

BCTT Republic Landfill Tour: Member Questions

This document includes all the questions BCTT Workgroup members sent in from the Republic Landfill Tour, September 24, 2022.

The questions have been roughly grouped into six sections: Communication, Cost & Spending, Emissions & the Environment, Landfill Input & Content, Landfill Functions, and Power Generation. Within each section, the questions are presented in alphabetical order based on the first letter of the first word in each question.

Communication:

1. I have had trouble finding out the details every time I move and in different cities/counties over the years in the Willamette Valley. The most accurate information I have found lately is through the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition. Not everyone knows about them though, I just found this recently after 30 years of living here. For example, on the tour, one of the leaders told me that in my neighborhood (Lewisburg) there is household composting. I have never been offered that or given any information about that. I have looked on your website and talked to people on the phone and it is not clear.
2. I sat next to a gentleman who was a member of the public, that told me that this whole tour must be a media stunt on behalf of Republic Services. I was happy to explain to him that in fact we the work group requested this tour. He didn't know there was a work group. I would be interested to know how he found out about the tour, I wish I would have asked at the time.
3. What is the best way to obtain information about the exact details of local recycling pick-up and what is collected?
4. With the new recycling legislation and working with this committee, what are your plans to improve communication with the community about what is recyclable and what services are offered?

Cost & Spending:

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1. Could we get total monies received from all leases, taxes for Benton County? I know this is in other documents, but I fear it has been buried.
2. Could we get a break down of costs per user, that should include residential and commercial, host and non-host, covered loads and non-covered loads?
3. How are closure costs for the Old Landfill addressed in current operating budgets and financial assurance instruments?

Emissions & the Environment:

1. Do you have a record of your carbon footprint? What is the estimated decrease with the change to electric transportation?
2. Emissions directly to the atmosphere: Have estimates been made? What do they include as sources e.g. open face of landfill, fuel for dozer like equipment use on site, emissions from garbage trucks on site?
3. Engineered wetlands at NE corner of 99W and Coffin Butte Road. Appears to be in wet condition. Unclear if this is the 40 acres of dedicated wetlands. DEQ records (2005)(called Figure 2-2 and attached) indicate a Leachate Pond was located on the east side of the site. Where is its approximate location on a current site map?
4. What is being done to ensure the Old Landfill is not a continuing environmental problem?

Landfill Input & Content:

1. Could we get a breakdown of counties that includes total tonnage? It should include or break out residential and commercial.
2. DEQ tracks Municipal Solid Waste disposal and Recyclables. Info on Industrial Wastes also should be available. Disconnect in numbers between RSI and DEQ mentioned by tour participant. Need DEQ (Brian Fuller) and RSI (Sean and Russ) to resolve disconnects?

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3. How many medical systems use the landfill?
4. What 1-3 waste products cause the most volume in the landfill locally and by the other counties that use the landfill? Do you see a future where these could be decreased?
5. What percentage of waste at the landfill is medical and how much of that is local? What types of medical waste do you take and what is the process?

Landfill Functions:

1. “While we are on the landfill tour on Saturday, I heard you talking with Joel Geier, and the subject of the arc lamps on the scene came up. You told Joel that the lamps were not used mornings, only in afternoons... However, I went out this morning at 6 am and saw that the lights were indeed already on atop Coffin Butte, and there appeared to be operations going on, as I could see the red taillights of trucks moving around up there also... So I am looking for an explanation from you that reconciles your statement to Joel and the ground truth.”
2. Could we get the plan for quarry once it reaches its end?
3. Have seeps been observed in the rock formations between the current landfill and the Knife River operation? Between the Old Landfill and the Knife River operation? Do/did these seeps contain landfill leachate constituents? Does/did testing of the quarry pond or site discharge contain landfill leachate constituents?
4. I work at the hospital in Corvallis and have been working on improving recycling on the floor I work on. In doing so I found out that the hospital doesn't recycle glass. Is there a reason for this and how can recycling be improved at local companies? Is there a department leader that helps with this?

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Power Generation:

1. Clarifications of the net amount of energy generated and overall environmental emissions would be helpful. Examples: What are the constituents of the landfill gas and a what concentration? What fraction of the landfill gas received is used in the power production engines? What fraction is flared? Is supplemental natural gas or other fuel used to assist flare operations/efficiency? What are the environmental emissions from the power plant site (including the flair)? What fraction of the electric power generated is used onsite? Clarify what the impact of CB not being able to maintain its recent rate of yearly increased trash inflow on power generation. Hypothetically, what would be the impact on power generation if CB operations were limited to accepting materials from only Benton County? Please include the impact on CPI customers, corporate financial condition, etc.
2. I am a customer of Consumer power, I was excited to learn about the methane gas being used to power homes. How much methane and other greenhouse gases are released per year that doesn't make it to the power plant? Why aren't they able to be collected? You said compost was a large releaser of GHGE. Is there a way to decrease that by different methods?
3. Is all the landfill gas collected piped to the power plant? How much gas vents from the landfill?