King County | Cedar Hills Regional Landfill (CHRL) Timeline

Updated November 2025

SOUTH SOLID WASTE AREA filled and closed — Filled 1960s-1970s — Final cover 1989

MAIN HILL filled and closed — Filled 1965-1980s — Final cover 1991

SOUTHEAST PIT filled and closed — Filled 1980s — Final cover 1989

Cedar Hills Regional Landfill Opens — 1965

CENTRAL PIT filled and closed — 1986-1989

AREA 4 & AREA 2/3 filled and closed — 1991-2000

AREA 5 filled and interim cover — 1999-2005

AREA 6 filled and interim cover — 2005-2010

AREA 7 filled and interim cover — 2010-2021

AREA 8 started and planned closure — 2019-2027

AREA 5/6 complete, filled and closed — 2027-2031

AREA 9 construction — 2030-

Cedar Hills Regional Landfill Closure — 2040

1960 | 1965 | 1970 | 1975 | 1980 | 1985 | 1990 | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 | 2010 | 2015 | 2020 | 2025 | 2030 | 2035 | 2040

1960
CHRL is born via Special Use Permit

1961
The U.S. Public Health Service develops a set of recommended standards for sanitary landfill operations

1963
First federal legislation regarding Clean Air Act (CAA)

1970
Congress amends the Solid Waste Disposal Act (SWDA) with the Resource Recovery Act (RRA)

1972
Clean Water Act (CWA) was expanded on

1976
Introduction of Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) standards for mixed solid waste (MSW) landfills

1976
Capital Improvement Program to complete design and construct leachate collection systems for CHRL. Installation of underdrain around solid waste cells to intercept leachate contaminated drainage.

1979
Main Hill refuse area designed

Early 1980's
Geomembrane liner under refuse cells were mandated by EPA

1987
- Leachate collection system in the Central Pit designed
- Leachate collection system in Area 2/3 designed

1989
NOC: 3271
Installation of Flares 1 & 2 and 3 blowers

1989
Development of primary leachate collection and Main Hill seep system

1990
Area 2/3 underdrain pump station was designed

1990-1991
Main Hill leachate extraction facilities phase 1: installation of additional wells and horizontal drains

1991
- Final cover to Area 2/3 was installed during the 1991 Closure Project
- Installation of leachate conveyance pipe, dual phase extraction wells and flow meter structure in Southwest Main Hill as part of 1991 closure project

1995
- NOC: 6002
Additional 2 blowers and 3rd flare permitted and installed
- Earliest municipal NPDES permit issued

1995
- Installation of an Odor Mitigation System (OMS) in Area 4
- SE Pit extraction well expansion

1996
- Installation for modifications to leachate collection from SE Pit to SE Pit flare
- North Flare Station (NFS) implemented modifications to the condensate system including new condensate drops, associated piping and valving, and access vaults for cleanouts.
- An odor mitigation system was installed in Area 4 to improve the efficiency of the LFG collection system and to divert condensate and leachate away from the LFG collection system and into the leachate collection system.

1997
Area 4 Stage 1 closure including final cover, LFG collection system, leachate and stormwater systems

1997
NOC: 7076
Additional 4th flare permitted and installed

1998
SSWA passive flare improvements

1999
- Area 4 Stage 3 closure included final and interim final cover. Installation of additional collection wells, Area 5 Phase 2 development
- Southeast Pit dual-phase extraction well installation and a reconnection of old extraction gas well
- Installation of a new 24" HDPE Central Header replacing the existing west and central headers
- Replacement of the old East Header

2000
NOC: 8062
5th flare permitted and installed

2000
Modification of primary leachate collection and Main Hill seep system

2000
Addition of 5th flare at NFS

2001
Area 5 Stage 1 closure - installation of wells and header

2001-2003
Development of deep cover seep system

2002
East Main Hill dual-phase extraction well installation

2003
Leachate collection system in Area 6 was designed as part of the Area 5 Stage 3 Closure and Area 6 Phase 2 Development project

2004
First Title V permit issued to CHRL

2005
Area 5 Stage 4 leachate components of closure project installed

2007
- Southeast Pit flare decommissioned
- Area 2/3 dual Phased wells installed

2009
RNG gas-to-energy facility conveyance line installed

2010
Area 7 receives first garbage loads in June 2010

2012
- Trailer mounted flare utilized for turn down capabilities for gas-to-energy plant stage operations
- Improvements to West Perimeter, South Solid Waste Area (SSWA), East, manifolds and NFS improvements
- First Migration (Low-mmBTU) well reads conducted

2016
Contaminated Stormwater Water (CSW) pond rebuilt current location

2016
Upgraded RNG Facility conveyance line around West Perimeter of Landfill and installed 2 Booster Blowers

2018
KCIW Issued NOV's for loading-related Compliance Order

2019
Modifications made to leachate lagoons as part of Area 8 development. The included new 24" HDPE pipe installation to provide better hydraulic capacity for leachate flow to the Leachate Effluent Pump Station (LEPS), simplified controls for changing the configuration of the flow through the lagoons, and instrumentation to monitor the flows and leachate.

2019-2020
Decline in LFG generation/collection and delivery to gas-to-energy plant

2021
First detection of SSO event at landfill gas well CHC00C40 well began in March 2021

2021
NOC: 12127 - Byers Dry Vapor-Phase system for odor control enhancement

2022
New Title V Air Operating permit issued to CHRL

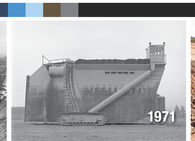
2023
- PSCAA issued an administrative order for toxic air pollutants in November 2023. The focus of the A/O was emissions of As.
- Title V Air Operating Permit - Agency Regulation I, Article 7 updated

2023
- Master Control Center (MCC) upgrade at NFS
- RNG facility goes offline August 2023

2024
Landfill methan emission rule

2025
King County purchases gas-to-energy facility on CHRL property: Cedar Hills Renewable Gas to Energy (CHRGE)

2025
Area 8 Phase 1 Closure

King County
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

Compliance Milestones
Wastewater Milestones
Landfill Gas Milestones