

Arbor Hills

About landfills

Landfills are one of the most critical pieces of infrastructure to a community. Every last person, business and process in a community generates waste. It's part of living – a part of life. Making sure that waste is secured, recycled, or converted to energy is the job of a well-run landfill. The landfill's job is to protect the environment, ensure communities are clean and help them grow.

About Arbor Hills landfill

The site that today is Arbor Hills landfill in Washtenaw County's Salem Township began decades ago as a gravel mining operation owned by the Holloway Sand & Gravel Co., largely servicing the construction of the M-14 expressway. The gravel pit eventually was converted to a local landfill.

Today, Arbor Hills landfill is a 337-acre site. It is what regulators call a "Type II solid waste landfill," meaning it is designed and regulated to receive household wastes, waste from construction and demolition, commercial and industrial waste, sewage sludge and non-hazardous sludge. It is regulated by both Federal and State Air Pollution Control, and Solid Waste Management regulations.

Nearly half of the waste that goes to Arbor Hills comes from Wayne County. Oakland, Washtenaw and Macomb counties are the other major contributors – together accounting for **98 percent of waste** delivered to Arbor Hills.

Community Benefits

Salem Township and Washtenaw County, as host communities for the Arbor Hills site, derive significant benefit from having the operation in their community. The company is an active partner in household hazardous waste diversion, helping with dust control on local unpaved roads, repaving of existing nearby roads, and more. Arbor Hills' annual payments to its host community over the past three years total **more than \$2.25 million to Washtenaw County, and more than \$2.15 million to Salem Township.**

Community Outreach

Earlier this year, Advanced Disposal discontinued its bid to have a site expansion considered in the Washtenaw County Solid Waste Planning Committee's updated plan. This was done mostly in response to escalating neighbor concerns about odor issues at the site. Instead, Advanced Disposal is putting its energy into working with neighbors and local officials to identify and address local concerns. This has included establishing a dialogue with the neighbors and inviting them to a public meeting to discuss issues of importance to them, and developing avenues to communicate directly with the community.

Ownership / Operation

Through the decades, Arbor Hills has changed ownership through mergers and buyouts among leading companies in the waste industry. Advanced Disposal took on the site when it acquired Veolia ES Solid Waste Company in

2012. However, a previous owner – BFI / Republic Services – retained ownership and operational responsibility for the site’s gas collection system when it sold the site to Superior Services, Inc., the predecessor to Veolia.

Today, three different companies are responsible for different aspects of managing Arbor Hills landfill:

- **Advanced Disposal** runs the landfill.
- **Republic Services** owns the landfill gas collection system.
- **Fortistar** runs the gas-to-energy facility adjacent to the landfill, which provides renewable energy to the electricity system that serves Southeast Michigan customers.

Recent Issues

In 2016, area neighbor concerns have increased regarding landfill odors. Advanced Disposal takes these complaints seriously. In recent months, company leadership has taken the following steps to address potential odor sources:

- **Increased the thickness of daily soil cover** beyond regulatory requirements.
- **Accelerated application of intermediate soil cover** beyond regulatory requirements.
- **Voluntarily stopped accepting waste streams** that have the potential to cause odors and established a protocol to **evaluate new waste streams** and decline those that may cause odors.
- **Significantly reduced the volume of inbound materials** at the compost site.
- **Instituted new compost management practices** designed to reduce the frequency and intensity of odors associated with compost operations.
- **Added a full-time Environmental Manager** to allow us to more quickly identify and address operational issues that may cause odors.
- **Installed a temporary geosynthetic cover** on a portion of the north slope to help improve landfill gas collection efficiency. We plan to further extend that cover in 2017.
- **Cooperatively installed gas collection (caisson) wells** with Republic in the newly constructed Cell 4. This **allows for landfill gas collection sooner** than required in the event that the newly placed waste mass generates gas sooner than models predicted.
- **We will install an odor neutralizing system** before the end of the year to further mitigate potential odors associated with daily waste placement.
- **Retained a leading industry odor consultant** to assist in further evaluation and identification of best practices related to odor abatement.

Many of the odor complaints relate to landfill gas and therefore concern the operation and maintenance of the landfill gas collection system, which is run by Republic, not by Advanced Disposal. Even though we do not have control over the gas collection system, we are working closely with Republic, EPA, and the DEQ to help facilitate improvements in the gas collection system on both a short- and long-term basis. In the short term, we are doing our part to arrange for Republic to install an additional flare unit at the site to capture gas that may be escaping from the landfill. This interim measure will then allow us to work with Republic on instituting longer-term measures that we believe will mitigate the odor problem.

Key Contacts at Arbor Hills (248) 412-0691:

Kelly Rooney, District Manager

Bob Walls, Site Manager

Anthony Testa, Environmental Compliance Manager