

Dane County Waste + Renewables

SUSTAINABILITY CAMPUS + COMPOST UPDATES

Sustainable Madison Committee | May 19th, 2025



DANE COUNTY
W+R

DANE COUNTY TEAM



WYETH AUGUSTINE-MARCEIL

SUSTAINABILITY + ENGAGEMENT
COORDINATOR

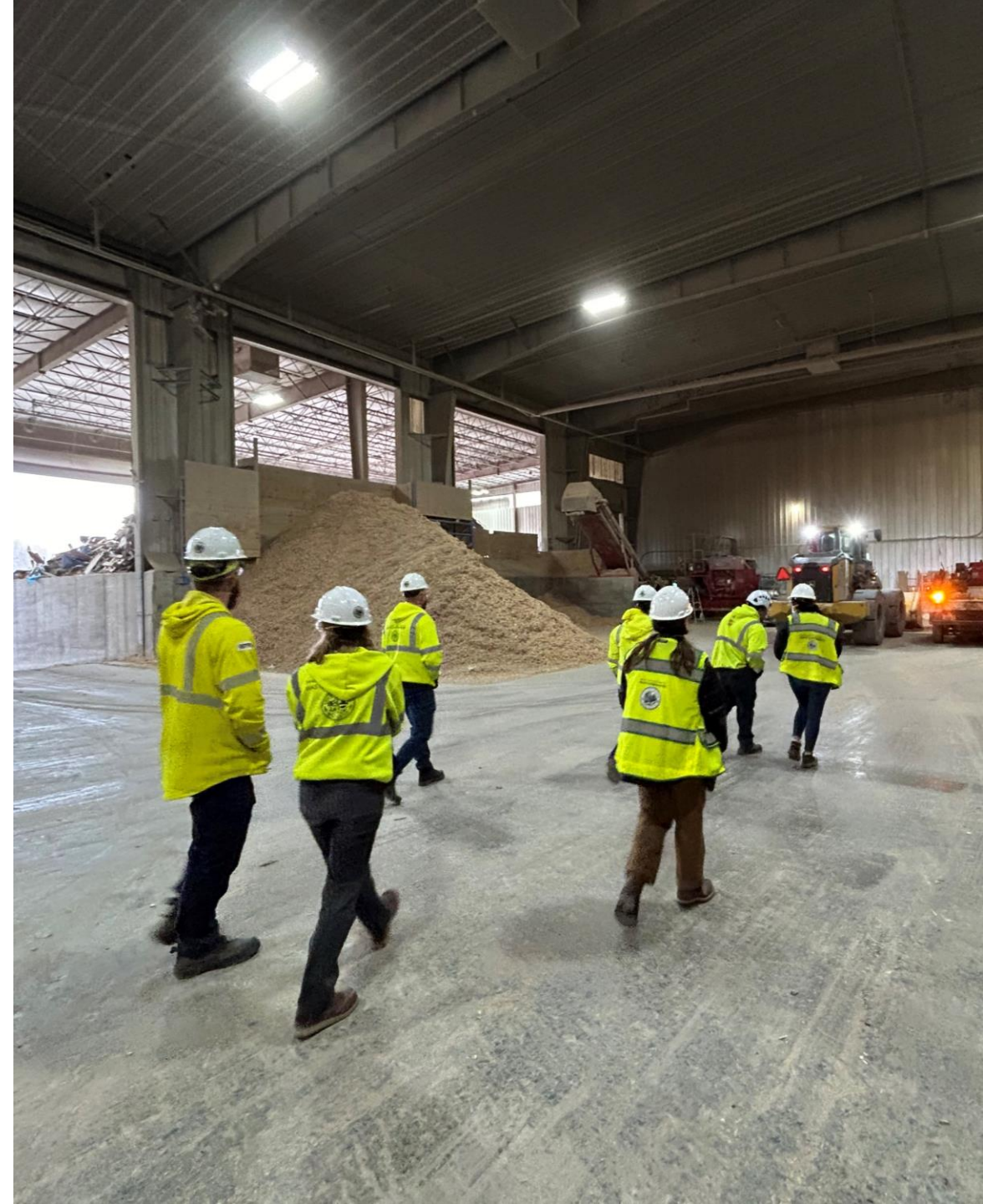


DELANEY GOBSTER

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT +
OUTREACH COORDINATOR

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- Waste + Renewables Overview (5 min)
- Sustainability Campus Update (20 min)
- Food Scrap Composting Update (20 min)
- Q&A (15 min)



THE DEPARTMENT'S MISSION

“Providing environmentally-sound and sustainable waste management and renewable energy solutions for current Dane County residents and future generations.”





