



Cedar Hills Regional Landfill Community Meeting

April 21, 2021

Zoom Webinar

King County Solid Waste Division Staff

- Scott Barden, Interim Operations Manager
- Laura Belt, Facility, Engineering, and Science Unit Interim Manager
- Janine Blaeloch, Capital Project Manager
- Joy Carpine-Cazzanti, Acting Government Relations Administrator
- Jennifer Devlin, Communications Specialist
- Toraj Ghofrani, Engineer
- Kathy Hashagen, Facilitator
- Annie Kolb-Nelson, Communications and Records Supervisor
- Kinyan Lui, Capital Project Manager
- Matt Manguso, Communications Specialist
- Kris McArthur, Engineer
- Pat McLaughlin, Division Director
- Mark Monteiro, Operations Supervisor
- Glynda Steiner, Deputy Division Director
- Dan Swope, Engineer
- Polly Young, Program Manager

Other King County Staff

- Marissa Alegria, Department of Local Services
- Darshan Dhillon, Public Health Seattle-King County
- Ryan Kellogg, Public Health Seattle-King County
- Yolanda Pon, Public Health Seattle-King County
- Stephanie Knightlinger, Prosecuting Attorney Office
- Verna Bromley, Prosecuting Attorney Office
- Lorraine Patterson, Department of Natural Resources and Parks
- Tessa Rath, King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn's Office

Bio Energy Washington (BEW) staff

- Kevin Singer, BEW Plant Manager

Department of Ecology Staff

- Nancy Lui
- Alan Noell
- Tim O'Connor
- Steven Williams

Interested parties

- Amy
- Taylor Atkinson
- Anthony Brocato
- Ashley Bunker
- Corey Cummins
- Karen Dawson
- Janet Dobrowolski
- Ed
- Hello 96
- R. Honour
- Eric Hudson
- Ron Gehmen



- Steve Gerritson
- Ruth Grazier
- Jacquelyn Green
- Joe
- Lacey Johnson
- Eddie Jorgensen
- Michael Kauffman
- Laura Kazemi
- Karen Kramer
- Sean Kronberg
- Rich Nelson
- Sue Neuner
- Valerie O'Halloran
- John Olson
- Jay O'Neal
- Martin Pastucha
- Phil Reimer
- Samantha
- Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann
- Janie Schrader
- Cynthia Sleight
- Steve
- Ron Straka
- Sue
- Tag
- Martin Turney
- David Warren
- Wendy Weiker
- Rick Woodfork

The Solid Waste Division and Bio Energy Washington gave a [PowerPoint presentation](#) at the community meeting. The following questions were submitted via the Q&A feature of the Zoom Webinar and are copied below as they were received; no edits or spelling changes were made to the questions submitted.

Questions and Answers

Questions for Bio Energy Washington (BEW) Plant Manager Kevin Singer

NOTE: Questions with an asterisk () were NOT answered during the meeting*

1. **Why was it necessary to live onsite? including sleeping? I ask because the site isn't permitted for 24/7 residency.**

NOTE: During the early stage of the Covid-19 pandemic, BEW employees stayed overnight at the landfill gas-to-energy facility to ensure continuity of operations and to reduce transmission of the virus among employees and their families.

There was a high risk with having only 15 employees. We looked at options to minimize exposure, as one person could have infected all staff. We brought in rental trailers and had them onsite for seven to eight weeks.

2. **What is done with the separated components - ie toxic chemicals - when separated - burn? filter? If burning, are the flares stack tested to ensure destruction? If filtered - where are the filters disposed of?**

They are treated a few ways. Some are chemically converted to another form while others are scrubbed. None are toxic gases. We do burn some under a permit. Regarding disposal, some materials are disposed of at Cedar Hills Regional Landfill and others at other facilities.

3. **With Olympia wanting to ban natural gas, what can we do with what is generated?**

We will continue to sell our gas to BEW. This would be a question to pose to Puget Sound Energy (PSE), as they market natural gas.



4. How does BEW prepare for the possibility of fire?

We have a million-dollar security system that is monitored by a third party and is routinely tested. We have partnered with the fire department and report to them annually on any hazards onsite; they also tour the facility annually.

