In 2016 households and businesses generated 240,800 tons of garbage; with an estimated population of 181,000 people that averages to about 2,700 pounds per person each year. This breaks down to:

- 45,000 tons of materials were recycled
- 35,000 tons of yard debris, wood and food waste were composted
- 160,000 tons were disposed at the Knott Landfill

By 2030 it is estimated the amount of waste generated in the County will be almost 300,000 tons per year.

Why Do A Management Plan?

- Knott Landfill Recycling and Transfer Facility is the only landfill in Deschutes County. The landfill is expected to be full by 2029. To be prepared for the future, Deschutes County needs to make a plan now.
- New state regulations require each county to reduce waste disposal in landfills. Deschutes County’s recovery rate is currently 33%. The County’s new goal is to recover 45% of the waste generated by 2025.
- Residents and businesses generate recyclable materials and waste, so they have a role in meeting waste management goals. The plan provides a roadmap for everyone to follow.
- Changes to the solid waste system will likely require new or upgraded facilities to be constructed. The plan will evaluate the cost impacts of these facilities to ensure waste management services remain reliable and affordable.

The County Board of Commissioners has directed the Department of Solid Waste to prepare a comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan in 2018.
By state law Deschutes County and cities are responsible for ensuring waste is managed properly. They will work together with stakeholders, citizens, and businesses to evaluate options and prepare a plan to address these issues and develop a solid waste system to continue providing responsible and cost-effective services.

The County has retained a team of consultants that specialize in the field of waste management to work with our stakeholders to prepare a comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP).

Deschutes County will work cooperatively with Cities and service providers to offer citizens and businesses an integrated solid waste management system that delivers quality and cost-effective services while achieving the best use of our resources and reducing waste disposed in landfills.

The County has formed a Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) to work with staff and the consultant team to prepare the SWMP.

SWAC meetings are scheduled for the 4th Tuesday of each month from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Deschutes Services Building, DeArmond Room (1300 NW Wall Street, Bend, OR 97703). All meetings are open to the public. Note: Check the County website as meeting locations and time may change per SWAC availability.

SWMP updates, public meeting announcements, and meeting summaries are posted on the Department of Solid Waste website: www.deschutes.org/solidwaste under the Planning tab.

Several public open houses will be scheduled to get feedback on the draft plan.

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Learn more: www.deschutes.org/solidwaste