

## Task Forces/Work Groups 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 the 2010 Reserved Capacity SAC Task Force Final Report)	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](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 the 2011 SAC Work Group Final Report).	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](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](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
Study charges based on water meters.	Adopted and implemented in 2015.
Some development types should not pay higher fees to support other programs due to waivers of SAC (see pg. 2 of the 2013 SAC Work Group Final Report 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>

**6. “What is the best approach for charging and crediting SAC?” Policy Review (2016-2017)**

This Work Group was asked to review current policies and examine different approaches to calculating SAC.

Recommendation	Outcome
Continue outdoor seating policy as is but simplify criteria to 40 seats/SAC.	Adopted, added revised SAC unit calculation to SAC manual

Continue current residential rate for manufactured homes, monitor flow studies and encourage grants.	No changes necessary to SAC manual. Equity Grants have been used to offset SAC charges for sewer connections of existing manufactured home parks.
Revise the SAC determination process to utilize gross square feet of tenant space versus net square feet of individual uses for certain SAC criteria.	Adopted, changes made to SAC manual
Adjust the grandparent credit date from January 1, 1973 to January 1, 2009.	Adopted, changes made to SAC manual

<https://metrocouncil.org/Wastewater-Water/Funding-Finance/Rates-Charges/Sewer-Availability-Charge/SAC-Pubs/2016-2017-SAC-Task-Force-Report-Executive-Summary.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](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](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](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](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](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](http://councilmeetings.metc.state.mn.us/environment/2012/1009/1009_2012_314.pdf)

[https://councilmeetings.metc.state.mn.us/council\\_meetings/2012/1128/1128\\_2012\\_350.pdf](https://councilmeetings.metc.state.mn.us/council_meetings/2012/1128/1128_2012_350.pdf)

2014

1. Change to Determination Limit in the SAC Deferral Program

<https://metrocouncil.org/getdoc/28092071-4ca0-450a-91ea-d6e260ad1bb0/BusinessItem.aspx>

### 2. Acceptance of 2013 SAC Work Group Final Report

<https://metro council.org/getdoc/5b7ebe8c-023b-44d6-9361-e751b1fc8b27/BusinessItem.aspx>

2018

### 1. Acceptance of 2016-2017 SAC Task Force Recommendations

<https://metro council.org/getdoc/7f8835ca-a644-41d4-8610-1c88f69ce867/BusinessItem.aspx>

### Other Outreach

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