



**SOLID  
WASTE**



The U.S. generates over 12% of the world's trash despite having only 4% of the population. In 2022, Oregonians produced over 6 million tons of municipal solid waste, with 3.5 million tons sent to landfills or incinerators. Use this worksheet during the Knott Landfill Tour to enhance your understanding of waste management.

### Essential Questions to Consider

What are the most effective methods to reduce waste generation?, How can we properly segregate different waste types?, What are the environmental impacts of different waste disposal methods?, What are the local recycling options and how can we improve them?

#### General knowledge

- 1 What is the difference between a landfill and a dump? Why did Deschutes County move to having landfills?

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- 2 Describe the daily operation at the landfill and opportunities for waste reduction from companies and the public.

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- 3 How much waste is disposed daily at Knott Landfill ? \_\_\_\_\_ Tons

- 4 What type of rock is present on the Landfill site? Where did it come from and how far do we need to blast down in landfill holes/cells?

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#### Landfill and Waste Management

- 5 How many cells are at the landfill? How many are left to fill? When is the closure date and what happens next?

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- 6 What materials are disposed of at Knott and what ways to can that material be reduced?

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7 Landfills were the third-largest source of human-related methane emissions in the U.S. in 2022, contributing 14.4% of total emissions. How is landfill gas currently managed and what are future plans?

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8 What is leachate and how is it managed at Knott?

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## Recycling

9 What are some specialized recycling that is provided at the transfer stations?

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10 Where does the recycling in Deschutes County go and what are some of the biggest contaminations in the stream?

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11 Is recycling an effective long-term solution for managing waste, or should we prioritize other waste reduction strategies?

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12 What are some of the reasons that recycling matters? What are you willing to do to reduce?

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## Waste Mitigation

13 What are some examples of waste reduction or mitigation of materials at the landfill?

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14 Describe how the compost created at the landfill is part of the circular economy? What are some challenges with the operations?

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15 What are important ways a community can collectively reduce the waste being sent to a landfill?

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