5. Does BEW add the odorants to the gas or does PSE do that?

Puget Sound Energy adds the odorant.

6. Just curious why the smell was significant yesterday on Tiger Mtn Road when I haven't noticed anything for months and months.

There have been no complaints or deviations, so I don't know.

7. Please help us understand any health or environmental safety redundancy you employ.

This would have to be answered in detail offline. We have a Safety, Health, and Environmental Program. Safety is guided by policies, procedures, and permits. Please feel free to contact me directly so we can discuss more fully.

8. Is that phone number the same as the Landfill's?

If you smell gas, you should call 911. If it is not an emergency, call the Solid Waste Division at 206-477-4466.

9. Does the landfill generate more gas when the weather is warmer? How much more is generated in summer vs winter?

There is no seasonality involved.

10. In a regional emergency such as a major earthquake can the facility be shut down quickly? How long does it take to shut down the facility?

The facility can be shut down in a matter of seconds. The facility was designed for the seismic standards of our region.

11. Some landfills in dry areas add water to the waste to increase methane production. Would that be an option at Cedar Hills for the closed sections to try to generate more methane?

This is not a question BEW can answer; it is not in the scope of BEW's responsibilities.

12. I apologize for getting to the meeting late... perhaps you covered this...wondering where the pipeline goes, do other landfills also do this? What percentage of gas production comes from landfills?

The renewable natural gas produced by BEW is sent to PSE and then sent to Williams Northwest Pipeline, which owns the South Seattle Lateral Pipeline. Our gas comprises as much as 10 percent of the gas that is distributed through that pipeline.



13. Can the local neighborhood receive a percentage of the gas revenue since we are bearing the risk in an emergency?

This is not a question BEW can answer; it is not in the scope of BEW's responsibilities.

14. Can BioEnergy please get back with the exact figure of gas received in 2020? *

Yes. In 2020, BEW received 3,920,093,799 standard cubic feet of landfill gas from the Solid Waste Division.

15. None [of the sulfur media change-outs] are toxic? *

BEW does not release toxic gas.

16. So, when do we call Bio Energy? *

If there is a specific concern that relates to the BEW operation, such as noise, odor, or unusual observations, then call Bio Energy Washington.

Questions for the King County Solid Waste Division

1. It's inevitable that Cedar Hills will have to become an incineration site if it's to continue to be an operational site. How soon can this change over begin the first stages? I DO support this change, and incineration has proven positive operations throughout our state and country.

Waste-to-Energy (WTE) is not inevitable at that location. WTE is a potential solution that does work and has benefits and challenges. There is no basis to assume it would be developed at Cedar Hills Regional Landfill (CHRLF).

2. No edited notes... how about a recording? You certainly have the tech here to record the meeting.

This is consistent with how we conduct meetings. Our goal is to be accessible.

3. Why are gas collection wells placed outside of the landfill cells if the garbage does not interact with the surrounding earth?

Wells or probes are installed where required to make sure landfill gas is not migrating away from the landfill; this is an environmental compliance requirement.

4. What's causing all of the foul odors?

That is a generic question; there are lots of potential sources of odor in the area, so we can't answer that in real time.

5. During the hours that the cover is off of the landfill, is any of the gas recovered at all?

The landfill produces gas 24/7 and the system is collecting gas all the time. We also now have gas collection occurring in Area 8. The cover is not essential to collecting gas.

6. Thank you for having this meeting! There is a substantial difference between: a) the amount of rainfall (water) that enters CHRL and b) the amount of water that is collected in



the Leachate Ponds. What is that difference, and where does the rest of the water go? The historical very brown foamy stream that flows out of CHRL through Cedar Grove Compost and Queen City Farms, and that flowed under Cedar Grove Road adjacent to the private residence and into the wetlands to the south, and then into the Cedar River is now 'disappeared.' a) What is the Full Chemical Characterization of that brown foamy water, b) why is that not a CWA violation, c) where was the stream re-routed, and d) why? e) What are the results of the complete Chemical Characterization of the Red Water that flows out of the landfill adjacent to and beneath the Truck Firm on Cedar Grove Road at the Cedar River in the Larry Phillips Natural Area as it flows into the Cedar River, and a) why is that not a CWA violation? b) What are the results of the complete Chemical Characterization of the water that spills over from the series of runoff ponds from the Land Reclamation, Inc. site below CGC, and b) why is that not a CWA violation?

