



Columbia Ridge Landfill and Renewable Natural Gas Facility

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 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 important 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.

Leachate Collection and Treatment

Columbia Ridge's unique geology and dry climate work together to distinguish the site from other landfills with respect to leachate. The result is 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 leachate on site, simply and safely, with no discharge to a public waterway or public treatment facility.

COLUMBIA RIDGE LANDFILL

18177 Cedar Springs Lane
Arlington, OR 97812
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

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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425-393-9923
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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 230 wells.

Renewable Natural Gas

For more than a decade, WM used landfill gas from Columbia Ridge to generate electricity. Now, as WM expands its commitment to renewable energy, we are preparing to start up two plants to produce Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) at Columbia Ridge. The state-of-the-art facility will convert landfill gas into pipeline-quality RNG.

For background, RNG begins as a biogas when waste decomposes inside landfills. WM uses underground vacuum systems to collect the biogas, process it into pipeline-quality RNG and then push it directly into natural gas pipelines to be used as a lower-emission energy source. In Washington and Oregon, WM allocates RNG to its fuel consumption for its CNG collection fleet under the EPA Renewable Fuels Standards Program and similar state programs.

A primary benefit of RNG connects to its low carbon intensity score. Recent evaluations¹ by scientists and policymakers show the production process and subsequent use of RNG derived from landfill biogas has a lower carbon footprint than the production and consumption of gas derived from fossil fuels. This reduced climate impact is largely attributed to the origin of the gas (landfills) and the efficiency of the RNG production process.

The Columbia Ridge RNG Facility is part of WM’s plan to invest more than \$1.6 billion to develop 20 new RNG facilities from 2022 through 2026. With this investment, Columbia Ridge customers can help contribute to a more sustainable energy future.



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	Loose sharps	Used oil
Batteries	Tires	Vehicles
Hazardous wastes		



Community Engagement

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 and the WM Community Partnership Scholarship Program (college scholarships for local students).



¹ www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-01/lmop_rng_document.pdf