



Odor Management at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill

The Cedar Hills Regional Landfill is staffed 24/7 with skilled professionals who are trained and certified in the best management practices established by the Solid Waste Association of North America, or SWANA. One of the most commonly reported issues is odor, and King County’s Solid Waste Division takes those complaints seriously.

Prevention is our most effective strategy. To control odors, and reduce potential for wildlife to get into and carry away garbage, the active areas at the landfill are covered before the end of each working day.

Monitoring and investigation is another means of odor mitigation and informs new prevention strategies. On weekdays, specially trained staff conduct odor checks five times a day across the landfill and once through the surrounding neighborhoods. On weekends, odor checks are conducted across the landfill three times a day. In addition to these regularly scheduled checks, specially trained staff monitor areas commonly associated with prior odor complaints.

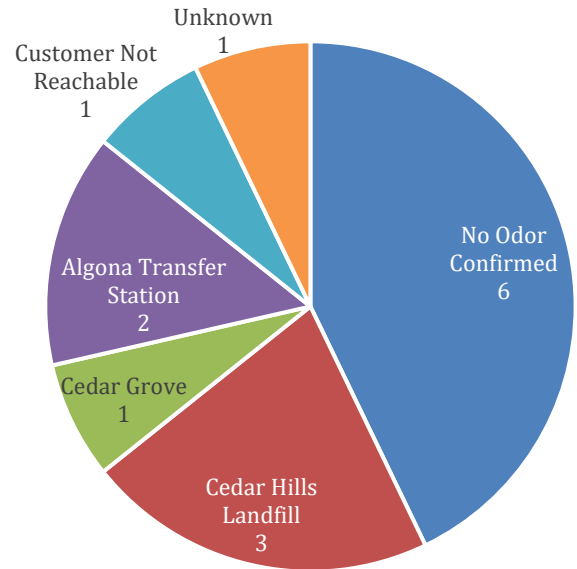
In 2018, we received 14 odor complaints from nine households. On six occasions, no odor was verifiable upon field inspection, while three complaints were attributed to landfill operations, and three complaints did not relate to the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill (Cedar Grove, Algona Transfer Station). One customer was not reachable for additional information, and one root cause is not recorded as known.

In 2018, 239 neighborhood odor checks were performed which in some cases resulted in multiple odor detections for a total of 299 odors. Using special calibration equipment, the odors were classified into 5 categories; Refuse, Compost, Smoke, Propane, and Sewage.

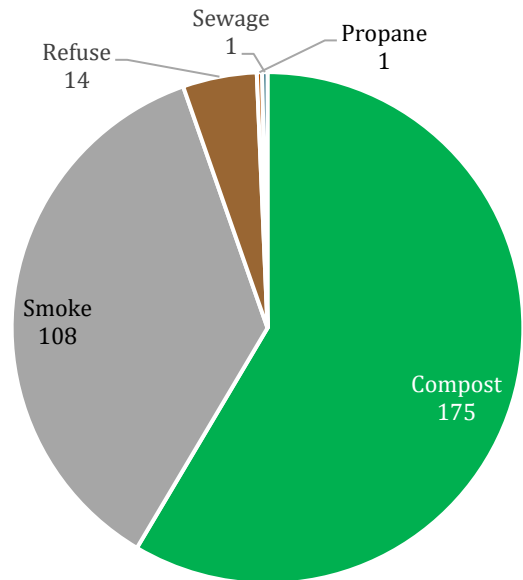
An analysis of the 2018 neighborhood odor checks confirms that refuse accounts for less than five percent of the odors detected.

People who notice odors, or any other issue they feel is related to the landfill operations, can call the Solid Waste Division at 206-477-4466 to get a response right away. People should always call 911 first if they believe there is a potential emergency, or a risk to safety, health or property.

3 of the 14 Odor Complaints Called In to SWD were Attributed to the Landfill in 2018



Refuse Accounted for less than 5% of Odors Detected in Daily Neighborhood Checks in 2018



Solid Waste Division

The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) jurisdiction covers King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. Their work seeks to protect public health, improve neighborhood air quality, and reduce our region's contribution to climate change.

PSCAA maintains records of odor complaints from across its jurisdiction, however, they don't generally provide field investigations for received complaints. In 2018 PSCAA received 1,325 odor complaints for the Maple Valley area. Ten households account for 61 % of the odor complaints to PCSAA about Cedar Hills in 2018. A summary of those records is as follows;

In 2018, 8% of the Regional Odor Complaints to PSCAA Were Uniquely Attributed to Cedar Hills Landfill