Some of the water is collected as clean surface water from closed areas of the landfill, about 471 acres. Clean stormwater is discharged offsite. Regarding the historical "foamy stream": surface water flowing off the south end of the landfill infiltrates through the Queen City Farms site. Not sure about the stream being referred to, so cannot answer as to the chemical character of that water.

7. Trucks arriving is operations, so you are operating past 5:30pm

There are trucks arriving and moving onsite, but no landfill operations after 5:30 p.m.

8. As stated before, fewer organics (carbon based) obviously reduces the generation of methane (CH₄). Do plastics convert to methane?

Plastics don't produce methane. There are carbon-based items that will still generate landfill gas. The industry is studying this; we are not sure how much methane output will be reduced.

9. Does that say 1,000' buffer on the East side of that map? (we know that isn't true)... what is the real buffer measurement on that side?

The width of the buffer on the eastside is something on the order of 700 feet.

10. Have you asked the residents who requested greater tree coverage to the west how they feel about the aborist's suggestion to clear and replant?

We have laid out plans to speak with neighbors about this. Clearcutting trees on the fence line is a non-starter.

11. What caused the blockage in the leachate pipe?

The blockage was caused by a rock and piece of plastic near a valve; we are not sure how they got in there. None of the material in the pipeline reached the river.

12. Does Enviro Fill cover biodegrade?

It will disintegrate over time. It is not being used anywhere in Washington that we know of.



13. What is the additional level of microplastic that will be released into the ground/water system from the covers you are looking into?

Plastics won't go into the groundwater because of the liners. Regarding the degree of microplastics, we do not know the answer.

14. What happens to the "molecules" that "absorb" the odor - is it still airborne or does it drop to the ground? What happens if it's inhaled?

They are neutralized in the air and no longer active.

15. Why not cover the leachate ponds?

We are planning to cover the leachate ponds, that is currently in the works.

16. Lived in Seattle for 45 years and never heard them referred to as PISCA.. Encourage you not to use shorthand terms.

Thank you. PSCAA is the acronym for Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.

17. The Notice for this meeting states that "King County will not expand the footprint of the landfill". Does that mean Alternative 3 is off the table, since it DOES expand the footprint?

Alternative 3 of the Landfill Site Development Plan would not expand the footprint of the landfill.

18. If the Far West Steel location is a 5-year lease, are you already looking at a permanent location, and if so, where would that location likely land?

NOTE: The Far West Steel location is an interim location for landfill support facilities. The Division will issue a Final Environmental Impact Statement later this year, which considers two permanent location options at the landfill and a third next to the Renton Transfer Station. No decision has been made as to the final location. As part of the final EIS process and as allowed by the State Environmental Policy Act, the Division has designated the site at the southern buffer of the landfill as the preferred alternative. However, all three of these locations are being considered and the designation of a preferred alternative does not limit the Division's ability to choose among these three reasonable alternatives for the site.

19. How often is the landfill inspected by outside agencies per year?

We do not have that information readily available but will check and include in the notes. **UPDATE:** Public Health – Seattle & King County inspects Cedar Hills Regional Landfill monthly. Other regulators inspect on an as needed or infrequent basis. Those other environmental regulators include Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (annually), Dept. of Ecology (as needed), King County Industrial Waste (annual inspections), and King County Stormwater Services (approx. biennially).

20. When will we receive responses to our EIS scoping comments?

Scoping comments inform what we study and publish in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Comments received on the Draft EIS will be published in the Final EIS.



- 21. Why not look at smaller Waste-to-Energy plants around the county, including at the transfer stations? It reduces transportation costs.**

We may study that option; we will be looking at all feasible approaches.

