Outagamie County
RECYCLING & SOLID WASTE

Northwest Landfill Project Fact Sheet

The new Northwest Landfill project is a key component of Outagamie County Recycling & Solid Waste's (OCRSW) mission "to provide our communities with exceptional materials management services using safe and environmentally sound operational practices."

In keeping with that mission, OCRSW partnered with Brown and Winnebago counties in 2003 to form the Tri-County Partnership commonly known as the BOW. Under this 25-year agreement, the three counties work together to coordinate waste disposal through sound landfill best management practices.

Serving 500,000 residents in 65 municipalities

A report completed in 2020, which was initiated at the mid-way point of the agreement, found that the partnership saved the three counties $48 million through administration and operations cost sharing. As a result, OCRSW has been able to keep waste disposal tipping fees stable for companies and residents.

$48 million in savings

With significant savings realized, each county recently signed a new BOW agreement, extending the partnership through 2042. A key feature of this new agreement is the additional flexibility it provides including parallel landfill operations in Brown and Outagamie counties.

Northwest Landfill

Outagamie's 450-acre solid waste site was planned and developed in 1975 to be a landfill and resource recovery campus. The Northwest Landfill is a continuation of that plan as waste tonnage has grown significantly since the inception of BOW. Increased operational flexibility is required to match that growth in tons.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) recently approved the permit for the Northwest Landfill and construction begins this year through 2022. It will be operational in 2023.

Stewards of the Environment

OCRSW takes a proactive approach to environmental stewardship and implements projects and programs to enhance the quality of life for the region through a cleaner, safer environment. Our vision for the future includes continued increase of integrated materials management and decrease of waste quantities requiring landfilling.

We've designed a landfill that helps protect the environment while taking advantage of the gas created by the landfill. This gas was used by an area utility to create electricity for the region. Through a new partnership, the landfill gas will soon be used as a renewable resource by homes and businesses throughout the United States.

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Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) is a much cleaner form or energy to replace carbon-based fossil fuels. It will also create a revenue stream to further stabilize landfill and recycling operating costs.

The landfill has an active monitoring system above and below ground and OCRSW actively monitors 128 groundwater wells to ensure nothing is leaching from the landfill. Above ground cameras monitor for litter control, particularly during high wind events.

Award Winning Environmental Stewardship

This proactive approach meets and exceeds the strict environmental protection standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the WDNR. These efforts have been recognized and awarded by industry peers.

Being a Good Neighbor

Appearance, aesthetics and customer service are priorities each day for the OCRSW team as we strive to be a good neighbor, especially as the area continues to urbanize and encroach on the OCRSW campus. To that goal, OCRSW has implemented many initiatives including:

- Constructed and vegetated a 20-foot high, 1-mile-long highway screening berm.
- Landscaped the entire perimeter of the campus.
- Neighborhood litter monitoring patrol.
- Video cameras allow for continuous visual monitoring of the fencing and litter.
- On-site roads are watered for dust control. Both on-site and off-site roads are swept periodically.
- Coordinated with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services to provide ongoing bird-abatement services along with a private vendor to fly hawks to deter gulls.
- Actively managed landfill gas collection and flaring to minimize impact to neighboring residents.
- Active landfill gas (LFG) collection occurs throughout each phase of landfill development with horizontal and vertical collectors installed for containment and reuse.
- Installation of an air freshening misting system around the landfill perimeter to reduce odors.
- Extensive signage posted to aid the public while at the facility.