

Roosevelt Landfill Part of Earth Day Recognition on Commission Agenda

By Anne Laughlin, Republic Services

As part of this year's Earth Day commemoration, Klickitat County, Klickitat Public Utility District and Republic Services celebrated their landmark renewable energy project at the Roosevelt Regional Landfill.

On April 16, representatives from Republic Services attended a joint meeting of the Klickitat County Commission and Klickitat Public Utility District. During the meeting, Republic presented the county and KPUD with a framed article by Ron Judd, Seattle Times columnist, and delivered a presentation highlighting this innovative environmental project.

Judd's article appeared as the feature story in the August 5, 2012, edition of Pacific Magazine, an insert in the Sunday Seattle Times. It helped demystify the landfill and its gas-to-energy operations that to date, generate enough electricity to power more than 20,000 homes annually.

"Judd was impressed by Roosevelt," said Art Mains, environmental manager of Republic's landfill. "Our team gave him a day-long, full-site tour last year. He came away with a favorable and accurate impression of Roosevelt and Republic's environmental mission."

Roosevelt Regional Landfill is an example of the public and private sectors working together to achieve common goals, according to Mains. The parties' innovative cooperation converts an environmentally harmful gas, methane, into power. At the time of the article, the landfill was generating enough energy to fuel 17,000 homes. In a short six months' time, that figure increased to more than 20,000 homes.

"Beginning with its planning and design, every measure has been taken to ensure this landfill is as sustainable and



Republic Services recently presented Klickitat County and Klickitat PUD with a framed article highlighting the renewable energy project at the Roosevelt Regional Landfill.

planet-friendly as it can be," said Matt Henry, general manager. "The site was chosen for its exceptional geologic setting, constructed to exceed regulatory standards on top of impervious ground miles away from any population center."

The actual active face of the landfill is a small fraction of the landscape. Throughout the day, waste is systematically spread and compacted at the face. By nightfall, the face is covered over again with layers of soil. The site has a robust system to monitor groundwater, surface water, air emissions, and even an entomologist to check for foreign insects to protect local agriculture. Miles of landfill gas collection pipe are strategically placed throughout the landfill. A team of KPUD technicians and engineers monitor screens of digits and decimals, all relaying the real-time energy production that occurs silently and continuously.

"We are very proud of our role in this project," added Henry. "Roosevelt challenges people's perception of a landfill. There is nothing traditional about this place. In fact, it is an ambassador for a future without waste, where trash actually becomes a resource."

"KPUD has been generating electricity from our landfill gas for 15 years," he concluded. "It represents 15 years of public-private cooperation, green jobs, economic vitality and sustainability at work in the local landscape as well as environmental ambassadorship abroad. The more people understand the truth about what landfills can actually achieve, the more hope there is for planet-friendly landfills like Roosevelt in the future." ■

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