

Cedar Hills Regional Landfill Fact Sheet



Fact Sheet

Cedar Hills Regional Landfill with Mt. Rainier in background

The Cedar Hills Regional Landfill has provided for the safe and efficient disposal of King County's solid waste since 1965. The landfill serves the solid waste disposal needs of 1.5 million people, or about 68 percent of King County's population.

- **Location:** 16645 228th Avenue SE, Maple Valley in unincorporated King County
- **Size:** 920 acres including 417 acres of natural area, 472 acres of closed landfill space, and 31 acres of active landfill space
- **Operation:** the landfill operates 7 days a week, 362 days per year
- **Tons disposed in 2021:** 869,150 (a -0.9% decrease from 2020)
- **Average tons of garbage per top load transfer trailer (used at older stations):** 20
- **Average tons of garbage per transfer trailer (used at new stations with compactors):** 27
- **Number of transfer trailers that arrived at the landfill in 2021:** 38,297 (a -0.4% decrease over 2020)
- **Type of waste received:** Most of the waste received at the landfill is mixed municipal solid waste from residential and non-residential sources. A small amount, less than ten percent, is designated as special waste, which includes asbestos-containing materials, industrial wastes, contaminated soil, treated biomedical wastes, treatment plant grit and vector wastes, and other miscellaneous materials.
- **Landfill gas-to-energy:** This project leads to cleaner air and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. In 2021, the landfill generated an average of about 6,500 standard cubic feet per minute of landfill gas. This gas was transmitted to the Bio Energy Washington (BEW) gas-to-energy plant and converted into pipeline-quality biogas. The renewable gas produced equals the amount of energy needed to meet the natural gas needs of over 17,500 homes in King County.
- **Area 8 development:** Construction of Area 8, a new landfill cell, began in June of 2017. The cell started receiving waste in July 2019.
- **Environmental monitoring:** Environmental control systems are in place at the landfill to manage landfill gas, leachate, stormwater and groundwater. The Solid Waste Division monitors 50 groundwater wells located in the landfill buffer. The landfill gas management system includes extraction wells that prevent gas from leaving the site and probes that detect the movement of gas. The entire system is under vacuum and is designed to prevent landfill gas from escaping from the site – either through the ground or through the air.
- **King County's 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan:** The Plan recommends King County's Solid Waste Division (SWD) develop alternatives to maximize the capacity of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill to meet the county's disposal needs. SWD began an environmental review process in July 2019 to consider development alternatives to create further capacity. The Final Environmental Impact Statement was issued in March 2022.



Bio Energy Washington landfill gas-to-energy plant



Tippers unloading transfer trailers at landfill



Deer grazing in meadow at landfill

Alternative Formats On Request
206-477-4466 • TTY Relay: 711



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

Waste
Prevention

Resource
Recovery

Waste
Disposal

<https://kingcounty.gov/cedar-hills>