

LANDFILL

Who owns and operates Coffin Butte Landfill?

Republic Services, Inc. (operating as Valley Landfills, Inc.) owns and operates Coffin Butte Landfill. Benton County does not own or operate this landfill.

When will Coffin Butte Landfill reach its estimated capacity?

The Benton County Talks Trash (BCTT) Workgroup estimated the Coffin Butte Landfill is expected to reach its permitted capacity between 2037 and 2039. Republic Services plans to apply for a Conditional Use Permit to expand the landfill.

How many landfills are there nearby?

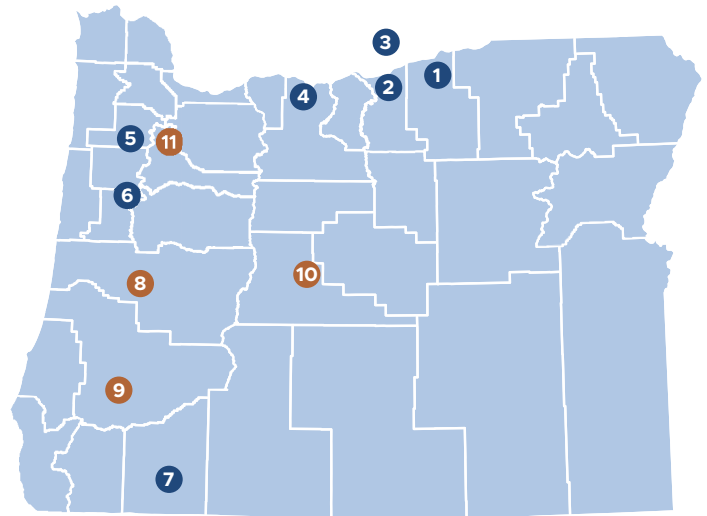
There are seven regional landfills in Oregon and two in Washington near the Oregon state line. Three landfills are located west of the Cascades. Oregon’s landfills can be found here: oregon.gov/deq/ghgp/pages/landfill-methane-emissions-reduction.aspx

Can Benton County stop Coffin Butte Landfill from accepting solid waste from outside the county or region?

No, Benton County cannot stop the landfill from accepting waste from outside the County or region. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that prohibiting outside waste would violate the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

What does the “regional landfill” designation mean?

A regional landfill, as defined by Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 459.005(23), receives more than 75,000 tons of solid waste per year from outside its immediate service area. Coffin Butte Landfill has met this definition since 1993.



Oregon Major Disposal Sites

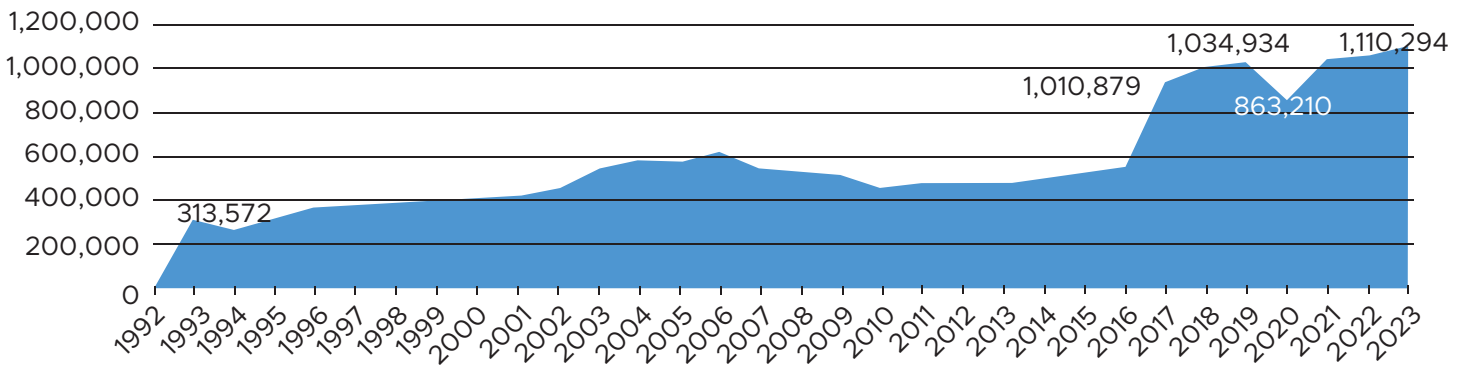
REGIONAL

1. Finley Buttes Regional, *Waste Connections*
2. Columbia Ridge Regional, *Waste Management*
3. Roosevelt (WA) Regional, *Republic Services*
4. Wasco County Regional, *Waste Connections*
5. Riverbend Regional, *Waste Management (closing in 2 years)*
6. Coffin Butte Regional, *Republic Services*
7. Dry Creek Regional, *Rogue Disposal*