- 22. Please explain how biomedical waste is handled differently than regular waste. Is it placed in a different location than regular garbage?**

Cedar Hills Regional Landfill does not accept biomedical waste.

- 23. How long do the polypropylene covers last and where are they disposed of once they're no longer usable?**

We don't know how long the Enviro Cover's daily cover product would last. We would drive on the covers. They would end up in the landfill.

- 24. Will BEW facilities have to move if Area 9 is developed?**

No.

- 25. What would King County do if CHRLF became inaccessible due to an earthquake or other disaster? Where would the garbage be sent?**

Solid Waste would set up emergency contracts with other landfills to accept garbage generated in King County. It depends on the nature of the interruption. Gas treatment would depend on how much BEW operations were disrupted. If BEW were unable to process gas, they would use the destruction flares.

- 26. How often is the height of the landfill measured? What is the current height and what is the maximum height allowed?**

The active face of the landfill is constantly measured. When last measured Area 7 was at 788 feet and is probably lower now due to settling. The permitted height for Area 8 is 800 feet.

- 27. Thinking about the possible expansion of Cedar Hills, if areas 5, 6, and 7 are top filled, how will you best manage leachate in those very large working areas? How does leachate composition change when it enters a new cell, compared to an old cell that's had decades for material to degrade? Will the Wastewater Division be able to accept the additional leachate?**

We will have control over how much area to open at once and controlling leachate will be one of the things we manage during that process.

- 28. Is there any plan to close the landfill ever?**

We are maximizing use of the landfill through Area 9, and it is presumed that will be the last refuse cell. Our planning will shift to a post-Cedar Hills disposal solution; that planning effort will start this year.



29. Maybe I missed it but how is the bird management going? How many birds live at the landfill roughly?

The bird management plan is going well. We do not have the numbers for how many birds there are at the landfill, however, there has been a significant reduction in starlings, crows, and ravens. There are still a lot of bald eagles.

30. Have the micro and nano plastics that are blown off the landfills across the region been measured? Microplastics will go to the leachate and then on to the sewage sludge and then on to the water and LOOP. How does that not get into the water system? And leachate ponds go to the treatment plant in Renton, and micro-plastics go to Puget Sound... right?

Plastics won't go into the groundwater because of the liners. Regarding the degree of microplastics, we do not know the answer.

31. What is the composition of the interim cover on Area 7?

On the top of Area 7 there is a layer of plastic overlapped by three feet, with a minimum of 12 inches of compacted soil. The interim cover on south slope of Area 7 is an exposed geomembrane cover.

32. To clarify, the construction or noise has been on or around the Southeast Pit or Proposed Area #9?

There is no construction occurring at Area 9.

The following questions were NOT answered during the meeting due to lack of time

33. Are the flares burning 24 hours?

There is a "candlestick" flare at the north flare station that burns low quality gas on a continuous basis. No other flares on site 24/7

34. Is this a different hotline that the landfill's?

The community hotline for Bio Energy Washington's landfill gas-to-energy facility is different from the King County Solid Waste Division's customer service line.

35. Why not ONE number to rule them all?

King County Solid Waste Division and Bio Energy Washington are distinct entities with distinct operations. When in doubt as to who to call, contact the Solid Waste Division (SWD) at 206-477-4466. It is important to call this number to report a landfill concern such as noise or odor because that is how SWD logs, investigates, and documents concerns in a timely manner. If the situation is an emergency, neighbors should call 911.



36. Please provide a contact for the detailed follow-up responses.

Please call the Solid Waste Division at 206-477-4466. The Solid Waste Division's Customer Service staff will direct callers to the most appropriate staff member to address your landfill related questions.

37. Zoom is better than no meeting but I would still prefer in-person. Side conversations are just not possible over Zoom.

Thank you for your comment.

38. Western buffer vegetation.... I do support adding evergreens there - this is great. What about the eastern buffer, which isn't even 1,000'? Can more evergreens be added there too?

We can evaluate this request with an arborist.

39. It will be years and years before the evergreen trees catch up to the deciduous tree loss. Evergreen trees can grow in shaded environments.

Thank you for your comment.

