

# Kittitas County Transfer Station Community Meeting Summary

---

## Details

Date: June 6, 2017

Time: 6 – 8 PM

Location: Kittitas Valley Event Center (Manastash Room)  
901 E 7th Avenue, Ellensburg, WA

## Attendees

Approximately 30 interested community members attended the community meeting and signed in.

## Key Topics

The following topics were brought up by members of the public during the open house:

- Noise and odor
- Fire hazards
- Signage
- Traffic impacts and previous studies
- Accessibility
- Flood risks at potential sites
- Additional materials accepted at the transfer station
- No additional impacts (property taxes, fees, etc.)
- Project funding and costs

## Outreach Materials

Project staff developed and updated a variety of outreach materials for different purposes:

### Notifications

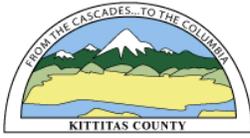
- Postcards were mailed to approximately 15,000 households within the project area as the initial invitation to the community meeting.
- Radio announcements were aired on Friday June 2, 2017 and Monday June 5, 2017 to remind and encourage the public to attend.
- Note: Meeting sign-in sheet responses revealed almost all attendees learned about the meeting from the postcard. Additional means noted were word of mouth, radio and newspaper (no newspaper ad was placed for this meeting.)

### Tools

- Participate Online, a website with online commenting, was released the week before the community meeting to serve as the project website. The website provides meeting details and serves as a platform for interested community members to provide feedback. The website includes the same material presented at the meeting and provides interested community members an opportunity to review the project information when it is convenient for them. The project team will be receiving feedback on the community meeting until June 20, 2017.

### Handouts

- Fact Sheets were provided to give a high-level overview of the project.
- Comment forms were provided as an opportunity for the public to provide their feedback on the siting areas and criteria, and community values.



# Kittitas County Transfer Station Community Meeting Summary

---

## Display Boards

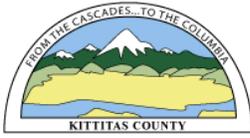
- Display boards were developed to provide detailed information on:
  - The project overview and purpose
  - Siting process and anticipated schedule
  - Preliminary siting criteria
  - Public involvement opportunities
  - Community values and concerns

## Feedback

At the meeting, eight comment forms were submitted. The project team continued to receive feedback until June 30 on the project website (participate online). Following June 30, the questions were removed from the Feedback page.

## Question and Answers

- Q1. Need to consider range fires during siting/design of facility.  
A1. The project team will consider range fires during the siting and design process.
- Q2. Where is the garbage collected at the transfer station disposed?  
A2. Solid Waste collected at the current transfer station is hauled to Waste Management Inc.'s landfill located in Wenatchee. The landfill has a permitted life of over 100 years.
- Q3. How big is the existing site?  
A3. Approximately 9 acres.
- Q4. What growth increases were used to calculate projected tonnages and traffic counts?  
A4. The projected traffic and tonnages accounts assumed a 30 year facility design life, population projections prepared by Washington State's Office of Financial Mangement, and 2015 and 2016 scalehouse data from the existing facility.
- Q5. How will the project be financed?  
A5. The Kittitas County solid waste program operates as an enterprise fund and revenue is generated by charging tipping (dumping) fees at the Cle Elum and Ellensburg Transfer Stations. Portions of the tipping fees have already been set aside to pay for a new facility, but that isn't enough. In addition, the County will likely use other financing mechanisms to develop the facility.
- Q6. Will property taxes be raised to pay for the new facility?  
A6. No. Property taxes are not used to operate the current system and property taxes will not be raised to pay for the new facility. The facility will be financed by using portions of the tipping fee and other financing methods.
- Q7. How many times has the existing station experienced floods?  
A7. The transfer station has been completely closed approximately five times since opening in 2000 due to flooding. The composting and white goods areas have been closed more frequently than



## Kittitas County Transfer Station Community Meeting Summary

---

that. In addition, during other flooding events, the facility has remained open, however, temporary detour measures are used to keep customer traffic flowing to the transfer station.

- Q8. Has a traffic study been completed? Is the traffic study available to review?  
A8. A traffic study will be conducted during the permitting/environmental permitting process. To estimate projected traffic flows to and from the facility, the project team assumed a 30 year design life, population projections prepared by Washington State's Office of Financial Management, and 2015 and 2016 existing scalehouse traffic data to perform conceptual design of the facility. This information is summarized in the draft December 2016 Basis of Design (BOD) report which is located on the project's website.
- Q9. What will happen to the existing transfer station site?  
A9. Kittitas County currently leases the current site from the City of Ellensburg. It will be returned to the city.
- Q10. What size parcel is needed for the new facility?  
A10. Based on projected growth and traffic estimates, the estimated size needed for a new facility is approximately 25 acres.
- Q11. What is the current lease payment?  
A11. *\*Approximately \$33,085.22 per year. And it goes up every year.*
- Q12. Will the current site need to be torn down?  
A12. We don't believe so, but that will need to be determined.
- Q13. Where is the funding source for this project?  
A13. Tipping fees and likely some financing.
- Q14. What is the tipping fee revenue generated per month?  
A14. *\*June 2017: Garbage \$250,049, Yard Waste \$10,315.00  
2016: Garbage \$2,442,420.00, Yard Waste \$98,296.51*

*\*Answers provided after the community meeting.*