



Transfer News

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A resource to reduce waste and live more sustainably.

County approves waste processing facility

By Daniel Hiestand
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Lane County may soon break ground on the country’s most technologically advanced waste processing facility.

This past December, the Lane County Board of County Commissioners voted 3-2 to build a state-of-the-art Integrated Material and Energy Recovery Facility (IMERF) in Goshen.

The IMERF will process residential garbage and commingled recycling to produce marketable recycling commodities and biogas for transportation, annually diverting more than 80,000 tons of waste—or a quarter of the trash currently going to the landfill. The project will also help the county directly address goals outlined in its Climate Action and Solid Waste Management Plans.



This new facility would utilize technology and equipment designed and made by a local manufacturer Bulk Handling Systems (BHS). The county and BHS are working out the final contract details for a project that could begin operation as soon as 2026.

“It’s a facility that captures methane from organics before they enter the landfill, helping to address the climate crisis head-on,” said Jeff Orlandini, Waste Management Division Manager. “Additionally, it will serve as a regional recycling hub for southwest Oregon.”

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Composting workshops on tap

For beginning to experienced composters, these upcoming workshops provided through OSU Extension Services will cover the basics of how composting works, which materials to use, and the different methods and types of compost bins available. Workshops are led by backyard composting information specialists.

For more information, contact the OSU Extension Service–Lane County Master Gardener Plant Clinic at (541) 344-0265, or email lanemg@oregonstate.edu.

Compost workshops are on Saturdays from 10 a.m. - noon. For information on upcoming workshops, scan the QR code or enter the term “compost workshops” at extension.oregonstate.edu/search.



Earth Machine
Available at BRING
4446 Franklin Blvd.



Worm Factory Basic
Visit naturesfootprint.com with
discount code: LANECOUNTY



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Effect on garbage rates

“Lane County has some of the lowest garbage rates in Oregon,” said Orlandini. “Starting with low rates, rate increases needed for project funding should have a minimal impact on residential customers.”

Lane County proposes 8 percent fee increases in 2024 and 2025, followed by 6 percent increases in 2026 and 2027. This does not include the annual 3 percent fee increase that helps Lane County maintain current service levels. The annual 3 percent increase is not related to the IMERF.

The landfill disposal cost is approximately 20 percent of a customer’s residential garbage bill. Most residents should see their bill rise modestly in those first four years of fee increases, with monthly increases of .55 cents - .65 cents per month in each year.

Rate impacts for commercial customers vary depending on the waste amounts generated. Estimates provided by a large local hauler predict an average annual increase of 3 percent for the next four years for most commercial customers.

The county is seeking federal and state funding to help offset future increases.

Low-income assistance is proposed to offset fee increases for self-haul customers at each of Lane County’s 15 transfer stations. Residents qualifying for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits would receive \$1 off each load with their Oregon Trail (EBT) Card.

A public-private partnership

The IMERF will showcase an innovative 25-year partnership between BHS and Lane County in which Lane County owns the land and the building while BHS purchases and operates the IMERF equipment.

Project features

- Advanced material processing equipment to recover recyclable materials from solid waste.
- Sorting equipment for commingled recycling to reduce long-haul shipment of locally collected recycling for processing.
- Anaerobic digester to convert recovered organic waste into renewable natural gas (RNG) for transportation fuel.
- Visitor and Educational Center for schools, community groups, other interested residents, and businesses.

Project benefits

- IMERF methane emission reductions would create a reduction equivalent to taking 20,000 cars off the road for 25 years.
- The project would extend the remaining life of the landfill by 20-plus years.
- The IMERF would generate more than 1 million diesel gallon equivalents per year of renewable natural gas, available for local transportation fleets.
- The IMERF is a two-year construction project utilizing local companies, creating 190 high-paying manufacturing jobs during construction and 65 ongoing family-wage jobs for facility operation for the next 25 years.
- An estimated \$270 million in economic impacts benefiting Lane County over the project’s life.

For more information—including a project cost breakdown—visit lanecountyor.gov/IMERF or email IMERF@lanecountyor.gov.