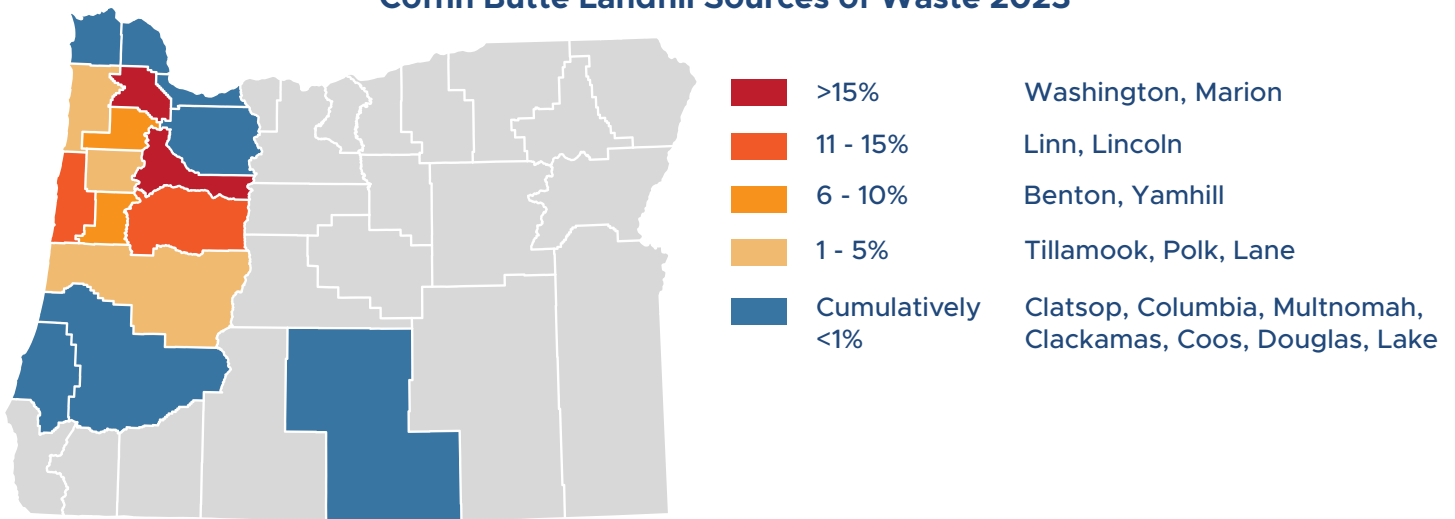
IN-COUNTY

8. Short Mountain, Lane County
9. Roseburg, Douglas County
10. Knott, Deschutes County *(closing in 5 years)*
11. Reworld Marion, Covanta Holding Corp

Coffin Butte Annual Tons (from all sources)



Coffin Butte Landfill Sources of Waste 2023



COFFIN BUTTE LANDFILL OPERATIONS AND IMPACTS

What is Coffin Butte Landfill's service area?

In 2023, Coffin Butte Landfill accepted waste from 16 counties. Benton County contributes about 10% of the landfill's annual waste.

How much revenue does the landfill generate for Benton County?

In 2021, the landfill generated \$2 million in franchise fees for Benton County's General Fund and is projected to increase to \$3.5 million by 2024. These funds support various public services, including safety, health, and community services.

The total estimated General Fund budget that was originally adopted for 2023-25 was \$146,564,540.

Decisions to approve or deny land use permits at the landfill are not revenue-based decisions.

What is the environmental impact of the landfill?

Federal and State regulations are essential for safeguarding the health of our communities and environment. Proper waste containment and closure procedures protect ecosystems and groundwater quality.

The landfill must comply with DEQ and EPA regulations on emissions and waste management.

What is Benton County doing about landfill methane and greenhouse gases?

While Benton County does not directly regulate landfill emissions, it recognizes the impact that landfill gasses have on the community living near the landfill and the earth in terms of climate change.

What is the impact of Coffin Butte Landfill on surrounding counties?