CURRENT SERVICES + PROJECTS



Active Landfill



Recycling Programs



Construction & Demolition Recycling



Clean Sweep (HHW + Electronics)



Renewable Natural Gas (RNG)



Education + Tours

C&D RECYCLING

- Accepts over 60,000 tons of material per year for recycling
- Recycles metal, wood, cardboard, aggregate, and other materials
- Public Private partnership, operated by a third party
- Employs approximately 15 on site staff + others



CLEAN SWEEP + PRODUCT EXCHANGE ROOM

- Accepts household hazardous waste, appliances and electronics
- Low, stable, waste disposal fees to promote responsible waste management.
- Open year round, Monday-Saturday
- Accepted 1.1M lbs. of materials in 2024
- Product Exchange Room recirculated 80,000lbs of materials



ADDITIONAL RECYCLING

- 800 tons of tires
- 14,600 tons of shingles
- Bicycle Exchange
- Logs, brush, yard waste
- Food scrap composting



EDUCATION + OUTREACH

- Hosted 1,000 visitors on 45 tours in 2025
- 5,800 residents visited Trash Lab around Dane County at 60 events
- Hosted 3rd annual Open House
- Created new Education role to focus entirely on outreach



LANDFILL

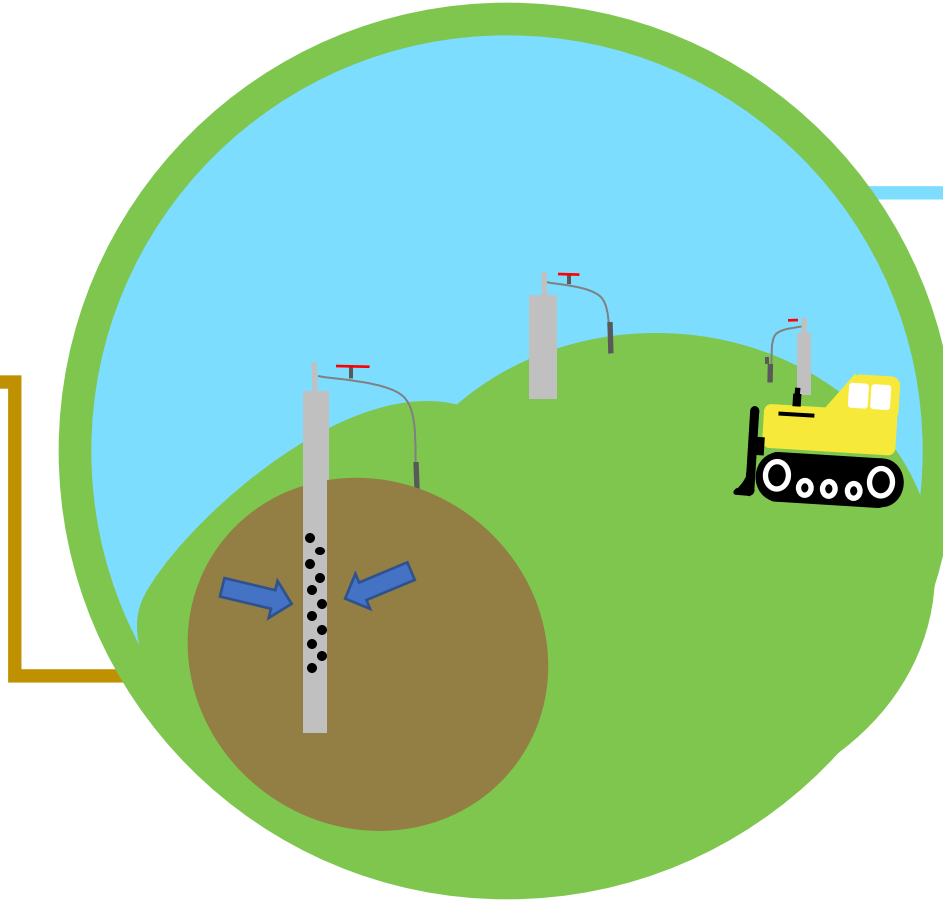
- Serves all of Dane County
- Accept ~300,000 tons of material each year
- Waste acceptance at the site since 1985
- Expanded in 1994 and 2015
- Landfill gas harvested for conversion to RNG



WASTE AS A RESOURCE: LANDFILL GAS-TO-ENERGY

ANAEROBIC DIGESTION

Organic materials decompose in the absence of oxygen and this process generates landfill gas



