

Houghton Recycling & Transfer Station



FACT SHEET

11724 NE 60th Street
Kirkland, WA 98033
kingcounty.gov/houghton

Hours of operation

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

Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day

Overview

Houghton Recycling and Transfer Station was constructed in the mid-1960s on 8.4 acres. The station is bordered by the closed Houghton Landfill on the north side, Bridle Trails State Park on the south side, and private homes on the east and west sides. The station has an open-sided, direct-dump style transfer building, a scalehouse, and no-fee recyclable materials collection area. The station primarily serves residents and businesses from the Bellevue, Bothell, Kirkland, Redmond, and Woodinville areas.

In 2011, a number of improvements were completed to enable King County to operate the station safely, efficiently, and with less impact on neighbors and the surrounding community.

King County's 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan recommends providing a new, modern recycling and transfer facility in the northeast part of the county.

Vehicle length limits

25 feet. Max 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 Houghton to the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill, 24 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. Only materials that are empty, clean and dry when collected are acceptable for recycling. Reusable materials (textiles) are donated to local non-profits.

Notable features

- A screen wall made from recycled PVC pipe blocks wind, controls litter, and screens views of station operations
- A compactor for cardboard reduces the number of truck trips to a recycling facility in Seattle, lowering carbon emissions and transportation costs.

Above: Screen wall made from recycled materials



Compactors for recyclable materials



Constructed in 2011, a sound barrier wall along the west side of the transfer station helps reduce noise impact to neighbors

2023 at a glance

Who are the customers?

86 percent of visits were made by self-haul customers, who contributed 12 percent of the total solid waste received at the station. Commercial customers contributed 88 percent of the total solid waste with 19 percent of the visits.

Tons of solid waste disposed

124,468. This constitutes 16 percent of the solid waste at all King County transfer stations.

Total customer visits

85,823

Recycling services

- Cardboard*
- Textiles
- 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.



A commercial garage truck on the tipping floor

2023 Recycling Tonnage

Cardboard	Mixed Paper	Mixed Container	Glass	Misc	Total
344	59	16	24	15	783

Alternate formats on request

206-477-4466 | TTY Relay: 711



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

Waste
Prevention

Resource
Recovery

Waste
Disposal