximum extent practical. Metro Code 2.04.100 is

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available at

http://library.oregonmetro.gov/files//chap2.04_clean_eff_042111_revised_version_081711.pdf.

VII. PROPOSAL CONTENTS

The proposal should contain no more than eleven (11) pages of written material (excluding biographies, resumes and brochures, which may be included in an appendix), describing the ability of the consultant to perform the work requested, as outlined below. The proposal should be submitted on recyclable, double-sided recycled paper (post consumer content). No waxed page dividers or non-recyclable materials should be included in the proposal.

- A. Transmittal Letter: Indicate who will be assigned to the project, who will be project manager, and that the proposal will be valid for ninety (90) days.
- B. Approach/Project Work Plan: Describe how the work will be done within the given timeframe and budget. Include a proposed work plan and schedule.
- C. Staffing/Project Manager Designation: Identify specific personnel assigned to major project tasks, their roles in relation to the work required, percent of their time on the project, and special qualifications they may bring to the project. Include resumes of individuals proposed for this contract.

While Metro welcomes teams to propose on this RFP, Metro intends to award this contract to a single firm to provide the services required. Other members of the proposed project consultant team shall be subconsultants to a primary firm. Proposals must identify a single person as project manager to work with Metro. The consultant must assure responsibility for any subconsultant work and shall be responsible for the day-to-day direction and internal management of the consultant effort.

- D. Experience: Indicate how your firm meets the experience requirements listed in section IV. of this RFP. List projects conducted over the past five years which involved services similar to the services required here. For each of these other projects, include the name of the customer contact person, his/her title, role on the project, and telephone number. Identify persons on the proposed project team who worked on each of the other projects listed, and their respective roles.
- E. Cost/Budget: Present the proposed cost of the project and the proposed method of compensation. List hourly rates for personnel assigned to the project, total personnel expenditures, support services, and subconsultant fees (if any). Requested expenses should also be listed.
- F. Diversity in Employment and Contracting:
 - Work Force Diversity – Describe your work force demographics (number of employees, race and gender) and the measurable steps taken to ensure a diverse work force, including company policies and practices that promote the hiring and retention of women and ethnic minorities.
 - Diversity in Contracting – Describe your history of working with diverse firms, including any MWESB-certified firms. Describe a project for which you worked with minorities, women or emerging small businesses. Please provide the project name, method used to achieve participation – for example, joint ventures, subcontracts or purchase of equipment or supplies from a certified firm – and the dollar amount or percentage of the project budget expended on such participation.
 - Diversity of Firm – Describe the ownership of your firm and whether or not your firm is certified by the State of Oregon as an MBE, WBE or ESB. Provide certification number, if applicable.
- G. Exceptions to Standard Agreement and RFP: Carefully review the Standard Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein. This is the standard agreement that successful respondents to this RFP will be required to execute. RFP respondents wishing to propose any exceptions or alternative clauses to the agreement or to any specified criteria within this RFP must propose those exceptions or alternative clauses in their Proposal; Metro shall not be required to consider contract revisions proposed

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during contract negotiation and award. Proposed exceptions or alternative clauses should be accompanied by explanatory comments that are succinct, thorough and clear.

