

Cedar Hills Regional Landfill Fact Sheet



Cedar Hills Regional Landfill with Mt. Rainier in background

The Cedar Hills Regional Landfill has provided for the safe and efficient disposal of King County's solid waste since 1965. The landfill serves the solid waste disposal needs of 1.28 million people, or about 70 percent of King County's population.

- **Location:** 16645 228th Avenue SE, Maple Valley in unincorporated King County
- **Size:** 920 acres - equivalent in size to nearly 700 football fields!
- **Maximum permitted height:** 788 feet
- **Operation:** the landfill operates 7 days a week, 362 days per year
- **Tons disposed in 2015:** 869,802 (a 3% increase over 2014)
- **Average tons of garbage per top load transfer trailer (used at older stations):** 20
- **Average tons of garbage per transfer trailer (used at new stations with compactors):** 25
- **Number of transfer trailers that arrived at the landfill in 2015:** 39,597 (a 3% increase over 2014)
- **Type of waste received:** Most of the waste received at the landfill is mixed municipal solid waste from residential and non-residential sources. A small amount, less than ten percent, is designated as special waste, which includes asbestos-containing materials, industrial wastes, contaminated soil, treated biomedical wastes, treatment plant grit and vector wastes, and other miscellaneous materials.
- **Landfill gas-to-energy:** This project leads to cleaner air and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. In 2015, the landfill generated an average of about 10,000 standard cubic feet per minute of landfill gas. This gas was transmitted to the Bio Energy Washington (BEW) gas-to-energy plant and converted into pipeline-quality biogas. The renewable gas produced equals the amount of energy needed to meet the natural gas needs of over 19,000 homes in King County.
- **Area 8 development:** Development of a new landfill cell began in 2015. Area 8 is expected to receive garbage in 2020.
- **Environmental monitoring:** environmental control systems are in place at the landfill to manage landfill gas, leachate, stormwater and groundwater. The Solid Waste Division monitors 50 groundwater wells located in the landfill buffer. The landfill gas management system includes extraction wells that prevent gas from leaving the site and probes that detect the movement of gas. The entire system is under vacuum and is designed to prevent landfill gas from escaping from the site – either through the ground or through the air.
- **Current estimate of when the landfill will reach capacity*:** 2027

* The forecast for landfill closure is based on the current Site Development Plan (2010) and is adjusted regularly for fluctuations in solid waste tonnage and is subject to change. The capacity, or life, of the landfill is based on the amount of incoming solid waste and the density and consolidation of materials in the landfill over time. These factors make it possible to only provide an estimated date of when the landfill might reach capacity, so the estimated closure date is modified as these factors vary.



Bio Energy Washington landfill gas-to-energy plant



Tippers unloading transfer trailers at landfill



Deer grazing in meadow at landfill

Alternative Formats On Request

206-477-4466 • TTY Relay: 711 • 1-800-325-6165 ext. 7-4466



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