



Alternatives to Outdoor Burning

LANDFILL

Benton Clean Air Authority, 650 George Washington Way, Richland, WA 99352 509/943-3396

What does this mean?

Use of landfill, either directly or via use of garbage service, is a widely available and viable alternative to burning. It is essential to avoid burning of garbage and other non-vegetative refuse, as burning these materials is illegal state-wide. For vegetative materials using the landfill is not the first choice alternative as several others are available, however, for some people and circumstances it may be the least costly and most convenient.

WHY ALTERNATIVES

After December 31, 2000, residential and land clearing burning will not be allowed within the urban growth areas of cities or where there are reasonable alternatives. Except for residential burning, which is exempt from a permit, outside the urban growth areas it will be necessary to obtain a written permit from the Benton Clean Air Authority for other types of burning. Vegetative residue cannot be hauled from an area where burning is prohibited to an area where burning is allowed.

This information is intended to briefly explain the use of a landfill could be used as an alternative to burning. Use of alternatives to burning is encouraged even in areas where burning is not prohibited

Despite the press over the last few years, the amount of landfill space, at least in eastern Washington, is not a significant problem. Most landfills have 50 to 100 year capacities. Landfilling is generally an accepted and easy way to dispose of yard debris.

WHO CAN THE USE OF LANDFILL?

Individuals, businesses, and any entity that generates vegetative waste may have needs to access landfills. Access to a landfill or regularly scheduled pickup service is available throughout Benton County. Some planning may be required should the alternative of choice, instead of burning, be disposal of vegetative waste in a landfill. Most regularly scheduled trash service companies allow only a certain number of bags or certain volume of material to be picked up at one time. Some companies will charge an additional fee if the number of bags, or volume limit is exceeded. Therefore, planning the amount of material to set out at one time is necessary.



While preferable to burning for disposal of vegetative waste reducing, reusing, and recycling alternatives to burning are preferable to landfill disposal.

AVAILABILITY OF LANDFILL SERVICES

Kennewick

Kennewick has curbside services provided by Waste Management with unlimited volume pickup. A transfer station located on 27th Street will accept materials hauled in by residents. Check with Kennewick for the dates of clean-up events.

Richland

Richland provides its own curbside pickup with unlimited volume.

There is no transfer station but Richland residents may dispose of their vegetative debris directly at the landfill free of charge. Non-Richland residents are charged \$16 per pickup load or \$32 for larger amounts. Check with Richland for dates for clean-up events.

Other rules and fees may apply for non-vegetative debris for Richland and non-Richland residents or commercial operations.

The City of Richland currently has a shredder operating at the Richland landfill. There is a fee to bring material in but individuals can obtain, free of charge, mulch from the operation provided they supply the vehicle for hauling.

West Richland

West Richland has curbside pickup provided by Ed's Disposal. Check with West Richland for dates of clean-up events.

Benton City

Benton City has curbside pickup provided by Ed's Disposal. A transfer station is scheduled to be open in Fall 2000. Check with Benton City for dates of clean-up events.

Prosser

Prosser has curbside pickup provided by Basin Disposal Inc. with unlimited volume.

Prosser residents also have a transfer station located in the city with regular access hours on Monday (9-5), Friday (1-6) and Saturday (9-5).

In addition, to regular curbside pickup, the City of Prosser sponsors spring and fall clean up events. These are usually a combination of residential yard debris, other non-vegetative trash, and hazardous household waste collections. Vegetative yard waste is collected at a central location.

DOWNSIDE AND PROBLEMS

➤ Besides burning, placing vegetative waste in a landfill is usually the next least environmentally friendly method of disposal. Some problems include lack of good de-

composition conditions, potential groundwater contamination, disruption of pre-existing wildlife habitat, generation of greenhouse gases, and poor esthetics.

- Often takes some pre-planning for storage and transport of material.
- There is often some monetary cost.

MORE INFORMATION

Landfill and Transfer Information

- Waste Management of Kennewick 509/582-5121 or 509/586-7555 (Transfer Station)
- Richland Landfill 509/942-7498
- Richland Solid Waste Collection 509/942-7497