VIII. GENERAL PROPOSAL/CONTRACT CONDITIONS

- A. Limitation and Award: This RFP does not commit Metro to the award of a contract, nor to pay any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Metro reserves the right to waive minor irregularities, accept or reject any or all proposals received as the result of this request, negotiate with all qualified sources, or to cancel all or part of this RFP.
- B. Billing Procedures: Proposers are informed that the billing procedures of the selected firm are subject to the review and prior approval of Metro before reimbursement of services can occur. Contractor's invoices shall include the Metro contract number, an itemized statement of the work done during the billing period, and will not be submitted more frequently than once a month. Payment shall be made by Metro on a Net 30 day basis upon approval of Contractor invoice.
- C. Validity Period and Authority: The proposal shall be considered valid for a period of at least ninety (90) days and shall contain a statement to that effect. The proposal shall contain the name, title, address, and telephone number of an individual or individuals with authority to bind any company contacted during the period in which Metro is evaluating the proposal.
- D. Conflict of Interest. A Proposer filing a proposal thereby certifies that no officer, agent, or employee of Metro or Metro has a pecuniary interest in this proposal or has participated in contract negotiations on behalf of Metro; that the proposal is made in good faith without fraud, collusion, or connection of any kind with any other Proposer for the same call for proposals; the Proposer is competing solely in its own behalf without connection with, or obligation to, any undisclosed person or firm.
- E. Equal Employment and Nondiscrimination Clause Metro and its contractors will not discriminate against any person(s), employee or applicant for employment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, familial status, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability for which a reasonable accommodation can be made, or any other status protected by law. Metro fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, see www.oregonmetro.gov.

IX. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

- A. Evaluation Procedure: Proposals received that conform to the proposal instructions will be evaluated. The evaluation will take place using the evaluation criteria identified in the following section. Interviews may be requested prior to final selection of one firm. Award shall be made to the highest ranked Proposer based on the stated evaluation criteria. In the event negotiations are unsuccessful, Metro reserves the right to negotiate with the next highest ranked firms.
- B. Evaluation Criteria: This section provides a description of the criteria which will be used in the evaluation of the proposals submitted to accomplish the work defined in the RFP.

Percentage of Total Score

Project Work Plan/Approach	25
1. Demonstration of understanding of the project objectives	
2. Performance methodology	
Project Staffing Experience	45
1. Project consultant/staff experience	
2. Similar project experience	



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Budget/Cost Proposal	10
1. Projected cost/benefit of proposed work plan/approach	
Diversity in Employment and Contracting	20
1. Work Force Diversity, Diversity in Contracting, Diversity of Firm	
	100%

X. NOTICE TO ALL PROPOSERS -- STANDARD AGREEMENT

The attached agreement included herein reflects preliminary, draft contract language and selected, proposed contract terms for this procurement. Proposers should be aware that such language terms and provisions are for illustrative purposes only and that Metro reserves the right, following submission and ranking of all proposals submitted in response to this procurement, to amend, modify or negotiate over any and all such contract language, terms and provisions regarding the agreement arising from this procurement. By submitting a proposal in response to this procurement, proposers acknowledge that they are aware of and do not object to any later, potential amendment and modification of such preliminary, draft language and terms. In addition, by responding to this procurement, proposers acknowledge that they are aware of their ability to offer alternatives to any of the preliminary, draft contract language and proposed contract terms set forth herein.

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Sample Contract

Personal Services less than \$50,000

THIS AGREEMENT is between Metro, a metropolitan service district organized under the laws of the State of Oregon and the Metro Charter, located at 600 N.E. Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736, and _____, referred to herein as "Contractor," located at _____.

In exchange for the promises and other consideration set forth below, the parties agree as follows:

1. Duration. This personal services agreement shall be effective _____ and shall remain in effect until and including Month _____, unless terminated or extended as provided in this Agreement.
2. Scope of Work. Contractor shall provide all services and materials specified in the attached "Attachment A -- Scope of Work," which is incorporated into this Agreement by reference. All services and materials shall be provided by Contractor in accordance with the Scope of Work, in a competent and professional manner. To the extent that the Scope of Work contains additional contract provisions or waives any provision in the body of this Agreement, the Scope of Work shall control.
3. Payment. Metro shall pay Contractor for services performed and materials delivered in the amount(s), manner and at the time(s) specified in the Scope of Work for a maximum sum not to exceed _____ AND ___/100THS DOLLARS (\$____.____). Payment shall be made by Metro on a Net 30 day basis upon approval of Contractor invoice.
4. Insurance. Contractor shall purchase and maintain at the Contractor's expense, the following types of insurance, covering the Contractor, its employees, and agents:
 - (a) The most recently approved ISO (Insurance Services Office) Commercial General Liability policy, or its equivalent, written on an occurrence basis, with limits not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$1,000,000 aggregate. The policy will include coverage for bodily injury, property damage, personal injury, contractual liability, premises and products/completed operations. Contractor's coverage will be primary as respects Metro;
 - (b) Automobile insurance with coverage for bodily injury and property damage and with limits not less than minimum of \$1,000,000 per occurrence;
 - (c) Workers' Compensation insurance meeting Oregon statutory requirements including Employer's Liability with limits not less than \$500,000 per accident or disease; and

