



## Columbia Ridge Landfill and Green Energy Plant

Columbia Ridge provides safe and professional disposal services for communities, businesses and industries primarily from Oregon and Washington. Located in North Central Oregon, the site provides convenient truck and rail access. The site's dry climate and unique geology support superior environmental performance, while the rural locale allows for a 10,000-acre buffer sustainably managed for agriculture and wildlife. Columbia Ridge is also a platform for wind power and green technologies that use waste to generate renewable energy.

Columbia Ridge is a modern Subtitle D landfill that accepts primarily municipal solid waste (household waste) as well as industrial and special wastes. It is engineered with overlapping environmental protection systems that meet or exceed rigorous state and federal regulations and are subject to highly regulated monitoring and reporting requirements.

Columbia Ridge uses sophisticated monitoring protocols to verify that the site's environmental protection systems are operating properly. Monitoring data gathered by company and independent professionals is submitted to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

### Containment Design

Columbia Ridge has a multi-layer composite liner system that includes an engineered clay barrier and a 60-mil, high-density polyethylene membrane to contain and isolate waste and wastewater (leachate) from soil and groundwater.

### Groundwater Monitoring

The site's geology and hydrogeology provide unique natural protections because the groundwater is approximately 200 feet deep and separated from the waste by low permeability soils. Groundwater is monitored at seven wells, both upgradient and downgradient of the waste disposal footprint.

### Landfill Gas Management

Columbia Ridge manages landfill gas to generate renewable energy, reduce emissions and prevent odor. The system collects 9,400 cubic feet per minute of landfill gas through more than 100 wells. A portion of the gas is sent to an on-site energy plant, with the remaining gas managed by flares per federal requirements.

### COLUMBIA RIDGE LANDFILL

18177 Cedar Springs Lane  
Arlington, OR 97812  
[wmnorthwest.com/landfill/columbiaridge](http://wmnorthwest.com/landfill/columbiaridge)

### HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday – Friday, 6 am – 3:30 pm

### YEAR OPENED

1990

### PROJECTED LIFE REMAINING

120 years

### FACILITY ACREAGE

12,000 acres

### PERMITTED FOOTPRINT

700 acres

### REMAINING PERMITTED CAPACITY

320 million tons

### TONS PROCESSED ANNUALLY

2.6 million in 2024

### OWNERSHIP

Waste Management Disposal  
Services of Oregon

### PERMIT TYPE AND PERMIT #

DEQ Solid Waste Permit #391

### EMPLOYEES

140

### COMMUNITIES SERVED

Oregon  
Washington  
Idaho  
Alaska  
Canada

### CONTACT

Technical Support  
800-963-4776  
[TSCwestern@wm.com](mailto:TSCwestern@wm.com)

### COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Patrick McCarthy  
425-393-9923  
[pmccart2@wm.com](mailto:pmccart2@wm.com)

## Leachate Collection and Treatment

Columbia Ridge's dry climate and unique geology set it apart from other landfills. This translates to superior environmental performance for leachate management. With an average rainfall of only nine inches per year, the site generates far less leachate than landfills in other parts of the state. This allows WM to manage the leachate on-site simply and safely with no discharge to a public waterway or a public treatment facility.

## Acceptable Material

Abrasive blast media	CERCLA wastes
Agricultural wastes	Dredged wet sediments
Animal carcasses	Filter cake
Asbestos-containing material (friable and non-friable)	Incinerator ash
Auto shredder residue	Industrial and special wastes
Biosolids	Medical waste
Construction and demolition (CandD)	Municipal solid waste (household waste)
	Treated wood

## Unacceptable Material

Appliances	Tires
Batteries	Used oil
Hazardous wastes	Vehicles
Loose sharps	

## Additional Services

Electronic waste recycling  
Household recycling drop-off  
On-site rail spur  
Transportation services  
White goods recycling

## Renewable Energy

The energy plant at Columbia Ridge uses landfill gas to generate renewable energy, building on decades of experience WM has converting landfill gas-to-energy. Gas collected from the landfill powers 12 engines to produce 12.8 megawatts of electricity—enough to power 12,500 homes in Seattle through an agreement with the City of Seattle. In addition, Columbia Ridge is home to 92 wind turbines with the capacity to generate more than 150 megawatts.

## Community Partnerships

WM is proud to be a valued community partner in ways that are visible in every direction across the Gilliam County landscape:

- » **Family-wage jobs:** Columbia Ridge provides 140 living-wage jobs with full benefits, training and development opportunities.
- » **Infrastructure and economic development:** Columbia Ridge pays Gilliam County an annual host fee to support essential public sector services, capital improvements and economic development. WM voluntarily initiated the host fee agreement in 1990 as a demonstration of community partnership. In 2024, WM paid Gilliam County \$5.1 million in host fees.
- » **Community donations:** WM donates to support youth and community vitality across Gilliam County. WM's contributions in 2025 totaled more than \$50,000 — largely to support the Oregon Frontier Chamber of Commerce, the Gilliam County Fair, the WM Community Partnership Scholarship Program (college scholarships for local students).

