

Kittitas County Transfer Station Stakeholder Interview Summary

Introduction and Background

Kittitas County is looking to relocate the Ellensburg Transfer Station to either a site already owned by the County or other suitable locations within the greater-Ellensburg area.

The new facility will replace the existing Ellensburg transfer station and will be designed to address some existing site challenges (location and size constraints, customer access issues during significant rainfall or spring runoff events, long queuing times and small unloading and processing areas) and prepare the County for future growth.

To better understand the interests of people in the communities served by the current transfer station and how best to involve community members in the siting and construction of the new station, project staff conducted informal interviews with key stakeholders. In addition, interviews were used to collect feedback on concerns with the existing facility and ways a new facility could be improved.

Selected Stakeholders

Interview participants were identified by project staff and were intended to be representative of a variety of community perspectives. Stakeholders included representatives from local governments and community groups.

Interviews were conducted with the following participants:

Name	Organization
Paul Jewell	Kittitas County
Ryan Lyyski	City of Ellensburg
Margaret Reich	City of Ellensburg
Barry Brunson	Our Environment/Kittitas Audubon Society
Sharon Lumsden	Kittitas Audubon Society
Charli Sorenson	County Residents Against PacifiClean; Grant County Public Utilities District

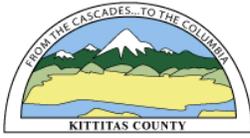
Methodology

Interviews were conducted by the project consultant team. Following a brief overview of the purpose and goals of the project, the interviewer asked participants for their feedback on a variety of topics and questions, including community perception of the Ellensburg Transfer Station, suggestions for a new site, and the best methods to involve the community in the process. Interviews were completed between April 11 and April 20, 2017.

Interview Questions

A standard set of interview questions were developed by the project team based on identified key issues and information needs. These questions served as a general guide during the interview process, allowing for a more free-form discussion to take place between the interviewer and interviewee.

The questions were divided into three categories: the existing facility, the new facility, and the public involvement process.



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General themes for the questions included:

- Key concerns that should be addressed in the siting and design of the new facility
- Key community members and organizations that should be informed about the project
- Ideas for informing the public and sharing information

Major Themes

Major themes that emerged through stakeholder feedback included:

- A convenient location is a priority to the surrounding community.
- Increasing the amount of recyclable plastics accepted at the new transfer station would be appreciated.
- Using local radio stations, stores and organizations will be necessary in informing and engaging the community.

Responses to Key Questions

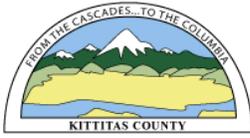
The stakeholder interviews provided insight into key concerns stakeholders have about the existing transfer station and the future vision for the new transfer station. Key feedback received is listed below and is organized by topic area.

Existing facility

- The primary concern with the existing Ellensburg Transfer Station is its size constraints, followed by the limited variety of recyclable plastics it accepts.
 - Curbside recycling accepts a wider variety of recyclable plastics.
- Messaging between the County and Waste Management is inconsistent on why materials are/are not accepted at the transfer station.
- As a user, not being able to pay with a credit card is inconvenient.

New facility

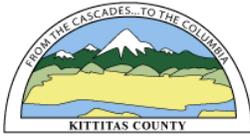
- The new transfer station should be sited:
 - with consideration to water availability and cost;
 - away from current and planned future residential growth;
 - away from streams to reduce the potential for water pollution;
 - designed with protection from wind; and
 - in a convenient industrial area.
 - People do not want to see it, smell it, or hear it and be able to easily access it.
- The County should be sensitive to a potential reduction in property values and economic inequality.
- Suggestions for the new transfer station include:
 - accept a wider variety of recyclable materials
 - permit recycling on weekends
 - increase accessibility for all, especially at the recycle area
 - develop clear and easy to understand signage



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Public involvement process

- Suggested methods for informing the community include:
 - Postcard mailing
 - Block ad in newspaper
 - Project-specific FaceBook page
 - Community Connect FaceBook postings
 - Kittitas County website
 - Event at Hal Holmes Community Center
 - Posters at grocery stores and parks (open spaces)
 - Community events and student clubs at Central Washington University
 - Live stream at a City Council meeting through ECTV
 - Local radio
 - KXLE
 - Ellensburg Community Radio
 - Daily Record Station
- Specific parts of the community, interest groups, organizations and others the project should be sure to include are:
 - City of Ellensburg Environmental Commission
 - Washington State Department of Ecology
 - Local tribes and schools
 - Mid Columbian Fisheries
 - Our Environment
 - Pastors of Unitarian and Methodist churches
 - Audobon Society
 - Rotary Club
 - Oddfellows (Howard Lyman)
 - Cattlemen's Association
 - Residents Against PacifiClean
 - Central Washington University, Solid Waste Coordinator
- Places to share information via displays, booths or printed information
 - Saturday Market
 - AG Board
 - Old Mill Country Store
 - Ace Hardware
 - Anderson Hay (Mark Anderson)
 - Midstate Co-op Farm Store
 - True Value
 - Arnold's Ranch and Home
 - Calaway Trading Inc.
 - Knudson Lumber
 - Habitat for Humanity
- Project team should be mindful that there are two audiences in Ellensburg regarding this project: college population and long-time residents. For the latter, some may not welcome any change.



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- When communicating with locals, keep the dialogue informal and use community group leaders for dispersing information.
- The project team will most likely reach people during the evening or on weekends.

Next Steps

Feedback received through the stakeholder interviews will be shared with the project team to help shape the project's public involvement process and gain community acceptance of the new facility.