

What is the current state of green box sites?

As of 7/14/2023, there are 3 county landfills and 16 green box sites throughout the county.

Libby and Eureka Landfills are open 6 days/week (closed Sunday) and Troy Landfill is open 5 days/week (closed Sunday and Monday). All three landfills are closed on state holidays.

Most green box sites have electric fencing and mats due to bear activity but are currently open 24 hours/day. Most sites are emptied several times a week at the minimum and are emptied more as needed. Specifically, in the Libby area, Fisher River and Libby Creek are emptied every day. In the Troy area, Savage Lake and City of Troy are emptied every day. Yaak Hill is emptied 6 days per week. Hecla site is emptied 4 days per week and 4th of July and Upper Yaak are emptied twice per week. In the Eureka area, the green boxes just outside of the Eureka Landfill, Fortine, Trego and Glen Lake are all emptied every day. Pinkham Creek and Rexford are emptied 4 days per week and West Kootenai is emptied twice per week.

Increased costs and budget constraints, as well as continued and frequent misuse and vandalism at sites, have pushed the county to reevaluate the green box sites. We recognize the importance of convenient disposal options, and our goal is to continue to offer them.

Green box sites are for household trash only. The landfills take many other items for no extra fee, including furniture, appliances, tires, cardboard recycling, etc.

What does the refuse assessment on our property tax pay for?

Refuse assessments for households are \$135 per year on your property tax. This is the primary funding for the solid waste management system in Lincoln County and includes operation and management of the 3 county landfills. Refuse assessments have not increased since 2008 but costs of fuel, equipment, insurance, etc. have increased significantly.

How are green box sites funded?

They are not funded independently as they are considered part of the solid waste management system. When refuse assessments were set in 2008, it was enough funding to cover the landfills and green box sites. Today, with increased costs, these sites must be reevaluated as we must prioritize the landfill operations in order to manage solid waste generated in Lincoln County while recognizing the need for convenient disposal options.

What is the proposed change?

The approved proposal includes consolidating sites by closing Pinkham, 4th of July, Savage Lake, Glen Lake and the site directly outside of the Eureka Landfill. This will leave Happy's Inn, Libby Creek, Fisher River, City of Troy, Hecla, Yaak Hill, Upper Yaak, Trego, Fortine, West Kootenai and Rexford open. All of these sites will be open specific hours, and most will be manned by roving site attendants.

This option will increase the solid waste budget by approximately \$200,000 annually and more than \$100,000 for initial set up. This budget increase will include personnel, vehicle and maintenance costs and an attendant shack at Libby Creek. This is the least increase in cost to the taxpayers among the options considered. Refuse assessments must increase \$15 per year to implement this proposed option

and support landfill operations. In addition, we are looking at improvements at Troy and Eureka Landfills to ensure the most convenient access. These changes will be implemented over the next few months.

Why are sites being closed?

In order to stay within budget, many options were considered. Closing 5 sites will allow for the other sites to grow and be monitored. Distance to other sites and/or landfills was considered when deciding which sites to consolidate.

Why can't you just hire attendants for all of the sites?

This option, to keep all 16 sites open and manned, would cost the county an additional 2 million dollars per year which would double the total solid waste management budget.

Why not just add cameras and fine people?

This is not as simple as it sounds. We have had cameras at multiple sites but have constant issues with vandalism and theft. Also, many of the sites are very remote and do not have internet or cell service to operate cameras or if they do have the infrastructure needed, the speeds are not great for camera technology. Lastly, the time it takes to monitor, review footage and enforce rules takes a toll on staff time not only at the landfill but also in the Sheriff's Office, County Attorney's Office and the courts. The best option is education and proper use of the sites. Cameras will continue to be used where possible.

What are my options?

- Consider using a consolidated site.
- Take trash to the landfill, especially if it is not simple household trash.
- Call Evergreen about options for pickup in your area.
- Recycle!