

## Sarah Robinson

Hello. My name is Sarah Robinson. S-A-R-A-H R-O-B-I-N-S-O-N. I use she/her pronouns and I serve as advocacy manager for Earth Ministry Washington Interfaith Power and Light. Whether you live near a landfill or not, trash is impacting every person in the state of Washington. Every day and for many years past and future, lands, waters, and air become sacrificed and toxified in and around landfills. Landfills harm our communities, our kids, and particularly our vulnerable who live, work, and play in proximity to landfills. Washington's current landfill regulations aren't enough and unfortunately the draft rule doesn't get the job done. As our state faces record-setting rainfall, floods, and drought in the same year, we are witnessing the impacts of a changed climate. It is a moral necessity to adjust our policies to meet this unique moment in history. Our vice president offered remarks at the United Nations climate meeting this week addressing the importance of reducing methane to avoid burdening our world and our world's vulnerable with preventable harms. Methane represents over 80 percent or over 80 times the climate impact as carbon dioxide in the near term. Now is the time to prevent harm now and for our shared home into the future. Here in Washington, landfills pose unique challenges, and with robust rulemaking, we have an opportunity to reduce methane releases from landfills, improve job conditions for landfill and collection workers, and protect our communities from toxified soil, air, and water from landfills that mixed compostable food and yard waste with toxic waste. The Department of Ecology can make an immediate impact in dramatically reducing methane emissions across the state. It's not too late to strengthen the rule, close the loopholes, and require the most effective and available technologies and practices to stop the methane coming from Washington landfills. Landfill methane results largely from decomposition from organic matters such as food waste, which then when composted can absorb greenhouse gases instead of emitting them. Since moving to Washington, although I know how to sort garbage for recycling and compost, without municipal compost pickup, I haven't had the opportunity. Many people would be glad to create soil instead of garbage from their food waste. Compost in healthy topsoil can both help with water shortage and excess, preventing erosion during storm events like we are facing right now in Washington. The Hebrew Bible describes people as Adam from Adama translated as human being from living topsoil. Tribal religious and spiritual accounts speak of people as caretakers of the land and trust from the creator. Let us make meaningful change to contribute to future flourishing for people of Washington State and the world. Thank you for your time.