



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. What is the Waste & Recycling Centre? What recycling opportunities and facilities exist at the Waste & Recycling Centre?

A. The Waste & Recycling Centre is the City of Lethbridge's integrated waste management site. The Centre includes a Recycling Area, Compost Pad and Landfill. In the Recycling Area, electronics (e-waste), paint, household hazardous waste (HHW), tires and more, are accepted for safe disposal and recycling. Cardboard, paper, plastic, metal and clear glass are also accepted at the Recycling Area of the site. The Compost Pad is for yard waste including branches, grass, leaves and garden waste. Waste that is not suitable for diversion is disposed of in the Landfill at the site.

Q. Why is the City of Lethbridge undertaking this project?

A. The Waste & Recycling Centre Master Plan and expansion is being undertaken to accommodate the projected growth and population increase of the city. Continued growth brings an increase in business and industry to the southern Alberta region. This creates the need for increased capacity and a long term site development plan for the Waste & Recycling Centre.

Q. Why is more capacity needed at the Waste & Recycling Centre?

A. Each year enough waste (165,000 tonnes) is disposed of at Lethbridge's landfill to fill the ENMAX Centre 10 times. At current disposal rates, it is projected that approximately 12 years of capacity remains. Waste generation will increase with population growth. The landfill expansion is necessary to ensure capacity into the future.

Q. What is a Master Plan?

A. A Master Plan takes a holistic look at making a long term plan for the design and development of a project or site. The Waste & Recycling Centre Master Plan will ensure future capacity at the Centre and will continue to keep integrated waste management a priority.

Q. What does 'waste' include?

A. Waste, in the context of the Waste & Recycling Centre Master Plan, means garbage for disposal, recyclables and compostable organics such as yard waste, leaves and branches.



Q. Where does the waste come from?

A. Waste disposed of at the Waste & Recycling Centre comes from Lethbridge's commercial and residential customers, the County of Lethbridge and from communities throughout the southern Alberta region.

Q. With the expansion, will the Waste & Recycling Centre site look different than it does currently?

A. The short answer is yes. The landfill will potentially expand both horizontally and vertically. Where possible, the expansion will be designed to minimize aesthetic impacts through landscaping.

Q. How will the Waste & Recycling Centre expansion affect me?

A. The Waste & Recycling Centre Master Plan will be working to ensure future capacity at the Waste & Recycling Centre so that the southern Alberta region will continue to have a waste management site. There will be no disruption to service at the Centre. Residents will have the opportunity to participate in the Master Plan through a Public Workshop and Open Houses.

Q. How will I be informed about and involved in the project?

A. The City welcomes ideas and comments from anyone interested in the Waste & Recycling Centre expansion. Public input will be gathered at key milestones throughout the project through a Public Workshop, Feedback Group Meetings and Open Houses (see next question for details). Public and stakeholder input is a vital consideration in the project along with technical, financial and environmental factors.

Q. What will the public consultation process look like?

A. The public consultation process will include a Public Workshop where input will be captured and used as part of the design considerations. Progress updates will be reported on the City website at, www.lethbridge.ca/wrc, and through other communication methods.

The first of two Open Houses will present site development options. The second Open House will present and further obtain feedback on final site development recommendations.

Feedback Group Meetings will be held for individuals interested in additional involvement in the project. The Feedback Groups (Call, 403-320-3114, to register) will be made up of members of the community with a broad range of interests in the project. The meetings will be held prior to the Open Houses to offer participants the opportunity to review the draft project plans and provide the project team with more detailed feedback.

Please stay informed and involved in the project by:

Project Website: www.lethbridge.ca/wrc

Public Workshop – 6:30 p.m., March 9, 2011, Sunnyside School

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Feedback Group Meetings – April 5 & May 25, 2011 (Call to register)
Open Houses – May 4 & June 16, 2011
Project Contact: Steve Rozee, (403) 320-3114
Project Email: wrc@lethbridge.ca

Q. What is the City trying to accomplish through the Public Workshop and Open Houses?

A. The Public Workshop and Open Houses are to inform and interact with the public on their ideas and comments about the project. Ideas gathered at the workshops and Open Houses will be taken into consideration in the plan. Actions to mitigate and reduce the effects of the issues raised will also be included in the development of the plan.

Q. How can I be further engaged in the project?

A. Feedback Group Meetings will be held further along in the public consultation process of the project. Residents interested in additional involvement in the project are invited to attend. For more information about Feedback Group Meetings, please contact 403-320-3114.

Q. What is being done to protect the environment?

A. The City of Lethbridge is committed to establishing environmental best management practices and to meeting or exceeding regulatory requirements at the Waste & Recycling Centre. Landfill liners and leachate collection systems that contain and remove leachate will be expanded to the newly developed landfill areas. The existing groundwater and gas monitoring networks will be expanded to ensure that groundwater and air quality is protected. All waste that is disposed of at the landfill will be covered with an engineered clay cap to stop clean rainwater from getting into the waste. During the landfill operation, a ditch and berm network will direct all clean water away from the landfill. The overall protection of the environment is a high priority for the City of Lethbridge.

Q. Is the City pursuing waste reduction programs with the expansion of the Waste & Recycling Centre?

A. The Waste & Recycling Centre Master Plan is exploring options for the expansion of the Waste & Recycling Centre with a focus on ensuring future capacity for the landfill. Facilities for processing and storing compostable and recyclable materials are part of the current Waste & Recycling Centre and will be part of the expanded site. The City of Lethbridge recently adopted a Waste Reduction Master Plan which included the implementation of the Fall Leaf Collection program, a Yard Waste Recycling Site and enhanced recycling services at the Waste & Recycling Centre. Expanding the Waste & Recycling Centre will give the City of Lethbridge the necessary capacity and time to make informed and effective choices about sustainable waste management options moving into the future.

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Q. Is the City exploring alternative technologies for managing waste?

A. The investigation of alternative technologies to reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal at the Waste & Recycling Centre is ongoing. Typically, alternative technologies require a waste management site to manage residual waste regardless of the technology implemented. There will always be a need for a disposal site.

Q. Will there be an increase in traffic in the area due to the Waste & Recycling Centre expansion?

A. Traffic to the landfill will likely increase due to population growth in the region, which may increase waste generation. The City is committed to investigating measures that will minimize any potential traffic issues.

Q. What impact will the Waste & Recycling Centre expansion have on Lethbridge and area taxpayers? What will the cost of development, construction, and maintenance be?

A. The Waste & Recycling Centre is a user pay site. Costs associated with construction, development, use and future closure are funded through user fees collected from customers using the site.

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