
Solid Waste Services Department Refuse Collections & Disposal Utility

Anchorage: Performance. Value. Results.

Mission

Providing safe, efficient, and innovative solid waste management for the Municipality of Anchorage.

Vision

Advancing solid waste management through continuous improvement and transparent performance.

Values

Providing value to our community through safe, innovative, and sustainable solid waste management.

Core Services

- Provide dumpster service to commercial and multifamily residential customers.
- Provide automated garbage, curbside recycle collection, and disposal to residential customers.
- Provide transfer station and landfill disposal services for the entire community of Anchorage.
- Support and promote energy efficient and sustainable practices for all residents throughout the community.

Accomplishment Goals

- Maximize Anchorage Regional Landfill (ARL) airspace utilization through increased recycling collection.
- Extend the life of the Anchorage Regional Landfill by using construction and demolition (C&D) debris shredding as alternative garbage cover and garbage compaction.
- Reduce future Anchorage Regional Landfill (ARL) carbon emissions through organics diversion programs.
- Extend the useful life of the Anchorage Regional Landfill as far in the future as possible by improving recycling and operational performance on a continuous basis. The longer the landfill stays open the cheaper the cost to dispose of material in Anchorage is.

Performance Measures

Progress in achieving these goals will be measured by:

- Collections Utility Garbage to Recycle Ratio
- C&D Shredding - Effects on Compaction Density and Airspace Savings
- Organics Program Effect on Reducing Carbon Emissions
- Landfill Closure Date

The following pages provide actual data which quantify these measures.

Measure #1: Collections Utility Garbage To Recycle Ratio

| Q1 2025 | Q2 2025 | Q3 2025 | Q4 2025 |
|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| 15.34 to 1.0 | 17.04 to 1.0 | 18.80 to 1 | 16.48 to 1 |

Calculated based upon data collected by Tower and Routeware systems tracking daily routes and type of service provided. The data for this measure is provided on a quarterly basis.

Description: SWS Collections tracks the number of commercial and residential customers paying for garbage collections and curbside recycling. Through the use of recycling diversion SWS can extend the useful life of the Anchorage Regional Landfill by maximizing the utilization of airspace.

Measure #2: C&D Shredding – Effects on Compaction Density and Airspace Savings

| Q1 2025 | Q2 2025 | Q3 2025 | Q4 2025 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 4,278 cubic yards saved | 3,146 cubic yards saved | 4,131 cubic yards saved | 9,460 cubic yards saved |

Calculated through determining the volume difference between the bulk C&D and shredded C&D which is then used each month as landfill alternative cover for compacted garbage. The data for this measure is provided on a quarterly basis.

Description: SWS covers received waste every day with forms of cover like dirt, gravel, wood chips, tarps, and even snow can be used. By shredding and repurposing C&D for alternative cover over the garbage, the more space is left in the landfill and the longer it will remain open.

Measure #3: Organics Program Effect on Reducing Carbon Emissions

| Q1 2025* | Q2 2025 | Q3 2025 | Q4 2025* |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| - | 137 Tons of CO2 | 313 Tons of CO2 | 85.65 Tons of CO2 |

*Note: Limited organics collections occur during Q1 and Q4 each year due to temperatures.

Calculated using data tracking the tons of diverted organics for composting, as compared to same organics entering the landfill, and the carbon emissions difference between the two.

Emission Reduction (CER) = Avoided Emissions (AE) - Composting Emissions (CE)

Description: By diverting organics through a composting program, SWS can decrease the amount of carbon emissions produced by the landfill. Compost is also a useful byproduct of organic waste and benefits the residents of Anchorage.

Measure #4: Landfill Closure Date

Estimated Year of Closure: 2097 (based on survey conducted 9/28/2024)

SWS calculates a yearly average of waste generation and cover material used by the landfill, in addition to other factors, to predict the day the landfill will reach full capacity. As public behavior changes, the life of the landfill will be affected by the community lowering the amount of waste generation, thus allowing SWS to use less cover material. Decomposition, settlement, and compaction are considered in the equation as well. SWS collects this data from the most current aerial survey landfill study. SWS does not have a target set because this information is continually changing, however, SWS has a goal to “extend the life of Anchorage Regional Landfill.”

Description: SWS continuously thinks about ways to provide the Municipality of Anchorage safe, efficient, and innovative solid waste management for the foreseeable future (i.e. building a new Central Transfer Station – <https://newscentraltransferstation.com/>). Through fine-tuning public behavior through recycling efforts, SWS can successfully serve the MOA for many years beyond this estimated date.

Measure WC: Managing Workers' Compensation Claims

Reducing job-related injuries is a priority for the Administration by ensuring safe work conditions and safe practices. By instilling safe work practices, we ensure not only the safety of our employees but reduce the potential for injuries and property damage to the public. The Municipality is self-insured and every injury poses a financial burden on the public and the injured worker's family. It just makes good sense to WORK SAFE.

Results are tracked by monitoring monthly reports issued by the Risk Management Division.