40. As a reference what streets are we looking at please.

The streets shown in the PowerPoint presentation on the topic of leachate conveyance pipe maintenance is Cedar Grove Road looking west toward Maple Valley Highway/SR 169.

41. On the other large maps as reference, where is the leachate going?

Leachate from Cedar Hills Regional Landfill is conveyed via pipe along 228th Ave SE to Cedar Grove Road to -Maple Valley Highway- to the King County's South Wastewater Treatment Plant on Monster Road in Renton.

42. Daily covers – Are they meant to prevent odors coming off the active fact overnight? Do the current used cover prevent odors?

The purpose of landfill daily cover is to control vectors, fires, odors, blowing litter, and scavenging.

43. Daily cover - the two landfills you've spoken with sounded like they were in dry areas. Have you spoken with anyone in wet areas, like King County? "non-water based product" - what is it based on?

No. When we were pursuing the use of Envirocover, there was no one in the Pacific Northwest using this product.

44. How wide is the 850 lineal feet in the odor neutralizer footprint?

The mobile odor neutralizer unit has a six-inch-wide vaporizer tube. The spray pattern of the unit can be adjusted to meet our needs.



- 45. Vegetation on your side of the fence? Or will you cut vegetation on my side of the fence (like before)?**
As always, we will be doing vegetation preventative maintenance. This will be done on King County's side of the fence.
- 46. How many people have joined this webinar?**
70 people.
- 47. Is the East perched zone MTCA contamination from the unlined areas? If so, why not dig it up?**
The east perched zone contamination is believed to be from the unlined areas. We have considered digging up the old unlined area but have not opted to pursue this. The contamination in the east perched zone is entirely on the Cedar Hills property, with no indication of offsite migration.
- 48. Why didn't the Comp plan have a cost estimate FOR THE CONSUMER for the alternatives? With all the work you have to do to upgrade, maintain, etc. it becomes expensive. This wouldn't have to be done with export or WTE.**
Table 6-1 in the [2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan](#) (Comp Plan) compares the Waste to Energy (WTE), Waste Export, and Further Develop Cedar Hills alternatives to each other and provides a cost per ton estimate (in 2029) for each alternative. To estimate an average monthly residential curbside impact, we make an assumption of how much waste a typical residential household throws away each month and multiple that by the per ton rate. Our current assumption is around 0.65 tons a year is thrown away which is about 0.054 tons a month. Using the numbers in Table 6-1, the monthly impact for WTE is \$7.34, Waste Export is \$2.97, and Further Develop Cedar Hills is \$2.21. This is only an estimate and cities pass on our fees based on their contracts with their haulers so it may not be passed on exactly like this.
- 49. Why hasn't KC or CH done any health studies for the surrounding areas of the landfill. Other studies done around other landfills has shown adverse health effects.**
We are completing a health risk assessment based on comments received during the public comment period of the draft Environmental Impact Statement. This assessment can be made available when finalized later this year.
- 50. Your permit requires 1,000 ft vegetated buffer. If you adding facilities in the buffer, how does that align with your permit you operate under for 70+ years?**
The Solid Waste Division will seek a special use permit from King County Permitting Department if the selected alternative includes moving the administrative and maintenance facilities into the buffer. No wastes will be buried in the buffer under any site development scenario.
- 51. Pat: It sounds like King County ordinance for noise is 7 AM - 7PM or 10 PM (depending on whether its unincorporated King County or not). Why has construction been going on as early as 6 AM?**



We have employees that start their day at 6 a.m. Truck drivers starting their vehicles and heavy equipment operators uncovering the active area getting ready to accept garbage by 6:30 or 7am. During construction season, the start times are discussed with the contractor. Usually these hours are 7am to 5pm. Occasionally earlier hours are discussed depending on the project. We have allowed, on occasion, the contractor earlier start times to prep for the job at hand and be ready to work between 6:30am and 7am.

- 52. The Special Use permit states that no waste operations is allowed in the buffer zone. The health department, in there permits, identifies leachate as waste. How was KC and CHRLF able to move the leachate ponds INTO the buffer zone when it is considered waste?**

At the time the leachate ponds were constructed in the 1980s, this was considered an acceptable activity in the buffer.

