Seattle's Waste and Diversion Goals

The new North Transfer Station will help us process each type of solid waste more effectively and efficiently than ever before. This helps us get closer to achieving the City's goal to recycle 70 percent of our waste by 2022 and eventually the goal of zero-waste.

Where Seattle's Waste Goes

The old facility was built over 50 years ago, when Seattle processed all solid waste as garbage, which ended up in landfills. Today, the city separates solid waste into multiple waste streams with multiple end uses in mind.

Food & Yard Waste: Local composting facilities about 50 miles away

Scrap Metals: Seattle Iron and Metal, where scrap metals are melted down for reuse

Wood Waste: A facility where it is composted

Cardboard, Paper, Plastic, & Glass: A material recovery facility, where contaminants are removed and the materials are baled and shipped to a manufacturer for reuse and recycling

Garbage: Columbia Ridge Landfill in Arlington, Oregon

Seattle's Waste System

Residential customers receive weekly garbage and food/yard waste collection and bi-weekly recycling collection on the same day of the week. The City of Seattle contracts with two private haulers for residential and commercial collection.

1988: Yard waste is no longer permitted in the garbage.

2005: Recycle mandate is effective.

2015: Food waste mandate is effective.

Station Location and Hours

1350 N 34th Street, Seattle, WA 98103

8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., 7 days per week

Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day

Want to Learn More?

(206) 684-8400
www.seattle.gov/util/dump

North Transfer Station

Seattle's Newest Facility

The North Transfer Station is a state of the art facility designed to improve customer safety, increase capacity and efficiency, and reduce odor and noise. SPU worked with the community through a collaborative design process to create a facility that includes community amenities and sustainable features, such as public open spaces, green stormwater infrastructure, and solar panels. In addition, the new Reuse & Recycle building will reduce the amount of waste headed to the landfill. With the new features of the station, SPU is excited to be serving North Seattle once again!

Seattle Public Utilities

The North Recycle and Disposal Station was rebuilt as a modern and efficient state-of-the-art facility that will meet the growing future needs of Seattle.

Art

Partnering with Seattle's Office of Arts and Culture One Percent for Art program, artist Jean Shin re-used salvaged reinforcing steel from the old North Recycle and Disposal Station to evoke the historic contours of the site.

Water

The station's green stormwater infrastructure includes green roofs and pervious pavement to reduce stormwater runoff. Low-flow sinks, showers, and toilets use 40 percent less water than standard fixtures.

Lighting

Translucent skylights and wall panels provide natural lighting during the day. The lighting system automatically adjusts to occupancy and ambient light conditions to reduce electricity use.

Energy

Photovoltaic solar panels on the station roof produce up to 150 kilowatts of electricity to be utilized on site, enough to power up to 120 single-family homes.

Waste

During construction, more than 11,669 tons of waste materials were recycled, totaling 83.26 percent of the generated waste*. The station's new Reuse & Recycle building will support increased diversion of material from the annual waste stream at no cost to the public.

*Total through September 2016

Interior

The use of low volatile organic hydrocarbon (VOC) emission furniture and finishes provides a healthy indoor work place.

Exterior

East of the new facility, SPU created an open space that not only buffers the adjacent neighbors from the station, but also includes a play area for children, a sports court, an open lawn, walkways, and static exercise stations.

Size

The 5-acre site includes a Tipping & Transfer building with a main floor area of 65,000 square feet, and a 10,000-square foot Reuse & Recycle building.

Cost

Design and construction of the new facility cost $108 million.

Time-frame

The new facility was built in about 27 months, from July 2014 until November 2016.

Capacity

On a typical day, the station will receive approximately 400 tons of various materials. The station is designed to handle up to 750 tons per day as Seattle's population grows.

Odor, Noise, & Dust Control

All equipment operations and trailer parking will occur indoors. Dust is reduced by a misting system that spans the entire tipping floor, including high powered misters over the main drop chutes. Non-toxic odor-eating additives can be injected into the mist to reduce odors if necessary.

Safety & Efficiency

Commercial garbage trucks use a separate entrance and section of the station floor for faster unloading and a safer environment for all.

Traffic

The new station now has two inbound and three outbound scales, long queuing lanes, and a larger tipping floor to accommodate over 50 vehicles in line on site and reduce traffic congestion in the neighborhood.