



**2022 Analysis of Odor Complaints**

King County’s Solid Waste Division (SWD) occasionally receives complaints regarding odor emitted from its facilities, and we take these complaints seriously.

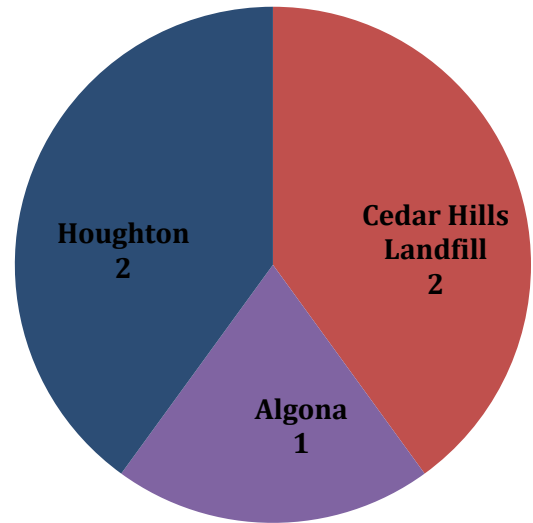
In 2022, SWD received five odor complaints through our customer service line. Two complaints were attributed to operations at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill, a decrease from 12 complaints in 2021. Three complaints were related to other SWD facilities (Algona and Houghton transfer stations).

*Prevention* is our most effective strategy. In the next few years, both the Houghton and Algona transfer stations will be replaced with modern recycling and transfer stations designed to provide significantly better odor control. At the Cedar Hills landfill, active areas are covered at the end of each working day to control odors and wind-blown litter and to reduce the potential for wildlife to get into and carry away garbage. SWD is continually researching means by which landfill odor can be reduced. Since February 2022, SWD has deployed new equipment at the active face where refuse is being placed. Manufactured by Byers Scientific, the technology uses a vapor system that neutralizes odors. Based on the downturn in odor complaints outlined in this report, the system appears to be highly effective.

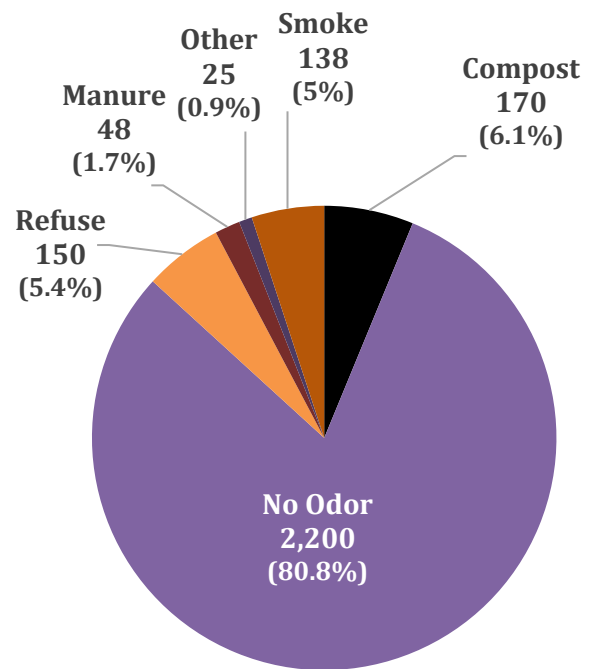
*Monitoring and investigation* are ongoing. On weekdays, trained staff conduct odor checks five times per day across the landfill and once through surrounding neighborhoods. On weekends, odor checks are conducted across the landfill three times a day. Staff also monitor areas associated with previous odor complaints.

In 2022, SWD conducted over 2,500 neighborhood odor checks. In 2,200 instances (80.8 percent), no odors were detected. Odors were classified into five categories: *refuse*, *compost*, *smoke*, *manure*, and *other*. Examples of “other” odors include sewage, odor from the contaminated stormwater pond, and chlorine. Where odors were detected, refuse accounted for 150 of the 531 detections--about 28 percent.

**2 of the 5 odor complaints called in to SWD were attributed to the Cedar Hills landfill**



**Refuse odor was detected in about 5% of neighborhood odor checks**



# 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 2022, PSCAA received 90 odor complaints for the Maple Valley area of which 32 (35 percent) cited Cedar Grove Compost, 46 (51 percent) specified the landfill, and 12 (14 percent) were uncertain as to whether the source was the landfill or Cedar Grove. The *percentage* of complaints attributable to the landfill is significantly higher than the 16 percent reported in 2021; however, the overall *number* of complaints is down dramatically from 2021—from 86 in 2021 to 46 in 2022.

**51 percent of the odor complaints submitted to PSCAA in 2022 for the Maple Valley area were attributed to the Cedar Hills landfill, while landfill-related complaints were down 46.5% from 2021**

