CEDAR HILLS Regional Landfill

Solid waste generated in King County is disposed of at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill – the only active landfill remaining in the county.

The Cedar Hills Regional Landfill is permitted in 1960 and begins receiving solid waste in the mid-1960s.

1960s

A 350,000 pound piece of landfill equipment called the "Mole" is used to compact solid waste dumped into trenches.

"Slam dunk" trailers are used to transport solid waste from King County transfer stations to Cedar Hills.

King County Executive John Spellman and Sanitary Landfill Supervisor Hayes Evans at the 1969 dedication ceremony for the "Mole."

"Slam dunk" trailers continue to be used throughout the 1970s.

Up until the mid-1980s, solid waste is disposed in unlined, uncovered areas.

1970s

In the late 1970s, a leachate collection system is constructed. Leachate – produced when water percolates through garbage – is collected in pipes and diverted to on-site aeration ponds, where it is pretreated before being sent to a wastewater treatment plant.

Scales and a scale house are also installed in the late 1970s. Vehicles weigh in at the scale house to provide an accounting of the tons of waste disposed at the landfill each year.

CEDAR HILLS
Regional Landfill

50 CELEBRATING YEARS

From the mid-1980s to mid-1990s, older areas of the landfill receive cover systems and environmental controls.

In 1986, the landfill achieves full daily cover, meaning six inches of compacted soil is used to cover the entire surface of the active solid waste disposal area at the end of each working day. Daily cover serves to control litter and discourage foraging by animals.

The bottom liner and clay barrier prevent leachate from seeping into the soil or groundwater.

The leachate collection system has been continuously expanded since its birth in the late 1970s.

1980s

In the mid-1980s, walking floor trailers replace "slam dunk" trailers, allowing multiple loads to be dumped simultaneously.

Landfill gas is generated as the buried waste decomposes. In the 1980s, an extensive gas collection system is installed, routing the gas to high-temperature flares, where it is burned and harmful emissions are safely destroyed. Active gas collection begins in the late 1980s.

A scale operator and crew operators in the late 1980s

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Throughout the 1990s, new disposal areas open and improvements to existing environmental control systems are made.

1990s

A litter crew in the early 1990s

CEDAR HILLS
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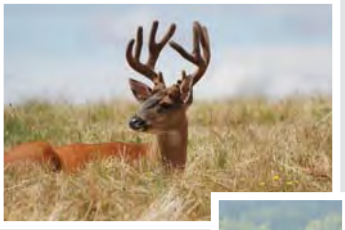
50 CELEBRATING YEARS

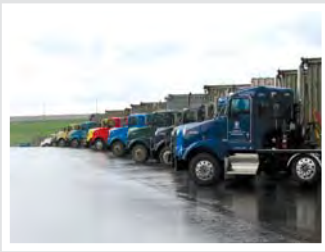
In 2005, staff begins using retractable tarps to cover most of the waste at the end of each day, reducing the amount of soil buried in the landfill.



Open fields at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill attract many species of wildlife.

In 2008, tippers are used to empty trailers, replacing the walking floor trailers previously used. The tippers save staff time and other resources, as well as reduce equipment damage.

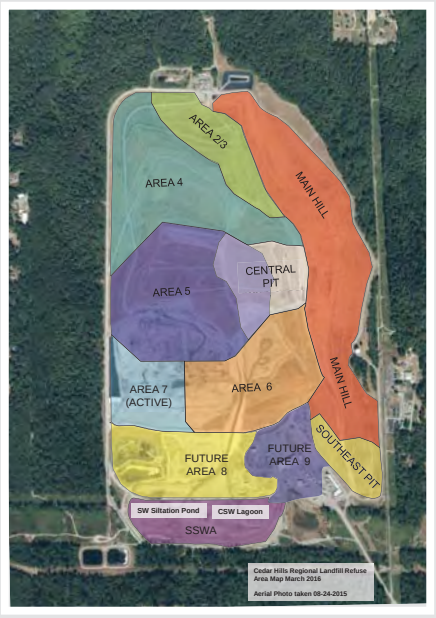
The landfill gas management system includes extraction wells that prevent gas from leaving the site and probes that detect the movement of gas. The system is designed to prevent landfill gas from escaping from the site.



A fleet of solid waste long-haul tractors and trailers

2000 and beyond

In 2009, a landfill gas-to-energy facility begins operations to convert the landfill gas into pipeline-quality natural gas. The renewable energy produced by the plant each year equals the amount of energy needed to meet the natural gas needs of over 19,000 homes in King County.



The landfill has been developed in sequential stages over time with construction on Area 8 currently in progress.

In 2000, the truck wash is completed. This ensures trucks do not bring dirt or other contaminants onto the roads when leaving Cedar Hills.

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Located on a 920-acre site in the Maple Valley area, Cedar Hills has provided for the safe and efficient disposal of the county's solid waste since 1965. Regularly managed by highly skilled county staff, the Washington State Department of Health, the Washington State Department of Ecology, and the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, it meets the highest standards for protection of human health and the environment. The state-of-the-art facility has received national recognition for its operations.

Some notable "weird waste"

1,692 cases of counterfeit **cigarettes**

50 tons of **artificial Christmas trees** from Hong Kong (seized by the USDA when invasive Asian long-horned beetles were found in the wooden tree trunks)

14,000 pounds of spoiled, individually wrapped **salami**

Counterfeit **jewelry** (seized by U.S. Customs)

34 boxes containing 68 **cow heads**

2,000 pounds of **toy plastic guns** and t-shirts (seized by U.S. Customs)

18,000 pounds of **shoes and socks** from Iran (seized by U.S. Customs)

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King County
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

Waste Prevention | Resource Recovery | Waste Disposal