ELECTRICITY

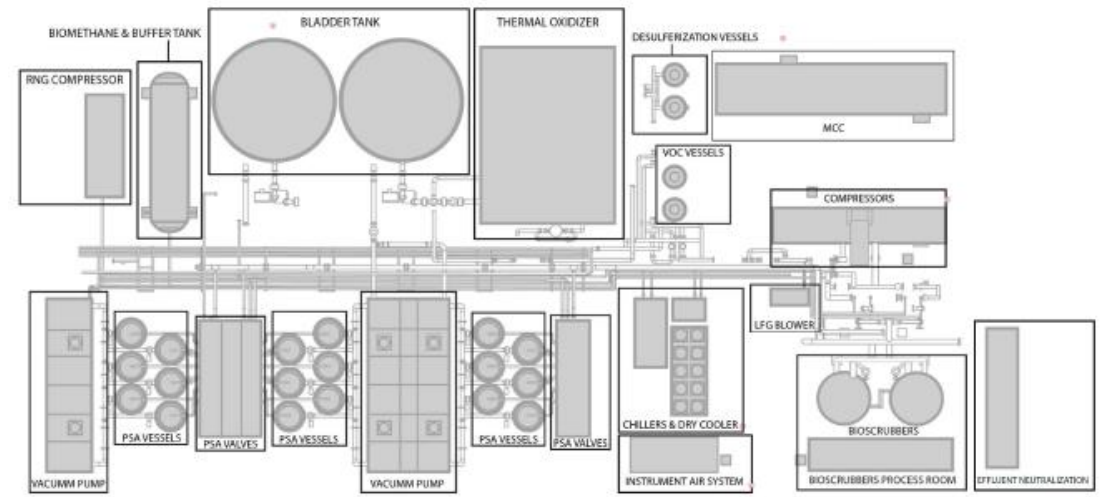
Landfill gas can be used as fuel in generators to make electricity



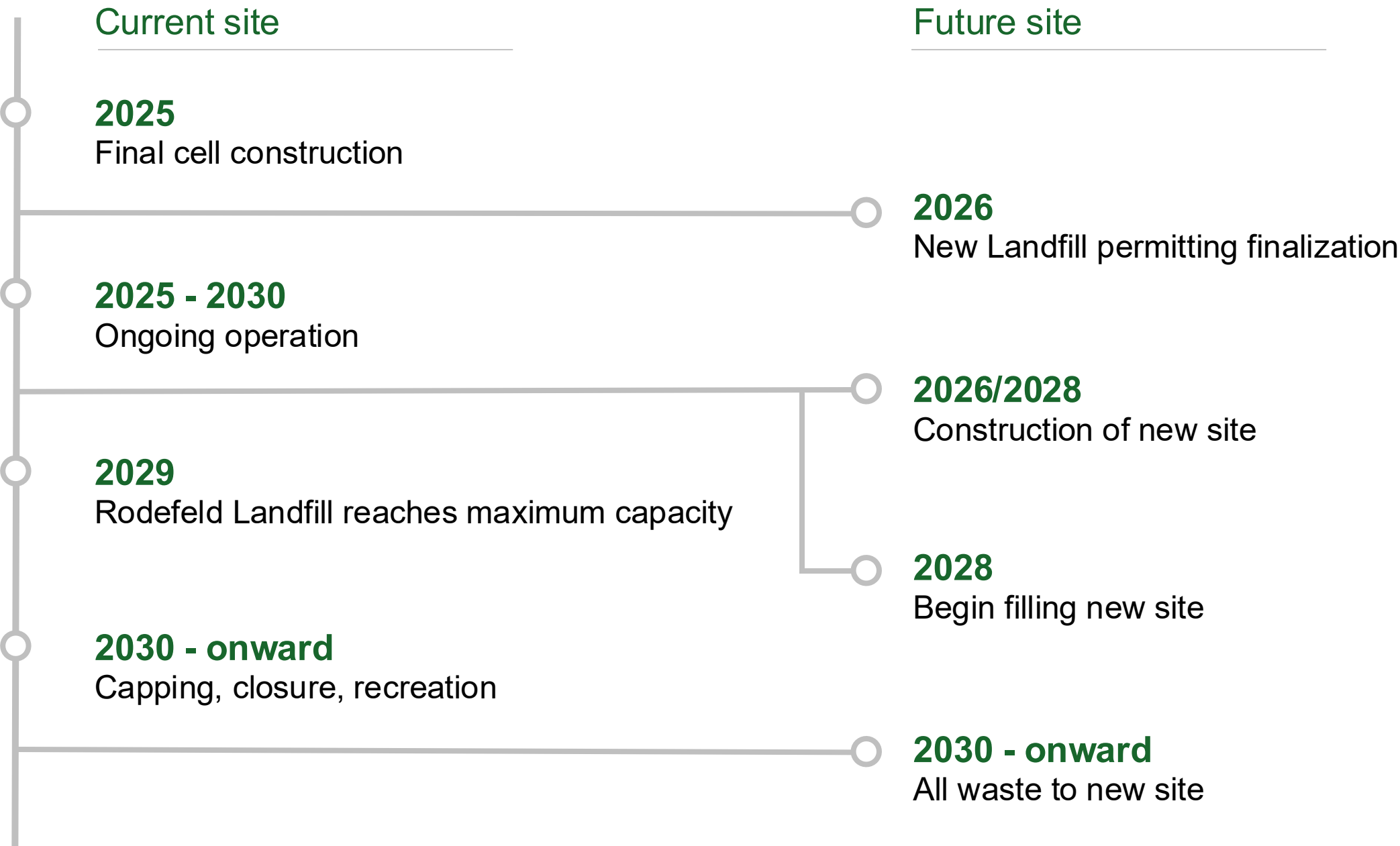
RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS

