

SOLID WASTE DIVISION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Introduction to Program, Program Goals, and Key 2005-2010 Issues

The purpose of the Solid Waste Division capital program is to maintain the transfer and disposal system's ability to meet service demands. The program also ensures that these facilities are maintained and operated in accordance with applicable regulations in an environmentally responsible manner.

The 2005 capital program focuses on the phased closure of Refuse Area 5. Design implementation projects will continue for the First Northeast and the Bow Lake Transfer Station Facility Master Plan Implementation. Construction of the replacement First Northeast Transfer Station is scheduled to begin in 2005. Re-design of the replacement Factoria Transfer Station and upgrades to the Houghton transfer station are on hold pending evaluation of Solid Waste system issues. These projects represent important steps in the process of providing safe, efficient service, and maintaining a competitive waste disposal business environment. The Waste Export Plan will help determine if an Intermodal Facility should be developed and its location. Roofs have been replaced at two sites to address safety and seismic concerns and funding is available for similar upgrades at the Houghton site.

Project Prioritization Methodology

The highest priority solid waste projects are developed in order to comply with legal requirements such as the King County Board of Health Code (Title 10), Washington State Minimum Functional Standards for Solid Waste Handling (WAC 173-3-4), and Department of Labor and Industries mandates. The methodology used is based on the following criteria: regulatory mandates, the nature of the projects, and planning documents such as the 2001 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan and the Cedar Hills Site Development Plan. The timing of new Cedar Hills Landfill area and transfer station development and construction are based on facility conditions, tonnage disposal, waste capacity projections, and policy direction. Construction is planned to minimize impact on the division's customers and operations.

Growth Management and Comprehensive Plan Issues

The CIP program of this division is affected by the Growth Management Act (GMA) and the King County Comprehensive Plan in the following ways: the division has no specific issues relating to the GMA and concurrency. Projects requested are necessary to address environmental issues, for facility safety enhancement and modernization.

Financial Planning and Policy Overview

Revenue sources supporting the six-year capital program vary by fund and include the following:

- The Landfill Reserve Fund collects dedicated per-ton fees from waste disposal activities and is used to develop future landfill areas and landfill closures. The financial planning for this fund involves identifying future needs of the solid waste system, then adjusting the per-ton rate to provide the resources necessary to meet these needs. Current policy issues focus on the purpose of the fund in relation to the Solid Waste Division's future functions and the fund balance levels necessary to meet these goals and objectives.
- The Environmental Reserve Fund is used to fund investigation and remediation costs related to active and closed solid waste handling facilities. The fund was created with a \$17 million transfer from the former Energy Resource and Recovery Reserve Fund and covers its costs with fund balance and accumulated interest earnings. These activities are substantially complete with activities remaining primarily at South Park.
- The remaining capital project funds were set up to account for the proceeds of various bond issuances which pay for the majority of the Solid Waste capital program. The debt service costs of these bond issues are paid through revenues in the operating fund earned from disposal fees.
- The financial planning issues in these funds are related to the balance between the capital needs of the solid waste program as defined by the six-year plan and the upward pressure on disposal fees tied to the cost of retiring the bond debt necessary to fund these capital projects. King County has reviewed such basic policy issues as future waste transfer service levels and the long-term future of waste forecasts with the recommendation contained in the Final Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan and Solid Waste Business Plan. Depending on the outcome of these issues, the current six-year capital program and reserve fund policies could change significantly.

Asset Preservation

The highest priority solid waste projects are developed in order to comply with legal requirements such as the King County Board of Health Code (Title 10), Washington State Minimum Functional Standards for Solid Waste Handling (WAC 173-3-4), and Department of Labor and Industries mandates. Annual site inspections are performed to determine items to consider in CIP planning or for incorporation into the Capital Asset Maintenance Program (CAMP). The timing of new area and transfer station development and construction are based on facility conditions from these inspections, tonnage disposal, waste capacity projections, and policy direction. Construction is planned to minimize impact on the Division's customers and operations. The replacement or rebuilding of "rolling stock" is based upon annual evaluation of maintenance history and projected economic life.

CIP Program Accomplishments and Completion Lists

Projects Completed in 2003

013040 BOW LAKE TS SAFETY IMPS
013327 W BUFFER FOREST MITIGATE
013328 CH SETTLEMENT REPAIR

Construction Projects Completed in 2004

013060 ALGONA TS SAFETY IMPS
013331 CH AREA 6 DEV
013121 CH TELEMETRY IMPLEMENTATION
013122 TS TELEMETRY IMPLEMENTATION
003145 VASHON LANDFILL FINALCOVR

Construction Projects to be Completed in 2005

013337 CH-RELOCATE FLARE STATION
013336 Cedar Hills GW Monitoring Wells
013330 CH AREA 5 CLOSURE
013333 CH SW IMPROVEMENTS