- 53. We also collect gas outside of the cell too! what about those?**

We have a number of gas wells along the west side of the landfill that collect landfill gas. These wells were installed in response to methane detections along the west side of the landfill. These wells have been functioning since 2013 and continue to collect any landfill gas that has migrated from the unlined landfill cells and prevents landfill gas from leaving the site. The methane concentration in the in these wells has steadily decreased.

- 54. Do those probes show positive migration, Laura?**

No.

- 55. You stated the mandate was to maximize remaining capacity. Why didn't KC and CHRLF honor the permits that states 800 ft is the maximum (except for the 788 ft for the 3 cells). and use that as the MAXIMUM capacity, rather than push to increase the height?**

The permit (from Public Health) sets maximum height by landfill cell, not for the entire landfill site. Through the EIS process, SWD is evaluating impacts to the proposed build out of the landfill. A decision on height will be part of the Site Development Plan alternative decision after the Final Environmental Impact Statement is completed.

- 56. Pat was referring to "a state of the art engineering so that the garbage does not interact with the surrounding earth" – what about the gas collection wells outside of the landfill cells?**

We believe that the gas that has gotten outside the landfill cells from the unlined areas. These old landfill areas were built under old standards and do not meet current state of the art engineering standards. All new cells are built to current standards.

- 57. Leachate is the most foul odor EVER. It has become more and more frequent. A cover would be better - why not do that?**

We are planning to cover the leachate ponds; that is currently in the works.



58. Why did Pat say that he did not agree that a waste to energy facility would be located at the Cedar Hills Landfill? Where would the best location be for the facility?

It's not inevitable a waste to energy facility would be located at the Cedar Hills landfill. The best location would have to be identified after a decision is made to implement this option. No such decision has been made.

59. We've experienced strong landfill gas smells since our last meeting, which causes our sinuses to burn and headaches. What chemicals in landfill gas could cause this? We've been diligent with making complaints directly to the SWD, PSCAA, and even called 911 due to physical reactions, with no remedy. What else can we do? URGENT It's incredibly important that I have my question related to health effects answered.

SWD has previously monitored air quality around the perimeter of the landfill and these reports can be provided under a Public Records Request. We are currently conducting additional air quality/odor monitoring and a health risk assessment to address comments received during the public comment period of the draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Site Development Plan and Facilities Relocation project. These reports can be made available when finalized later this year.

We ask that you continue to notify SWD when you observe odors you believe are from the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill and we will investigate.

60. When we report odors, and when you smell it too, no investigation is completed. Root causes are not found. What is being done going forward to find and fix the source of odors? You clearly have odor problems, otherwise you would be evaluating odor eliminating solutions.

SWD has recently modified our odor complaint investigation documentation and investigation procedure to help ensure we inspect the areas most likely to be sources of odors. If we locate the source of odor, our landfill crews are trained to take prompt corrective action. However, sometimes the source of the odor cannot be located, or the source is not the landfill.

61. Why do the "nasal rangers" almost NEVER detect odors we've called in on? According to PSCAA, people who work at an area with odors become Nose Blind. How do you account for this? BTW PSCAA doesn't use nasal rangers because they are too subjective.

KC employees do detect odors on and off the landfill. These odors vary in strength. We note these odors on our daily odor logs. Nose Blind is a real thing. Our landfill gas crew encounters multiple jobs within a workday. We do our best to change up job assignments, so employees are not exposed to the same atmosphere over and over.

62. Is King County studying what the Waste to Energy facility will be?

A study was done in 2019 that compared the feasibility of using waste to energy versus waste export as the next disposal method after Cedar Hills Regional Landfill closes. This information will be incorporated into discussions with our advisory committees and city partners as we update our Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (Comp Plan) beginning next year.



The current plan is silent on what the next disposal method will be so this is one of the topics for discussion.