Metro, its elected officials, departments, employees, and agents shall be named as ADDITIONAL INSUREDS on Commercial General Liability and Automobile policies.

Contractor shall provide to Metro 30 days notice of any material change or policy cancellation.

Contractor shall provide Metro with a Certificate of Insurance complying with this article upon return of the Contractor signed agreement to Metro. Certificate of Insurance shall identify the Metro contract number.

5. Indemnification. Contractor shall indemnify and hold Metro, its agents, employees and elected officials harmless from any and all claims, demands, damages, actions, losses and expenses arising out of or in any way connected with its performance of this Agreement, or with any patent infringement or copyright claims arising out of the use of Contractor's designs or other materials by Metro and for any claims or disputes involving subcontractors.

6. Maintenance of Records. Contractor shall maintain all of its records relating to the Scope of Work on a generally recognized accounting basis and allow Metro the opportunity to inspect and/or copy such records at a convenient place during normal business hours. All required records shall be maintained by Contractor for six years after Metro makes final payment and all other pending matters are closed.

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7. Ownership of Documents. All documents of any nature including, but not limited to, reports, drawings, works of art and photographs, produced by Contractor pursuant to this Agreement are the property of Metro, and it is agreed by the parties that such documents are works made for hire. Contractor hereby conveys, transfers, and grants to Metro all rights of reproduction and the copyright to all such documents.
8. Project Information. Contractor shall share all project information and fully cooperate with Metro, informing Metro of all aspects of the project including actual or potential problems or defects. Contractor shall abstain from releasing any information or project news without the prior and specific written approval of Metro.
9. Independent Contractor Status. Contractor shall be an independent contractor for all purposes and shall be entitled only to the compensation provided for in this Agreement. Under no circumstances shall Contractor be considered an employee of Metro. Contractor shall provide all tools or equipment necessary to carry out this Agreement, and shall exercise complete control in achieving the results specified in the Scope of Work. Contractor is solely responsible for its performance under this Agreement and the quality of its work; for obtaining and maintaining all licenses and certifications necessary to carry out this Agreement; for payment of any fees, taxes, royalties, or other expenses necessary to complete the work except as otherwise specified in the Scope of Work; and for meeting all other requirements of law in carrying out this Agreement. Contractor shall identify and certify tax status and identification number through execution of IRS form W-9 prior to submitting any request for payment to Metro.
10. Right to Withhold Payments. Metro shall have the right to withhold from payments due to Contractor such sums as necessary, in Metro's sole opinion, to protect Metro against any loss, damage, or claim which may result from Contractor's performance or failure to perform under this Agreement or the failure of Contractor to make proper payment to any suppliers or subcontractors.
11. State and Federal Law Constraints. Both parties shall comply with the public contracting provisions of ORS chapters 279A, 279B and 279C and the recycling provisions of ORS 279B.025 to the extent those provisions apply to this Agreement. All such provisions required to be included in this Agreement are incorporated herein by reference. Contractor shall comply with all applicable requirements of federal and state civil rights and rehabilitation statutes, rules and regulations including those of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
12. Situs. The situs of this Agreement is Portland, Oregon. Any litigation over this agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Oregon and shall be conducted in the Circuit Court of the state of Oregon for Multnomah County, or, if jurisdiction is proper, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon.
13. Assignment. This Agreement is binding on each party, its successors, assigns, and legal representatives and may not, under any circumstance, be assigned or transferred by either party without Metro's written consent.
14. Termination. This Agreement may be terminated by mutual consent of the parties. In addition, Metro may terminate this Agreement by giving Contractor seven (7) days prior written notice of intent to terminate, without waiving any claims or remedies it may have against Contractor. Termination shall not excuse payment for expenses properly incurred prior to notice of termination, but neither party shall be liable for indirect or consequential damages arising from termination under this section.
15. No Waiver of Claims. The failure to enforce any provision of this Agreement shall not constitute a waiver by Metro of that or any other provision.
16. Modification. Notwithstanding and succeeding any and all prior agreement(s) or practice(s), this Agreement constitutes the entire Agreement between the parties, and may only be expressly modified in writing(s), signed by both parties. Metro may approve changes and modifications to the original contract, including deletions of work, order of additional materials, and additional services reasonably related to the original work scope. Contractor may propose changes in the work that Contractor believes are necessary, will result in higher quality work, improve safety, decrease the amount of the contract, or otherwise result in a better or more efficient work product. If such changes are approved by Metro, they shall be executed by written contract amendment signed by both parties. Such changes shall not relieve



