



Managing the Future of Solid Waste

Siting a new Solid Waste Management Facility

5 Things to Know

The new Solid Waste Management Facility **needs to be operational before 2029** when Knott Landfill is expected to be at capacity.

Building a new facility in Deschutes County is more **affordable and environmentally responsible** than trucking waste outside the County.

The County is working with an advisory committee and using a robust, **multi-step screening and evaluation process** to identify potential locations.

Siting a new Solid Waste Management Facility takes time and there are ongoing **opportunities for community to stay informed and engaged.**

The new Solid Waste Management Facility will be a **100-year asset** for our communities.

Deschutes County is working to identify a location for a new Solid Waste Management Facility to plan for the future and meet the needs of our growing communities. The new facility is part of the County's overall strategy to provide sustainable waste solutions, including ongoing recycling, composting, and other waste diversion programs.

Siting Study Milestones



Confirm Siting Criteria (complete)

Use public process to finalize siting evaluation criteria (engineering/site characteristic, natural environment, and land use).



Broad Screening (complete)

Use criteria and technical analyses to screen options countywide and identify 13 potential locations for further study.



Focused Screening

Use criteria and results of field studies, additional technical analyses, and property owner outreach to narrow to 3 to 5 potential locations.



Comparative Evaluation

Complete additional evaluation of shortlisted sites to recommend the best-suited location for Board of County Commissioners approval.



Future Permitting and Design

Begin multi-year process of property acquisition, permitting, and design, with ongoing outreach.

To request this information in an alternate format, please call (541) 317-3163 or send an email to accessibility@deschutes.org.



Deschutes County Solid Waste takes pride in providing a safe place for residents to dispose of or recycle unwanted materials.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is a new landfill needed?

The County's only landfill, Knott Landfill, is expected to be at capacity in 2029. As a result, the County is working to identify a location for a new disposal facility.

How will the new location be chosen?

The County is working through a multi-step process to screen and evaluate potential locations using environmental, land use, site characteristic, and engineering criteria.

Why not use a landfill somewhere else?

Continuing to manage solid waste locally will be more affordable for ratepayers and have fewer carbon emission impacts when compared to hauling waste out-of-county.

Will the community have input into the siting process?

The County is committed to a transparent process and is working with a Solid Waste Advisory Committee to evaluate siting options. Throughout, there will be continued outreach and opportunities for public comment.

How large will the new facility be?

The intent is to find a large enough site to have about 250 acres of future capacity for disposal

as well as space for a buffer between facility operations and neighboring properties.

Will the new location have public access?

The facility will not be open to the public but will be limited access to receive waste hauled from transfer stations throughout the County.

When will the siting process be complete?

The County anticipates identifying a shortlist of three to five potential locations in Spring 2023 for further study. The desire is to identify a site already owned by the County or enter into negotiations with a willing seller.

How can community members stay up to date?

The County is sharing information through a variety of tools, including a project webpage, email list, select mailings, briefings to community organizations, and a planned open house in Spring 2023.

How else is the County managing waste?

The County is working to make the best use of resources and recover 45 percent of waste by 2025. Ongoing steps include customer education as well as expanding facilities and programs for recycling and composting.



Learn more:

Visit: deschutes.org/managethefuture

Contact: managethefuture@deschutescounty.gov or (541) 317-3163