The landfill provides essential waste management services for Benton County and the region by supporting efficient waste management for several Oregon cities and counties.

What are the main types of materials landfilled at Coffin Butte?

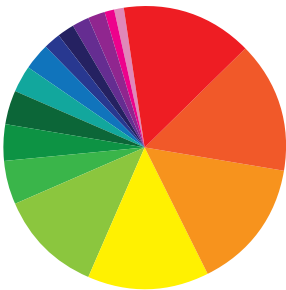
Commonly landfilled materials include construction and demolition debris, compostable materials, packaging, curbside recyclables, and miscellaneous inorganics. Over half of these materials could be recycled, composted, or used for energy recovery.

What steps is Benton County taking to improve solid waste management?

The County is developing a Sustainable Materials Management Plan (SMMP) and promoting changes to support sustainable materials management. The aim is to minimize landfill use and maximize recycling and reuse of materials.

60% OF OREGON'S GARBAGE COULD BE RECYCLED, COMPOSTED, OR USED TO GENERATE ENERGY

- 15% Food
- 15% Wood
- 15% Paper
- 14% Misc. Inorganics
- 12% Plastic
- 5% Metal
- 4% Asphalt Roofing
- 4% Textiles
- 3% Carpet
- 3% Gypsum
- 2% Yard Debris
- 2% Furniture & Mattresses
- 2% Misc. Organics
- 2% Glass
- 1% Electronics
- 1% Hazardous Materials



LANDFILLED MATERIALS BY TYPE:

- Compostable: 49%**
- Construction and Demolition: 20%**
- Packaging: 17%**
- Curbside Recyclables: 12%**
- Other: 2%**

LANDFILL GOVERNANCE

Who has the authority to make decisions about the landfill?

The landfill's operations are subject to a complex web of federal, state, and local regulations, in addition to decisions made by the landfill operator.

FEDERAL REGULATIONS:

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA):

Administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the RCRA sets the framework for the proper management of hazardous and non-hazardous solid waste. Key provisions include:

Subtitle C: Governs hazardous waste from its generation to its disposal, commonly referred to as "cradle-to-grave" management. This includes requirements for waste generators, transporters, and treatment, storage, and disposal facilities (TSDFs).

Subtitle D: Focuses on non-hazardous solid waste, establishing criteria for municipal solid waste landfills (MSWLFs). These criteria cover design, operation, groundwater monitoring, and closure requirements to protect human health and the environment.

EPA Standards: These standards ensure landfills incorporate protective measures like liners, leachate collection systems, and gas monitoring to prevent environmental contamination.

STATE REGULATIONS:

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ): The DEQ enforces state regulations and standards for solid waste management, including the permitting and oversight of landfills. Key responsibilities include:

Permitting: Issuing permits for landfill operations, which detail specific conditions and requirements that the landfill must follow.

Inspections and Monitoring: Conducting regular inspections and monitoring to ensure compliance with environmental standards.

Enforcement: Taking enforcement actions against non-compliant facilities, which can include fines, operational restrictions, or even closure orders.

Waste Reduction Programs: Implementing state-wide initiatives to promote recycling, composting, and waste reduction.

COUNTY AUTHORITY:

Benton County Board of Commissioners (BOC) and County Departments: The BOC plays a critical role in local land use decisions affecting the landfill. Their responsibilities include:

Conditional Use Permits (CUPs): When appealed from the Planning Commission, the BOC reviews and makes the final decision on CUP applications for landfill expansions or significant operational changes. These permits impose specific conditions to mitigate potential impacts on the community and environment.

Land Use Planning: Ensuring landfill operations align with the County's comprehensive land use plan and zoning regulations.

Public Hearings and Community Involvement:

Facilitating public hearings and soliciting community input on landfill-related decisions to ensure transparency and address public concerns.

Solid Waste Ordinances: Benton County has ordinances that govern solid waste management within its jurisdiction, including regulations on waste collection, recycling, and disposal.

Benton County Planning Commission: Their duties include:

Reviewing Land Use Applications: Assessing, recommending, or making decisions on CUP applications and other land use requests related to the landfill that consider factors like environmental impact, traffic, and compatibility with surrounding land uses.

Community Engagement: Engaging with the public with land use hearings to gather input and ensure that community concerns are considered in decision-making processes.

POTENTIAL LANDFILL EXPANSION

What happens if Republic Services applies for a landfill expansion?