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Contractor of any obligation or warranty under the contract. No oral statements by either party shall modify or affect the terms of the contract.

17. Severability. The parties agree that any provision of this Contract that is held to be illegal, invalid, or unenforceable under present or future laws shall be fully severable. The parties further agree that this Contract shall be construed and enforced as if the illegal, invalid, or unenforceable provision had never been a part of them and the remaining provisions of the Contract shall remain in full force and effect and shall not be affected by the illegal, invalid, or unenforceable provision or by its severance from this Contract. Furthermore, a provision as similar to the illegal, invalid, or unenforceable provision as is possible and legal, valid and enforceable shall be automatically added to this Contract in lieu of the illegal, invalid, or unenforceable provision. Any failure by METRO to enforce a provision of the Contract is not to be construed as a waiver by METRO of this right to do so.

18. Counterparts. This Contract may be executed in counterparts or multiples, any one of which will have the full force of an original.

19. Delivery of Notices. Any notice, request, demand, instruction, or any other communications to be given to any party hereunder shall be in writing, sent by registered or certified mail or fax as follows:

To Contractor: Contractor Contact
Firm Name
Address
City State Zip
XXX-XXX-XXXX fax

To Metro: Metro Procurement Services
600 NE Grand Ave
Portland, Oregon 97232
503-797-1791 fax

With Copy to: Project Manager
Address
City State Zip
503.XXX-XXXX fax

CONTRACTOR

By _____

Print Name _____

Date _____

METRO

By _____

Print Name _____

Date _____

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Scope of Work

1. **Purpose and Goal of Work**
2. **Description of the Scope of Work**
3. **Deliverables/Outcomes**
4. **Payment and Billing**

Contractor shall perform the above work for a maximum price not to exceed _____ AND ___/100TH DOLLARS (\$____.____).

The maximum price includes all fees, costs and expenses of whatever nature. Each of Metro's payments to Contractor shall equal the percentage of the work Contractor accomplished during the billing period. Contractor's billing invoices shall include the Metro contract number, Contractor name, remittance address, invoice date, invoice number, invoice amount, tax amount (if applicable), and an itemized statement of work performed and expenses incurred during the billing period, and will not be submitted more frequently than once a month. Contractor's billing invoices shall be sent to Metro Accounts Payable, 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736 or metroaccountspayable@oregonmetro.gov. The Metro contract number shall be referenced in the email subject line. Contractor's billing invoices for services through June 30 shall be submitted to Metro by July 15. Payment shall be made by Metro on a Net 30 day basis upon approval of Contractor invoice.