Landfill gas can be cleaned up and compressed and used as fuel in vehicles

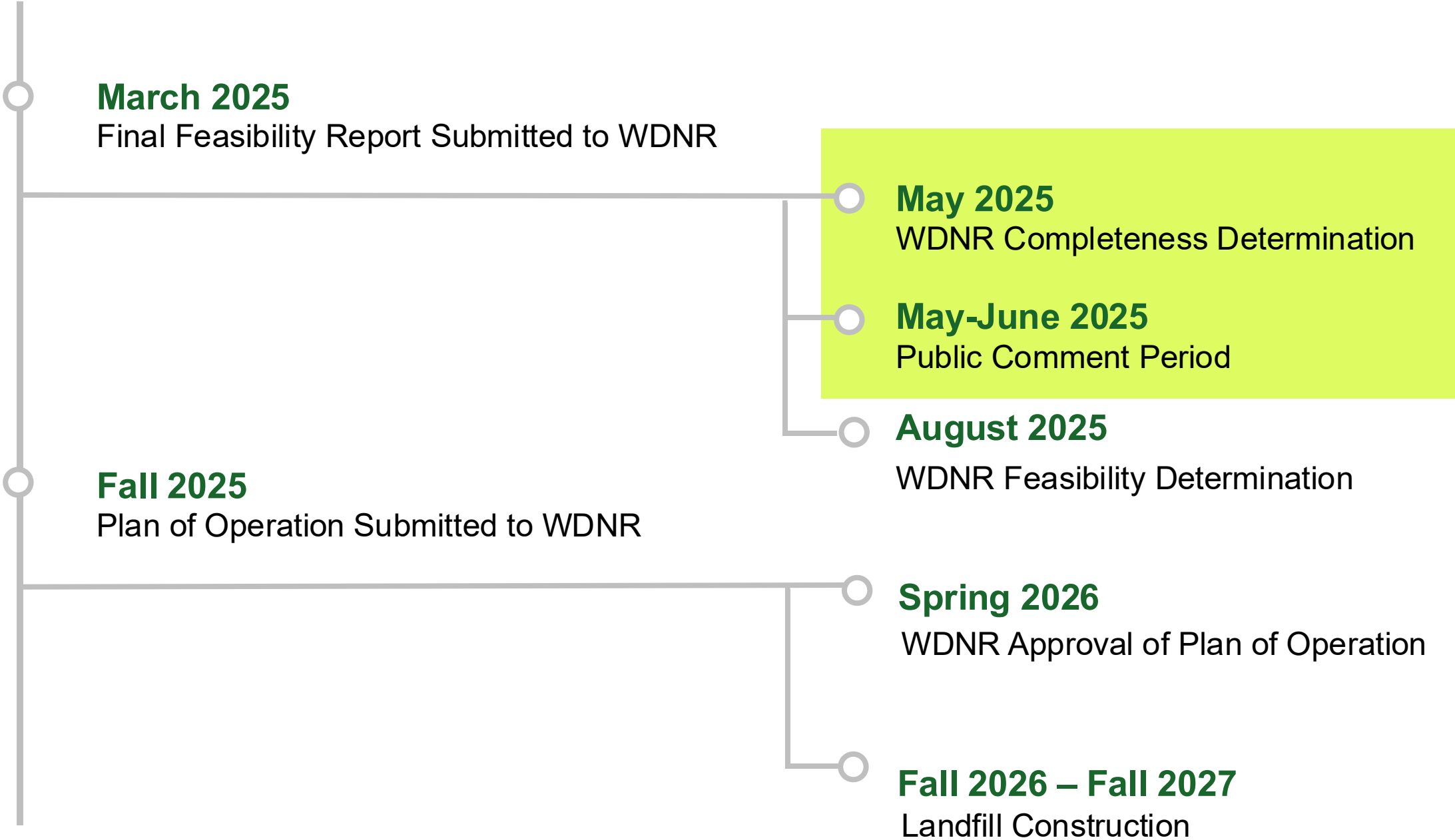