If Republic Services or any other entity applies for a landfill expansion, the application will undergo the same review process as other Conditional Use Permit (CUP) applications. This involves a thorough evaluation by County planning staff that considers factors such as environmental impact, traffic implications, and community feedback. The process is designed to ensure transparency and provide opportunities for public input and provide approval or denial of the application.

What does the Benton County Planning Commission do?

The Benton County Planning Commission plays a critical role in the County’s land use planning and development processes. They review CUP applications and other land use proposals, assess their compliance with County regulations, and consider the impacts on the community. The Planning Commission decides whether to approve or deny CUP applications. If appealed in a timely manner, the Benton County Board of Commissioners make the final decision on the appeal. The Commission also helps develop and update County planning policies and regulations to guide sustainable development and growth in the County.

What factors are considered during the review of a Conditional Use Permit application?

County staff evaluate CUP applications based on criteria outlined in the zoning code, including the project’s compatibility with surrounding land uses, potential impacts on the environment, transportation infrastructure, and public health and safety. They also assess proposed mitigation measures and design standards to ensure the project meets all necessary requirements.

How long does the Conditional Use Permit process typically take?

The timeline for processing a CUP application varies depending on the complexity of the project, the completeness of the application, and other factors. County staff provide an estimated timeline and keep applicants informed throughout the process to ensure clarity.

Are there any additional resources or expertise considered during the application process?

Yes, applicants are encouraged to seek professional expertise, such as engineering, planning, or environmental consulting services to support their application. This helps ensure that accurate and comprehensive information is provided that facilitates a thorough review by County staff and decision-makers.

What is a Pre-Application Meeting?

A Pre-Application Meeting is an opportunity for applicants to meet with staff from various County divisions and state partners to receive valuable feedback on more complex projects before completing the final application. These meetings are not public meetings or official application submissions but serve to guide applicants in preparing a more robust and complete application.

Where can I find more information about the Conditional Use Permit process in Benton County?

For more information about the CUP process, including application requirements, zoning regulations, and contact information for County planning staff, visit [Benton County’s Land Use and Planning website](#) or contact the County planning office directly. This resource provides comprehensive details and support for applicants and community members interested in land use and planning processes.

BENTON COUNTY TALKS TRASH (BCTT) INITIATIVE

■ How has Benton County coordinated with the community and partners about solid waste management?

The Benton County Talks Trash (BCTT) Workgroup was a collaborative initiative aimed at addressing community concerns about the Coffin Butte Landfill. It sought to facilitate thoughtful dialogue, gather diverse perspectives, and develop actionable recommendations to improve waste management practices in Benton County.

The BCTT Workgroup involved community members and partners that developed a Final Report that identified 218 findings and recommendations for a sustainable solid waste future.

■ Who made up the BCTT Workgroup?

The workgroup included a variety of partners such as local government officials, waste management professionals, environmental advocates, community members, and industry representatives.

■ How did the BCTT Workgroup engage with the community?

The workgroup engaged with the community through regularly scheduled public meetings, forums, tours, and workshops. These events allowed community members to express concerns, ask questions, and receive updates on waste management practices. Site visits helped workgroup members and the public gain a firsthand understanding of landfill operations.

■ What types of research and data analysis did the BCTT Workgroup conduct?

The workgroup collaborated with environmental scientists, waste management experts, and regulatory agencies.

The workgroup collected data on landfill capacity, waste diversion rates, and environmental monitoring. This data was analyzed to inform policy recommendations and identify areas for improvement.

■ What are some of the outcomes and achievements of the BCTT Workgroup?

Key achievements include improved communication between partners, historical context of Coffin Butte, a library of previous decisions, estimated life of the landfill, process changes influenced by workgroup recommendations, and increased public awareness about waste management.

A specific outcome was the recommendation to create a regional Sustainable Materials Management Plan (SMMP), which the County is currently developing.

SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PLAN

■ What is the Sustainable Materials Management Plan (SMMP) and how is it being developed?

The SMMP aims to identify opportunities and reduce negative impacts across the lifecycle of materials. The plan development will involve problem identification, information gathering, solution making, and securing endorsements and buy-in. Benton County is working with consultants and partners to create a regional, action-oriented plan.

■ Why did the Board of Commissioners dissolve the Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC)?

The SWAC was replaced by the regional SMMP Task Force to better address the evolving needs of regional materials management planning.



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