- 63. West gas wells added collections – why are those needed when all the areas are lined near those well? Do you know where the gas is coming from? i.e. what liner is leaking gas / toxins?**
We believe gas has migrated from unlined areas (located on the east side of the landfill) to the west. The geologic formations to the west allow for efficient extraction of the gas.
- 64. Did any leachate reach the river from the blockage and leak?**
No.
- 65. Doesn't the 471 acres include areas 5,6 & 7 that are NOT closed and do not have final covers on them? Why are they part of the "closed" area?**
Areas 5, 6 and 7 are not part of the closed landfill area. They all have interim closure and do not have final cover.
- 66. Would KC be willing to test the chemical content of the "brown, foamy" water?**
We are not aware of where the “brown foamy” water is that you are referring to. We would be willing to investigate the water and determine if testing is warranted once we know where the water is that you are referring to.
- 67. What areas of the landfill dispose of Asbestos and is it in a special container?**
In the active area of the landfill, we have designed an area where we can accept asbestos. Customers must make appointments through our Special Waste Unit employees to document and accept this type of waste. This type of special waste is surveyed and tracked in each lift of the landfill, so we know where this waste is, not to disturb it. Also, there are regulations on how you have to bag or contain asbestos for disposal. The material needs to be contained properly and labeled. Asbestos can be brought in in 5 mil. plastic bags, double bagged, or in a ridged container. The label needs to have the correct contractor and job information on it. Each bag needs to have at least 3 labels.
- 68. Considering that there are over 80,000 registered chemicals how many are sampled and how much is known about their interaction with each other in the landfill and how toxic they are? Considering that chemicals are being developed at several thousand a year how can the landfill keep up with testing. US EPA are obviously outdated. What about the impact now and in the future? Is it responsible to continue to landfill if there is no answer?**
We monitor for chemicals we are required to, as required by state and federal agencies.
- 69. Currently unincorporated residents pay for maintenance on Cedar Grove Road. Since city garbage trucks cause most of the wear and tear, can landfill revenue be used to pay for road maintenance instead of neighbors?**
Landfill revenue cannot be used to pay for road maintenance. The Solid Waste Division



is funded through its tipping fees and by law, moneys collected can only be used for Solid Waste purposes and not spent on “general fund” items which includes public road maintenance.

- 70. The eagles previously dropped biomedical waste on neighbors’ properties and some examples were shown in the town meeting a couple years ago. One was a dried blood bag. Is this not considered biomedical waste? I don’t understand why it was said that CHRLF does not accept biomedical waste when the eagles dropped it on neighbors’ properties.**

Cedar Hills does not accept biomedical waste formally. All types of material can come into Cedar Hills from different waste streams.

- 71. How aggressive is the County going to really engage into the process of zero waste of resources as the stated goal is 2030? Is this just a number that will be pushed out year after year or will there be a really aggressive recycling push as 70% what goes to landfill is actually recyclable - this will require a significant amount of changes starting with collection certain commodities separately to building needed infrastructures.**

King County’s 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan established a clear goal of Zero Waste of Resources by 2030. The goal was defined as “eliminating the disposal of materials with economic value”, which corresponds to reducing 70% of what is currently sent to the landfill by 2030.

The Division formed a Zero Waste of Resources Task Force in 2020 to present a framework and to draft a list of actions for a plan to achieve the Zero Waste of Resources by 2030 goal.

Actions are targeted, specific, and time-based to implement strategies and could include: projects, programs, studies, infrastructure improvements and regulations. King County and its partners commit to pursuing the actions together to achieve the goal.

The Task Force recommendations are being presented to the Solid Waste Division’s two advisory committees (Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee “MSWAC” and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee “SWAC”) over the next few months. A final plan will be completed in Q4 2021.

- 72. Who is on the committee that is looking at long term decisions - that is due at the end of this year?**

The project team, consisting of Solid Waste Division engineers and consultants, are working on the final Environmental Impact Statement that will include a recommendation on the preferred site development alternative when issuing the document. It is then up to the County’s SEPA official, the Solid Waste Division Director, to make the actual decision.

- 73. You may want to survey all participants of this session to see if the presentation/answers met their expectations.**



Thank you for that suggestion. We surveyed participants of this session – about whether they preferred virtual or in-person meetings but did not ask the question you suggested. We can do that for future meetings.