Material preparation: recovered items with a fee

Appliances	Units containing refrigerants only. Must be empty. Air conditioners, freezers, heat pumps, RV refrigerators & refrigerators. DO NOT cut cords or drain refrigerants. NO other appliances, or commercial units.	\$22.00 each. Some appliances accepted for free as “Scrap Metal.”
Concrete	Glenwood only — grocery cart-sized chunks or smaller (max. 10 cys). Rural sites — 1' x 1' or smaller, 3 cys or less accepted as garbage.	Glenwood: \$95.16 per ton. Rural: \$45 per cy — \$22.50 min.
Mattresses	Mattresses & box springs recovered at Glenwood only, clean & dry (max.10 units per day). Florence & Rural sites accept mattresses as garbage (up to 4 units per day).	Glenwood: \$14 per mattress, up to 4 units 5 or more \$220.87/ton — \$70 min. Florence: \$14 per mattress. Rural sites: charge by volume.
Propane & Helium Tanks	Maximum size, 5 gal. Propane & single-use helium cylinders. NO other gasses or cylinder types.	Up to 5 gal — \$4.50 1-lb camping — free
Tires (Passenger & Light Truck)	Maximum 10 tires. Tires up to 20" rim diameter. NO heavy duty truck, tractor, or off-highway tires. Call (541) 682-4120 for referral.	Up to 20" rim diameter — \$3 Up to 20" rim diameter with wheel —\$4
Wood Waste & Yard Debris	Wood Waste: Broken furniture, painted wood, particle board, pallets, wood with nails or screws. NO Formica, foam core, or plastic coated, treated wood, non-wood laminates, mixed materials, railroad ties, hardware bigger than your thumb. NO bags. Yard Waste: Cut grass, brush, leaves, plants, trimmings, or limbs under 12" diameter. NO pet waste, to-go containers, liquids, garbage. NO bags.	Glenwood & Florence: \$84.70 per ton — \$9 min. Cottage Grove: up to 1 cy — \$9 Over 1 cy to 3 cys — \$17.50 Over 3 cys — \$9 per additional cy.

* Wood waste and yard waste must be greater/equal to 50% of the load AND must be placed in the recovery area.

Options for recycling construction, demolition materials

Lane County requires all loads of construction and demolition materials measuring **six cubic yards or more** to be separated for recycling or delivered to EcoSort, a materials recovery facility. **Contact ecosort.com** in Glenwood next door to the Lane County Transfer station (3425 E. 17th Ave.) or call (541) 726-7552.

This requirement applies to Glenwood and Short Mountain ONLY. Loads that DO NOT contain the targeted recyclable materials can be disposed of as usual. Targeted materials include: **Cardboard • Metal • Recoverable Wood • Rubble • Yard Debris**

These materials are recyclable at the Glenwood Transfer Station and other facilities in the community. Use the Waste Wise Lane County app at lanecountyor.gov/recycle to find recyclers.

TRANSFER STATION HOURS			
Transfer Stations		Summer	Winter
		Apr.1 - Sept. 30	Oct.1 - Mar. 31
Cottage Grove	Wed - Sat	8am - 6pm	Same
Creswell	Wed - Sat	8am - 6pm	Same
Florence	Mon - Sat	8am - 6pm	Same
Glenwood	Mon - Sat	8am - 6pm	Same
	Sun	8am - 5pm	Closed Sunday
London	Sat	9am - 5pm	Same
Low Pass	Fri & Sat	9am - 5pm	Same
Marcola	Wed - Sat	8am - 6pm	9am - 5pm
McKenzie Bridge	Sat	9am - 5pm	Same
Oakridge	Wed - Sat	8am - 6pm	9am - 5pm
Rattlesnake	Wed - Sat	8am - 6pm	9am - 5pm
Sharps Creek	Sat	9am - 5pm	Same
Swishhome	Sat	9am - 5pm	Same
Veneta	Mon - Sat	8am - 6pm	Same
Vida-Leaburg	Wed - Sat	8am - 6pm	9am - 5pm
Walton	Sat	9am - 5pm	Same

Tip: Become a Master Recycler

Take a free, nine-week course through Waste Wise Lane County and become a Master Recycler to learn how our materials management system works. Attendance is free in exchange for helping your community achieve its waste reduction goals. More at lanecountyor.gov/wastewise-masterrecyclers.



Household hazardous waste disposal is free and easy

It's free. It's easy. Year-round household hazardous waste disposal appointments are available weekly at the Glenwood Transfer Station. Schedule online at lanecountyor.gov/hazwaste, or call (541) 682-4120 to make an appointment.



Garbage fees

Garbage fees fund all Waste Management programs. Glenwood: \$95.16 per ton (\$13.00 minimum)

DISCOUNTS

Seniors (60+): \$1.00 off per load

Recycling: \$1.00 off per load (10 lb minimum)

LOAD SMART

Load your vehicle with garbage first and recycling last so you can easily drop off recyclables first and get the \$1.00 recycling discount.

COVER YOUR LOAD

It's against the law to litter on Oregon roadways.

For more information, visit

lanecountyor.gov/transferstations

WHAT TO BRING

- Arts and crafts products
- Car care products
- Cleaners
- Fluorescent tubes
- Lawn and garden chemicals
- Paints
- Solvents
- Other household hazardous waste

WHAT NOT TO BRING

- Asbestos
- Commercial quantities
- Drums
- Electronics
- Empty containers
- Explosives
- Infectious waste
- Pressurized cylinders
- Radioactive waste

Hazardous waste from businesses & organizations

Services are available by appointment for a minimal fee for conditionally exempt small quantity generators (CEGs), defined as businesses that generate less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month.

For more information, visit lanecountyor.gov/hazwaste or call (541) 682-4120.

Waste Wise Lane County, a part of the Lane County Waste Management Division, seeks to empower residents, schools and businesses with education and resources to reduce waste, conserve resources, and live sustainably. Follow Waste Wise Lane County on Facebook and Instagram @WasteWiseLaneCounty.