

Fact Sheet

Location sought for new South County Recycling & Transfer Station



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

The Algona Transfer Station will be replaced An upgraded facility that meets current building and environmental standards is needed

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Public input is essential to identifying the best site for a new recycling and transfer station in south King County. Public meetings on the project include:

Sept. 27, 2012 - Project Open House at the Auburn Senior Center. This provided an opportunity to learn about the project and comment on potential sites.

Nov. 15, 2012 - Scoping Meeting at the Green River Community College. This provided an opportunity to comment on the scope of an Environmental Impact Statement for two potential sites.

March 23, 2013 – Scoping Meeting at Meredith Hill Elementary School. This provides an opportunity to comment on the scope of an Environmental Impact Statement for three potential sites.

Stay informed by visiting the website below.

The Algona Transfer Station, like many of King County's other solid waste transfer stations, was built in the mid-1960s. The station's roof was replaced in 2002 to address structural deficiencies. The station has served the region well for nearly five decades; however, it is now outdated and over-capacity and does not provide any opportunities for recycling. A regional, multi-year planning effort led the King County Council to approve a plan to replace the Algona Transfer Station with a new recycling and transfer station in the South County area.

What is a transfer station?

Commercial haulers, local businesses, and residents bring garbage and recyclables to transfer stations, where it is consolidated into large loads and often compacted. It is loaded into larger vehicles and hauled to a central disposal or recycling site. In King County, garbage goes to the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill. Recyclable materials are hauled to processing facilities throughout the region.

Study Area

Areas in or around the cities of Algona, Auburn, Federal Way, or Pacific are being considered for a new transfer station.



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Siting criteria

Three types of criteria are being used to evaluate potential sites for a new transfer facility. **Pass/fail criteria** consider a variety of regulatory and practical requirements; for example, the site must be located outside the flood plain. **Functional criteria** consider how suitable the site is for use as a transfer station; for example, the site should be compatible with surrounding land uses. **Community criteria** consider factors that are important to the local community; for example, development of a new station should not adversely affect a community's economic vitality. These criteria were identified by the Siting Advisory Committee.

Siting process

There are six identified steps in the siting process.

1. During **Potential Site Identification** a large number of possible sites are identified within the service area.
2. **Broad Area Site Screening** applies the siting criteria to eliminate the least likely sites from consideration.
3. **Focused Site Screening** evaluates the remaining sites to determine the best two or three sites.
4. In **Comparative Evaluation** the cumulative and interactive impacts of the criteria are considered with the goal of determining a preferred alternative.
5. The final sites undergo **Environmental Review**. An environmental impact statement (EIS) will compare "Action Alternatives" and a "No Action" Alternative. The EIS process identifies probable significant adverse impacts of the proposed project and potential means for mitigating those impacts.
6. After Environmental Review is complete, the King County Executive will make a final **Decision**.

Proposed Schedule

July/August 2012	Potential Site Identification
August/September 2012	Broad Area Site Screening
September/October 2012	Focused Site Screening
October-December 2012	Comparative Evaluation
November 2012	Begin Environmental Review
2013-early 2014	Complete Environmental Review and Siting Decision

SITING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A Siting Advisory Committee (SAC) is advising King County during the siting of a new recycling and transfer station in south King County.

The SAC identifies community concerns and impacts, develops criteria used to evaluate potential sites, helps create public awareness of the project, and has the opportunity to express opinions and preferences throughout the process. Four SAC meetings were held between August and October 2012.

Members include representatives from cities, local agencies and businesses, chambers of commerce, commercial garbage and recycling collection companies, transfer station users, environmental and neighborhood groups, interested citizens, and school districts.



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