

# Yakima County Solid Waste

## Comments for Landfill Methane Emissions Reduction Grant

### 1) Consider Retroactive Grant Proceeds for projects started in 2024

Municipalities operate at a much slower pace, everything must cross through many hands and be approved by multiple departments before ultimately being signed off on by Commissioners or Councils. While at the same time facing fast-pace inflation on gas system components and monitoring equipment. We currently have two gas collection and control systems that just went out to bid and were approved last week by the Commissioners. It took us years to get to this position due to: regulation changes brought changes to the plans, dealing with planning during the pandemic, and gaining approval from multiple agencies. The bid for the two systems came in at **\$6.4 million**, which has a huge impact on our budget for years to come. Ultimately, the cost of these projects will be passed on to the residents of the County in the form of higher garbage rates which impacts the disadvantaged the most.

### 2) Estimated costs in Proposal are much lower than actuals received in recent bids

Designing, assistance with meetings with regulators, and pre-construction costs are closer to \$200,000

Enclosed flares with blower skirts \$585,000-\$650,000

Concrete pads/Condensate tanks \$70,000-\$100,000

Mobilization/Insurance & Bonds/Health & Safety/ Surveying \$600,000

Inspections/Quality Assurance \$100,000-\$200,000

Drilling/Piping/ Well Heads \$400,000-\$700,000

We recently replaced our older Gem monitor with a new Gem5000 at a cost \$15,000 and we still need to purchase additional attachments and other monitoring devices.

### 3) Cost of Training, Employees and Record keeping

I'm not seeing anything about training or record keeping examples, suggestions for monitoring equipment. All of these come at a cost. Most municipalities submit budgets in the fall for the following year, again everything moves at a slower pace. Where can we send employees for training? Or do we need to hire consultants for training? Are there documents that will assist us with record keeping? Adding a full time employee for monitoring and record keeping with benefits would be approximately \$80K per year.

### 4) Scoring Criteria

Under 2. Landfill Status- Would it make more sense to provide higher points to open landfills owned/operated publicly? Most closed landfills see declining gas levels especially after the first 5-10 years.

Under 3. Landfill gas collection and extraction-Sub criteria B, would it make sense to allow points to those of us currently installing systems?