

Task Forces/Workgroups with Recommendations

1. Net Credit Rules Work Group (2006)

The Work Group was asked to review rules relating to net credit.

Recommendation	Outcome
Use a 7-year look-back period for credits instead of looking at grandparent and/or SAC paid. If a property was vacant more than 7 years, there would be no credit and no net credits.	Adopted, added to 2010 SAC manual

2. Reserve Capacity Task Force (2009 - 2010)

Primarily, the Task Force was asked to review and provide recommendations on the methodology the Council uses to compute the reserve capacity amounts that the Council is to recover from SAC. Also, determination of SAC fees for certain types of commercial building uses were reviewed.

Recommendation	Outcome
Add rental of capacity charge in lieu of SAC for temporary use.	Adopted, added to SAC manual
Revise the SAC procedure manual to change criteria for A) restaurants and b) day care facilities.	Adopted, added to SAC manual
State statute should be amended so that capital costs to provide additional capacity in the regional wastewater system would be paid by SAC – based on principle “growth pays for growth” (see pg. 2 of first link and pg. 1 of second link below for full list).	Required legislative action; MCES submitted the legislative proposal, but it did not make the floor.

<https://www.metrocouncil.org/Wastewater-Water/Funding-Finance/Rates-Charges/Sewer-Availability-Charge/SAC-Pubs/2010-Reserve-Capacity-SAC-Task-Force-Final-Report.aspx>

<https://www.metrocouncil.org/Wastewater-Water/Funding-Finance/Rates-Charges/Sewer-Availability-Charge/SAC-Pubs/Background-Summary-SAC-Work-Groups.aspx>

http://councilmeetings.metc.state.mn.us/council_meetings/2010/120810%20PH/1208_2010_389.pdf

3. Helping Small Businesses Work Group (2011)

The Work Group was asked to review and provide recommendations for helping small businesses avoid the “SAC surprise” that often occurs when people start a small business.

Recommendation	Outcome
MCES develop private sector outreach program emphasizing agencies who work with small business owners continue to better educate small business about SAC and provide materials for education (see pg. 1 of link below for more information).	MCES committed to having a more comprehensive outreach campaign, but nothing was brought before a Met Council committee for approval. The Work Group briefed Environment Committee on these outcomes in September 2011.

https://www.metrocouncil.org/Wastewater-Water/Funding-Finance/Rates-Charges/Sewer-Availability-Charge/SAC-Pubs/SACWorkGroup_Report_final-pdf.aspx

4. Net Credits Work Group (2012)

The Work Group was asked to revisit SAC rules regarding “net credits” for the SAC program, consider loans for small businesses needing to pay SAC, and improve services and outreach related to SAC.

Recommendation	Outcome
Non-conforming use credits would be available but limited.	Adopted; revisions made to SAC manual.
SAC paid at any time should be sufficient evidence to generate potential SAC credits.	Adopted; revisions made to SAC manual
Allowance should be made for a minor SAC credit transfer for use on a new site within a community.	Adopted; revisions made to SAC manual
MCES develop a SAC loan program to help small businesses.	Adopted, and changed name to SAC Deferral Program

<https://www.metrocouncil.org/Wastewater-Water/Funding-Finance/Rates-Charges/Sewer-Availability-Charge/SAC-Pubs/2012-Work-Group-Final-Report-pdf.aspx>

http://councilmeetings.metc.state.mn.us/council_meetings/2012/1128/1128_2012_350.pdf

5. “Is SAC still the best way to pay for reserve capacity?” Big Picture Work Group (2013)

This high level local governmental Work Group was asked to determine whether SAC is still the best way to pay for reserve capacity in the wastewater system.

Recommendation	Outcome
Growth should pay for growth.	Adopted by Council in 2014 and required Minnesota statutory change
Expand the use of SAC deferrals (include determinations up to and including 25 SAC units)	Adopted; revisions made to SAC manual
Pursue technical review of SAC charges based on water meter size.	Adopted and implemented in 2015.
Maintain SAC as a utility fee – based on technical analysis of costs of capacity (see pg. 2 of link below for full list).	Worked with broader Metropolitan Council to remove affordable housing SAC subsidies from the Water Resources Policy Plan, so that it could be funded by other Council initiatives.

<https://www.metrocouncil.org/Wastewater-Water/Funding-Finance/Rates-Charges/Sewer-Availability-Charge/SAC-Pubs/2013-SAC-Work-Group-Final-Report.aspx>

Public Meetings

2005

1. Proposed SAC Changes to SAC Credit System

2008

1. SAC Rules Which May Allow SAC Credit Transfers for Economic Development

http://councilmeetings.metc.state.mn.us/environment/2008/0527/0527_2008_151.pdf

2009

1. Proposed SAC Rate Design Change for Outdoor Spaces

http://councilmeetings.metc.state.mn.us/environment/2009/0714_2009/0714_2009_247.pdf

2. Proposal to Change the Reserve Capacity Methodology Used in Computing the SAC and also Impacting other Wastewater Charges

http://councilmeetings.metc.state.mn.us/environment/2009/0728_2009/0728_2009_260.pdf

2010

1. Public Hearing on the SAC Transfer Amount which Impacts SAC and Municipal Wastewater Charges

http://councilmeetings.metc.state.mn.us/environment/2010/0413/0413_2010_140.pdf

2011

1. Proposed Revisions to the Waste Discharge Rules for the Metropolitan Disposal System

http://councilmeetings.metc.state.mn.us/environment/2011/0111/0111_2011_18.pdf

2012

1. Changes to SAC Credit Rules

http://councilmeetings.metc.state.mn.us/environment/2012/1009/1009_2012_314.pdf

Other Outreach

<https://www.metrocouncil.org/Wastewater-Water/Funding-Finance/Rates-Charges/Sewer-Availability-Charge.aspx>