- 74. In meeting KC County Executive Dow Constantine and US President Joe Biden’s objectives in addressing climate change, what near future plans does the SWD (and the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill) have to reduce GHG emissions FROM ALL SOURCES to Net Zero? By all sources, this means all emissions from vehicles, facilities, from land ground emissions and flows, energy conversion means (such as methane powered generators, or liquified gases generated on site for export as fuels utilized elsewhere), etc.**

King County’s Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP) is a five-year blueprint for County climate action, integrating climate change into all areas of County operations and work with King County cities, partners, communities, and residents. The SCAP outlines King County’s priorities and commitments for climate action to residents and partners.

King County updated its Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP) in 2020. The 2020 SCAP – the guiding policy document for King County actions and investments on climate - was proposed by Executive Constantine in August 2020 and unanimously adopted by the King County Council in May 2021.

- 75. In meeting the broad politically supported goals for restoration of a clean Puget Sound, and the rich content of Washington State law regarding the preservation of Orca and enhancement of salmon habitat, and protection of endangered, protected, and species of concern wildlife, what is the SWD doing to produce a Net Zero discharge of toxic waste into air currents and water flow(s) (this including sewage or waste disposal lines, and ditches, including those controlled by other waste treatment parties), which may flow into and contaminate WA state waterways including Puget Sound, the Cedar River, and Issaquah Creek?**

We continue to use best engineering practices to design and build landfill areas. We are actively developing improvements to our wastewater treatment system, and regularly monitor our surface water and groundwater. The Solid Waste Division is committed to supporting the environmental goals of King County.

- 76. Is the KC Council, KC Parks Department, the CHRLF, and/or other entities, going to plan and build the largest “waste to energy” conversion plant IN THE WORLD at or near the current CHRLF site (e.g.; use garbage waste fuel material for oxidizing at high temperature to produce energy, and chemical byproducts including carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, and various other compounds including heavy metal byproducts)?**

The current Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (Comp Plan) provides the direction of the Solid Waste Division and directs the Division to maximize the use of CHRLF through the Comp Plan’s 20-year planning horizon. The current Comp Plan did not determine the next disposal method. A study was done in 2019 that compared the feasibility of using waste to energy versus waste export as the next disposal method after Cedar Hills



Regional Landfill closes. This information will be incorporated into discussions with our advisory committees and city partners as we update our Comp Plan beginning next year. No decision has yet been made as to the next disposal method or where that could be located.

77. What funding and program development assistance did King County and the State of Washington give the SOLID WASTE DIVISION to meet its important RECYCLING and clean waste processing mission consistent with the political, lawful, and logical objectives expressed above?

Funding for the Solid Waste Division’s recycling mission comes from fees charged at the Division’s transfer stations (called “tipping fees.”). The funding levels and fees are developed by the County Executive and needs the approval of the County Council. The State Department of Ecology provides a biennial grant to the Division to support some of its recycling efforts. The vast majority of the funding for the Solid Waste Division’s recycling efforts comes from the tipping fees.

78. Where is a recycling site where people can pick over materials before they are landfilled? Does the Reusable Building Exchange still exist as part of the SWD’s Net Zero efforts?

The Division provides information about reusable building materials on its “What do I do with...?” website, which can be accessed here:

<https://info.kingcounty.gov/services/recycling-garbage/solid-waste/what-do-i-do-with/> In the search function enter “reusable building materials.” The “What Do I With...?” website has replaced the Reusable Building Exchange.

Participant Poll

A quick poll was made available for participants at the end of the meeting with the question: “Would you prefer these meetings to be virtual or be in-person again once COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed?”

Responses were:

- I prefer virtual meetings—59%
- I prefer in-person meetings—29%
- No preference—12%

Pat McLaughlin, Solid Waste Division Director thanked everyone for attending and for their questions. He also asked that attendees consider joining the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, which gives feedback to the County Executive and County Council on proposed council actions involving solid waste and recycling issues. Information on this opportunity is available in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#).

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