Riverbend Recycling Center, Landfill and Green Energy Plant

Riverbend is a regional facility that provides professional and safe disposal and convenient recycling services for Yamhill County and neighboring communities. Riverbend is also a platform for green technology, with a Green Energy Plant that uses landfill gas to generate enough renewable energy to power approximately 2,500 local homes.

Riverbend is a modern, Subtitle D landfill that accepts primarily municipal solid waste (household waste), industrial waste, and construction and demolition debris; we do not accept asbestos or hazardous waste. The landfill 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. In addition, Riverbend uses sophisticated monitoring protocols to verify that our 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 US Environmental Protection Agency.

Containment Design
Riverbend’s double liner, geo-membrane system protects soil and groundwater by containing and isolating waste and landfill wastewater.

Landfill Gas Management
Riverbend collects and manages landfill gas to generate renewable energy, reduce emissions, and prevent odor. The system collects landfill gas through vertical and horizontal pipes within the landfill. It collects approximately 2,600 cubic feet per minute of landfill gas.

Leachate Collection & Treatment
Riverbend manages landfill wastewater (leachate) to ensure it does not impact groundwater. Leachate is collected by four separate sumps equipped with level monitors to operate pumps and maintain appropriate liquid levels. To manage leachate after collection, we use natural evaporation and off-site management at wastewater treatment plants.

Groundwater Monitoring
Groundwater is monitored to ensure our environmental protection systems are functioning properly and not impacting groundwater at or near the facility. Groundwater quality is monitored in 29 wells. Groundwater levels are monitored in an additional 24 wells to understand groundwater flow conditions.

Riverbend Recycling Center
Riverbend partners with Yamhill County to divert waste from the landfill and save energy by recycling used materials. With an attendant to answer questions, a convenient design and paved surfaces, this outdoor drop-off area is a user-friendly place for Yamhill County citizens to bring their recyclables – including used bikes and bike parts for our bike recycling program.

Riverbend Green Energy Plant
Riverbend uses everyday waste to generate electricity as part of an agreement with McMinnville Water and Light. Landfill gas fuels six engines to generate approximately 4.5 MW of electricity. The plant is a first for Yamhill County and another demonstration of WM’s commitment to renewable energy and innovative technologies that extract value from waste.
Acceptable Material (Riverbend Landfill)
Auto Shredder Residue
Biosolids
CERCLA Wastes
Construction & Demolition (C&D) Debris

Unacceptable Material (Riverbend Landfill)
Asbestos – Friable/Non-Friable
Explosives
Hazardous Wastes
Medical Waste (Untreated)
NORM
Waste Containing Free Liquids

Approval Process
Waste Management has a waste screening protocol for each of our landfills – to ensure we accept only those materials that we are permitted to accept. For industrial and special wastes, protocol requires the waste generator to show acceptability. Materials that are not allowed under Riverbend’s permit are rejected.

Environmental Leadership and Awards
Riverbend is the proud recipient of prestigious honors including “Business of the Year” from the McMinnville Chamber of Commerce and “Excellence in Engineering” from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers.

Community Partnerships
We are proud to support community and school programs that make Yamhill County a strong, healthy place to live, work and play.

WM Stewardship Plan
Our most significant community partnership involves making 450 acres of our property available for community projects. A committee of community leaders is leading the county-wide conversation and recommending projects to WM.

The map at the right shows the property available (the WM Stewardship Lands) in green.

Community Partnerships and Economic Development
In keeping with our long-standing support for economic development, WM awarded $150,000 in economic development grants in Yamhill County in 2015. The grants went to nine cities for downtown revitalization, including business façade upgrades, and $15,000 for the new pool house renovation that is so important to community vitality in downtown Carlton.

Beyond this, WM’s recent community involvement has included support for the following:

- A Family Place
- Boy Scouts Troop 265
- Chehalem Valley Chamber
- City of Sheridan – Community Clean Up
- Friends of Yamhelas Trail
- Ghana Hope (Brews and BBQs)
- Give A Little Foundation
- McMinnville Chamber
- McMinnville Habitat 4 Humanity
- McMinnville Rotary
- Newberg Downtown Coalition
- Newberg FISH Emergency Service
- Newberg Kiwanis
- Newberg Old Fashioned Festival
- Outreach Ministries
- Newberg Rotary
- Sheridan Chamber
- Sheridan Rotary
- St. James School (Brews and BBQs)
- Willamette Valley Cancer Foundation
- Willamina Future Farmers of America
- Yamhill County CASA
- Yamhill Enrichment Society (YES)
- YCAP