

Environmental & Community Stewardship



at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill

The King County Solid Waste Division is committed to being a good neighbor, protecting the environment, and maintaining the health and safety of our employees.

PROTECTING AIR QUALITY

KING COUNTY MONITORS AIR QUALITY TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OUR EMPLOYEES AND NEIGHBORS OF CEDAR HILLS.



emissions

Monthly monitoring of methane around landfill perimeter to confirm safety for neighboring community.

Quarterly monitoring of the landfill cover.

In 2023, landfill employees traveled a total of 150 miles and collected over 112,000 individual measurements to detect and address methane leaks in landfill cover.

Achieving a 95.8% pollutant removal rate for methane when gas is flared (burned off).

employee health & safety

Monitored for airborne arsenic over four days in 2021 and 13 days in late 2023, found no detectable levels of airborne arsenic.

Complying with regulators to evaluate airborne arsenic emissions from the site.

Updated employee safety plans to include orientation and guidance around potential arsenic and other chemical exposures.

Committed to ongoing testing in 2024 and beyond.

odor control

Five odor checks per day, including multiple odor checks in surrounding community.

Daily cover of active areas of the landfill to control odors, pests, and debris.

Use of advanced system to detect and preemptively treat nuisance odors before they reach the landfill perimeter.

24/7 complaint response for community members.



WATER QUALITY MONITORING

WE MONITOR AND TEST WATER QUALITY TO PROTECT THE COMMUNITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT.



groundwater

Routine groundwater monitoring at 50 wells to evaluate water quality of shallow and deep aquifers beneath the landfill.

Annual sampling of select off-site drinking water wells to ensure safe drinking water for neighbors.

Monitoring results show groundwater leaves the site cleaner than when it entered.

wastewater/leachate

Twice weekly sampling of leachate, or landfill wastewater, to evaluate effectiveness of environmental controls and determine compliance with industrial wastewater standards.

Every year, about 125 million gallons of wastewater is collected and sent to South Treatment Plant in Renton to further break down pollutants so it's clean enough to send to Puget Sound.

stormwater

Quarterly sampling of stormwater runoff to evaluate effectiveness of best management practices to protect nearby streams and wetlands.

LANDFILL GAS MANAGEMENT

WE MAINTAIN AND REGULARLY MONITOR OUR LANDFILL GAS COLLECTION SYSTEM.



landfill gas collection and monitoring

Collecting and treating landfill gas to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Monitor 885 landfill gas collection wells at Cedar Hills and perform approximately 26,500 landfill gas well inspections each year.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

WE WORK WITH NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES TO KEEP THEM INFORMED AND ENSURE THEIR VOICES ARE HEARD.



Twice-yearly Cedar Hills community meetings.

Twice-yearly community tours.

Postcard mailers and eNewsletters.

Additional public participation during environmental processes, such as the State Environmental Policy Act review.

Public representation on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, and Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

Annual Reports and other information on Cedar Hills accessible via Solid Waste Division website.

Additional project-based outreach as needed.

Solid Waste Division Customer Service desk available during business hours and 24/7 complaint response line.

COMPLIANCE

WE WORK WITH THESE REGULATORS TO ENSURE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.

Regulatory Partners:

Public Health-Seattle & King County
King County Industrial Waste Pretreatment Program
Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
Washington State Department of Ecology
Environmental Protection Agency



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

Alternate formats available upon request.
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