

South County Recycling Transfer Station

Open House #1 Summary

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Project Website www.kingcounty.gov/south-county

On December 12, 2018 King County Solid Waste Division (SWD) hosted the first South County Recycling and Transfer Station (SCRTS) public open house. Thirteen community members gathered at the Algona City Hall, from 6:00 to 8:00pm. The County will post an online open house on the project Website www.kingcounty.gov/south-county from February through March 2019, offering the community a convenient way to learn about the project and provide comments. The online open house will feature the same material that was presented at the December open house.

The purpose of the December open house was to:

- Share details about the project purpose, goals and timeline
- Share transfer station services and operations, preliminary design features, and traffic flow in and around the new facility
- Share how the new transfer station will benefit the community
- Invite community members to comment on 3 facility design concepts, and consider benefits and drawbacks for each alternative
- Confirm community values and characteristics to inform transfer station design
- Identify community concerns and respond to questions
- Gather ideas about future commercial uses for the existing Algona Transfer Station site
- Communicate what people can and can't influence, and how their feedback will be used
- Share how King County will keep the community informed and engaged

King County's Solid Waste Division operates ten recycling and garbage transfer facilities, including the Algona Transfer Station which was built in the 1960s. The County plans to replace the aging Algona station with a larger, easy-to-use facility with convenient recycling, yard waste and garbage services and hazardous waste disposal to better serve south county communities. The new station will be located at 35101 W. Valley Hwy S., just north of the existing facility. The site was chosen after a multi-year siting and environmental review process.

King County Solid Waste Division Goals for New Transfer Station

- Provide safe and efficient handling of solid waste
- Meet community needs, tonnage projections, and customer requirements
- Increase recycling options and recovery of materials from waste

- Obtain highest appropriate sustainability certification

Benefits of a New Recycling and Transfer Station

- Better solid waste compaction
- Adds recycling services
- Incorporates green building and sustainable construction criteria
- Enclosed building
- Environmental controls
- Improves operational efficiencies

Project Schedule

Siting process	2012 – 2017
Preliminary design	Now – Dec 2019
Final design	2020 – 2021
Construction	2021 – 2023
New station opens	Late 2023

Open House Display Stations

The open house featured 20 display boards with project staff available at each station to answer questions and gather comments. The boards are available on the project website: www.kingcounty.gov/south-county. Information included project history, site plan, project timeline, site conditions and zoning, preliminary design requirements, transfer station features, mitigating operational noise, dust and odor, 3 design concepts, the recycling and household hazardous waste disposal service planned for new station, community benefits, sustainable building features, and new commercial space ideas for the existing Algona Transfer Station property.

Community members were invited to comment on:

- County’s plans to address operational noise, dust and odor
- Community benefits the new facility could offer such as landscaping, stream enhancements, improved traffic flow, public art and apprentice programs
- Transfer station aesthetics
- Potential sustainable building features: The project will pursue sustainability certification and standards, which may include design for energy efficiency, stormwater management, and water conservation; use of environmentally friendly, locally manufactured, and recycled content materials; and planting native vegetation and drought-resistant plants.
- New commercial space ideas for existing Algona Transfer Station property: The existing station will be demolished when the new South County Recycling and Transfer Station opens. King County will deed the existing transfer station property to City of Algona.

Public Art

4Culture, King County's cultural services agency, provided images highlighting the variety of works in the King County Public Art Collection, as well as examples of artworks in King County's recycling and transfer stations. For more information, please visit 4Culture's Public Art page:

www.4culture.org/public-art/

Public Open House Comments

Operations

- Concerned about slope stability, traffic, noise and odor
- Interest in details—not just general information—about metrics and measurable data. For example, how will the county measure units of odor?
- If the new facility becomes a nuisance to neighbors (they smell it, hear it, or feel it) that would be bad. They want the new facility to be invisible to them in terms of impacts.

Site Environmental Conditions

- Concerns about stability of the steep slope on site in the event of earthquakes and seismic activity such as heavy truck traffic.

Aesthetic Goals

Attendees were asked to place a colored dot next to the transfer station design they liked best. They were given five options including Bow Lake Recycling and Transfer Station, Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station, Seattle North Transfer Station, Seattle South Transfer Station, and Tacoma Recovery and Transfer Station. People placed a total of three dots, one each for Bow Lake, Seattle North, and Seattle South.

Public comments written on Post-it Notes for Bow Lake Recycling and Transfer Station:

- Complement Algona City Hall
- Industrial/commercial fits with Algona

Public comments written on Post-it Notes for Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station:

- I love the idea of having artists in residence to work with reclaimed materials
- Colors and landscaping matches
- Doesn't look like a transfer station

Public comments written on Post-it Notes for Seattle North Transfer Station:

- Modern artwork
- Doesn't look like a transfer facility

Public comments written on Post-it Notes for Seattle South Transfer Station:

- Almost looks like a school

Design Concepts 1, 2 + 3

Concept 2: Public comments written on Post-it Notes

- Good lighting
- Overlay large portion of West Valley
- Sidewalks
- Trees

Common + Distinct Design Features

Concept 1: Public comments written on Post-it Notes

- Better traffic flow, the way customers move in and out
- Most of the open house attendees preferred the traffic flow portrayed in Concept 1

Concept 2: Public comments written on Post-it Notes

- One neighbor noted he prefers a flat floor. He does not want to lift materials over a high wall or through chains. He noted that a shorter wall would be ok.
- New facility site should have wide lanes and turn lanes

Community Benefits

Site Improvements: Public comments written on Post-it Notes

- Overlay of West Valley for increased usage, trees, fences and art
- Modern facility

Art: Public comments written on Post-it Notes

- Involve south King County-based creatives in some of the public art creation and/or decision-making please!
- The Still Spinning bicycle wheel art (at Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station) is a serious safety hazard

Buildings: Public comments written on Post-it Notes

- Public private partnerships with Starbuck's/other businesses
- Community room

Public Engagement

- From the neighbors' point of view, their perception of how this project is managed is very important. For example, will they be treated fairly, will their concerns be listened to and addressed?
- Neighbors encourage King County to reach out to Korean neighbors and other community members for whom English is not their first language.

Seeking Design Advisory Group Members

King County is seeking additional Design Advisory Group (DAG) members. This is an opportunity to help shape the design of a modern facility that will better serve the community with more recycling options and improved services. The DAG's role is to review technical documents, comment on design options to influence decision-making, act as a sounding board for the project technical team, and serve as a liaison to the public and stakeholders. The County is asking members to commit to meeting once per quarter from January 2019 through December 2019. Each 2-hour meeting will be held on a weekday evening at the Algona-Pacific Library from 6-8pm. For more information, contact Project Manager, Andrea Clinkscales, Andrea.Clinkscales@kingcounty.gov.

Ongoing Public Engagement

Help us design your new recycling and garbage transfer station! We value your involvement.

- Open house comments will be summarized and shared on the project website. Community member comments, along with input from the Design Advisory Group, transfer station customers, partners, haulers, stakeholders, community groups, elected officials, and others, will be considered by the project design team, who will communicate back to these audiences about how their input is incorporated.
- Stay tuned for details about the online open house going live on the project website in January 2019. We'll present the same materials available at the December open house in Algona. People will have the opportunity to review slides at their convenience and submit comments.
- Visit www.kingcounty.gov/south-county and click "Stay in Touch" to receive updates
- Ask the project team to come talk to your organization or neighborhood group.
- The next open house is planned for summer 2019.