

Bow Lake Recycling and Transfer Station



FACT SHEET

18800 Orillia Road S
Tukwila, Washington 98188

[your.kingcounty.gov/
solidwaste/facilities/bowlake/
index.asp](http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/facilities/bowlake/index.asp)

Station hours of operation

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
24 hours	24 hours	24 hours	24 hours	12am-11:30pm	8:30am-5:30pm	9am-5pm

Recycling area hours (located outside of station)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
6am-8pm	6am-8pm	6am-8pm	6am-8pm	6am-8pm	8:30am-5:30pm	8:30am-5:30pm

Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day

Overview

Bow Lake Recycling and Transfer Station is located on a 20-acre property in Tukwila. It includes a waste transfer building, scalehouse, and recycling areas. It is bordered by Interstate 5 on the west side, privately owned property on the east side, the intersection of Orillia Road and South 188th Street to the south, and undeveloped, privately owned land to the north. The facility opened in July 2012, with expanded recycling added in October 2013, and replaced an older station built in 1977. It is the busiest transfer station in the King County system, processing about one third of the total tonnage. The station serves residents and businesses largely from the Auburn, Burien, Des Moines, Federal Way, Kent, Renton, SeaTac, and Tukwila areas.

Vehicle length limits

40 feet maximum combined length limit for vehicles and trailers from bumper to bumper.

What happens to the waste?

The waste is transported by county employees in covered trailers from Bow Lake to the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill, 17 miles away.

What happens to recyclable materials?

Recyclable materials are separated by type and distributed to local, national or international markets for processing into recycled content products. Reusable materials (bikes and textiles) are donated to local non-profits. Only materials that are empty, clean and dry when collected are acceptable for recycling.

Notable features

- The building has easy-to-use unloading areas, giving customers more room to maneuver and reducing wait times. It is also designed to protect customers and workers from the weather and to contain noise, dust, and odors. The building design allows high-volume waste handling while providing the flexibility to allow selective material recovery.
- Recycling and resource recovery
 - Outside the main building is an area that allows for collection and sorting of numerous recyclable materials. (See page two for a list of those materials).
 - Inside the main building, next to where self-haul customers unload, there are recycling bins for cardboard, clean wood, and scrap metal to encourage additional recycling.
 - Cardboard, yard waste, scrap metal, and wood (clean, untreated) must be sorted out and recycled.
- Water conservation efforts include:
 - Rainwater collected from the rooftop is stored in two vaults that hold up to 30,000 gallons of water which is used to wash tipping and receiving floors, compactors and compactor bays, and truck wheels.
 - Low-flow water fixtures.
 - The landscape design includes drought-tolerant native plants.
- Energy conservation efforts include:
 - Skylights on the roof and translucent windows on the east and west walls allow natural light to filter into the building.
 - Energy efficient fixtures and equipment
 - Excess heat capture and reuse
- Compaction of waste and of recyclable materials reduces the number truck trips off the island, lowering carbon emissions and transportation costs.



Customers unload waste onto the receiving floor



Recycling area

Bow Lake Recycling and Transfer Station

- An automated traffic management system promotes an efficient traffic flow, allows scales to be reversed and reconfigured to help clear heavy traffic, and provides the flexibility to serve customers with mixed loads of waste and recyclable materials.
- Recycled-content materials are used throughout the building, including recycled steel in the building structure, a cement substitute called fly ash, concrete rubble backfill, asphalt with recycled roofing content, recycled glass countertops, recycled-content gypsum board, insulation, and glazing.
- Bamboo plywood and Forest Stewardship Council-certified wood are two other examples of sustainable materials used in the building's construction.
- Two pre-load compactors allow for more efficient packing of trailers bound for King County's Cedar Hills Regional Landfill in Maple Valley.
- Funded by the 1% for Art Program and designed by artists Andy Cao and Xavier Perrot, "Confetti Cloud" invites viewers to see creative possibilities in ordinary recyclable materials.



Andy Cao and Xavier Perrot's "Confetti Cloud" sculpture gives new life to glass fragments harvested from a landfill at the renowned Pilchuck Glass School.

2023 at a glance

Who are the customers?

78 percent of visits were made by self-haul customers, who contributed 18 percent of the total solid waste received at the station. Commercial customers contributed 82 percent of the total solid waste with 22 percent of the visits.

Tons of solid waste disposed

258,037. This constitutes 32 percent of the solid waste at all King County transfer stations.

Total customer visits

196,626

Recycling services

- Appliances
- Cardboard*
- Mercury-containing light bulbs and tubes
- Scrap metal*
- Textiles
- Yard and Food Waste*
- The following can be combined in the large blue "Recyclable Materials" containers, must be empty, clean and dry:
 - Paper, including office paper, junk mail, envelopes, newspapers, magazines, catalogs, paper food boxes, cartons such as milk, juice and broth cartons, paper cups if securely tied in clear plastic bags, and hard and paperback books
 - Cans (aluminum, tin, steel)
 - Glass bottles and jars
 - Plastic bottles, cups, jugs, tubs, pots, food containers, clamshells, trays
 - Lids (3 inches or more)

* These materials must be recycled at facilities that accept these materials for recycling.

2023 Recycling Tonnage

Cardboard	Mixed Paper	Mixed Container	Glass	Metal	Yard Waste	Clean Wood	CFC Appliances	Misc	Total
857	104	28	60	1,819	6,447	1,975	238	277	11,892

Awards and recognition:

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™):

The LEED Green Building Rating System™ recognizes environmental leadership in the building industry. The U.S. Green Building Council has certified Bow Lake with the highest level of certification – Platinum – recognizing its state-of-the-art strategies.

SWANA Award: In 2014, the King County Solid Waste Division won the Solid Waste Association of North America Award for Excellence in Transfer Stations in recognition of the Bow Lake Recycling and Transfer Station.

American Council of Engineering Companies: Excellence in Design – Silver was awarded to King County in recognition of Bow Lake's Automated Traffic Management System.

Engineering News Record: Energy/Industrial Green Project of the Year (2014) and Project of the Year Finalist (2014)

Washington Asphalt Pavement Association: 2014 Special or Innovative Use Award for use of recycled asphalt shingles

Northwest Construction Consumer Council: Green Project of the Year (2013) for Achievement in Sustainability

Alternate formats on request

206-477-4466 | TTY Relay: 711



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

Waste
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