



## 2020 Analysis of Odor Complaints

The Cedar Hills Regional Landfill is staffed 24/7 by professionals trained and certified in Best Management Practices established by the Solid Waste Association of North America, or SWANA. One of the most commonly reported issues pertaining to the landfill is odor, and King County’s Solid Waste Division (SWD) takes these complaints seriously.

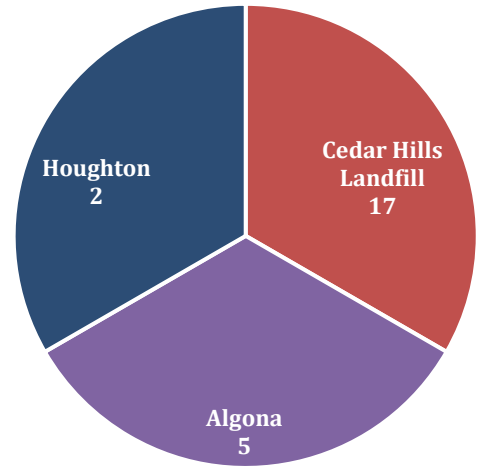
*Prevention* is our most effective strategy. To control odors and wind-blown litter and reduce potential for wildlife to get into and carry away garbage, the active areas at the landfill are covered at the end of each working day.

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

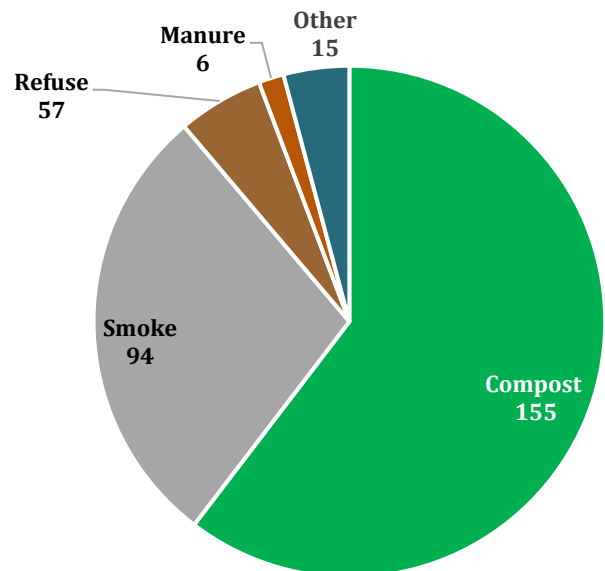
In 2020, SWD received 24 odor complaints from six households. Seventeen complaints were attributed to landfill operations; seven complaints related to other SWD facilities (Algona and Houghton transfer stations).

In 2020, 590 neighborhood odor checks were performed by SWD staff. In 263 instances (44.6 percent), no odors were detected. Where odors were detected, they were classified into five categories; Refuse, Compost, Smoke, Manure, and Other. Examples of “other” odors include sewage, odor from the contaminated stormwater pond, chlorine, and unidentified odors. Data analysis of the 2020 neighborhood odor checks shows that refuse accounted for less than 10 percent of the odors detected.

**17 of the 24 odor complaints called in to SWD in 2020 were attributed to the landfill**



**Refuse accounted for less than 10% of odors detected in daily neighborhood checks in 2020**



# Solid Waste Division

Anyone who notices 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 an immediate response. People should always call 911 first if they believe there is a potential emergency or a risk to safety, health, or property.

The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) has jurisdiction over King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties, where they seek 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 but does not generally provide field investigations for complaints received. In 2020, PSCAA received 860 odor complaints for the Maple Valley area of which 579 (67 percent) cited Cedar Grove Compost, 186 (21 percent) specified the landfill, and 95 were uncertain as to whether the source was the landfill or Cedar Grove. Three households accounted for 152 (62 percent) of the odor complaints to PSCAA about Cedar Hills in 2020. In 23 of those cases, complainants were uncertain regarding whether the odor was from Cedar Grove or the landfill.

**21% of the complaints to PSCAA in 2020 for the Maple Valley area were specifically attributed to the Cedar Hills Landfill**