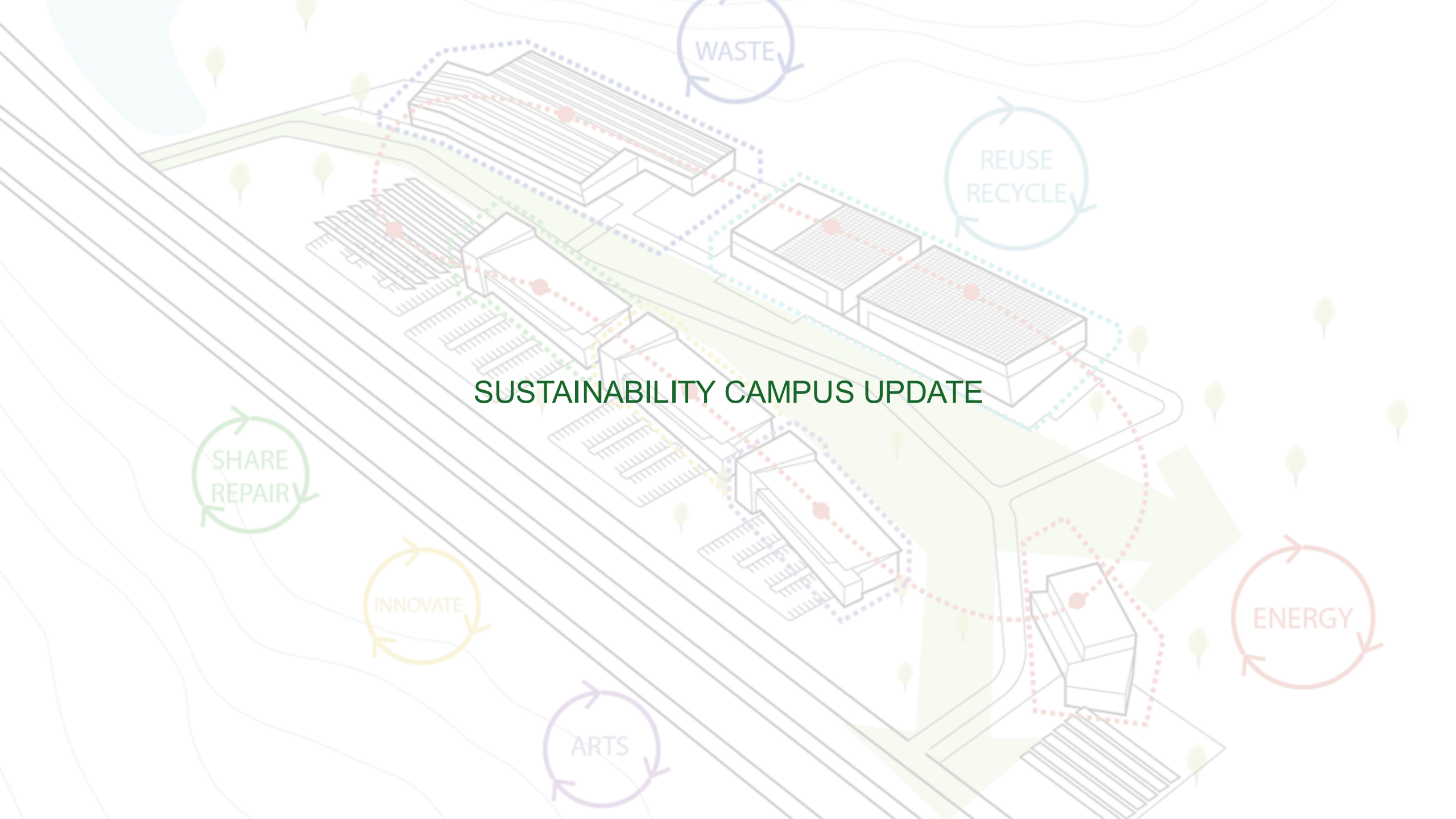


LANDFILL TIMELINE



PERMITTING TIMELINE

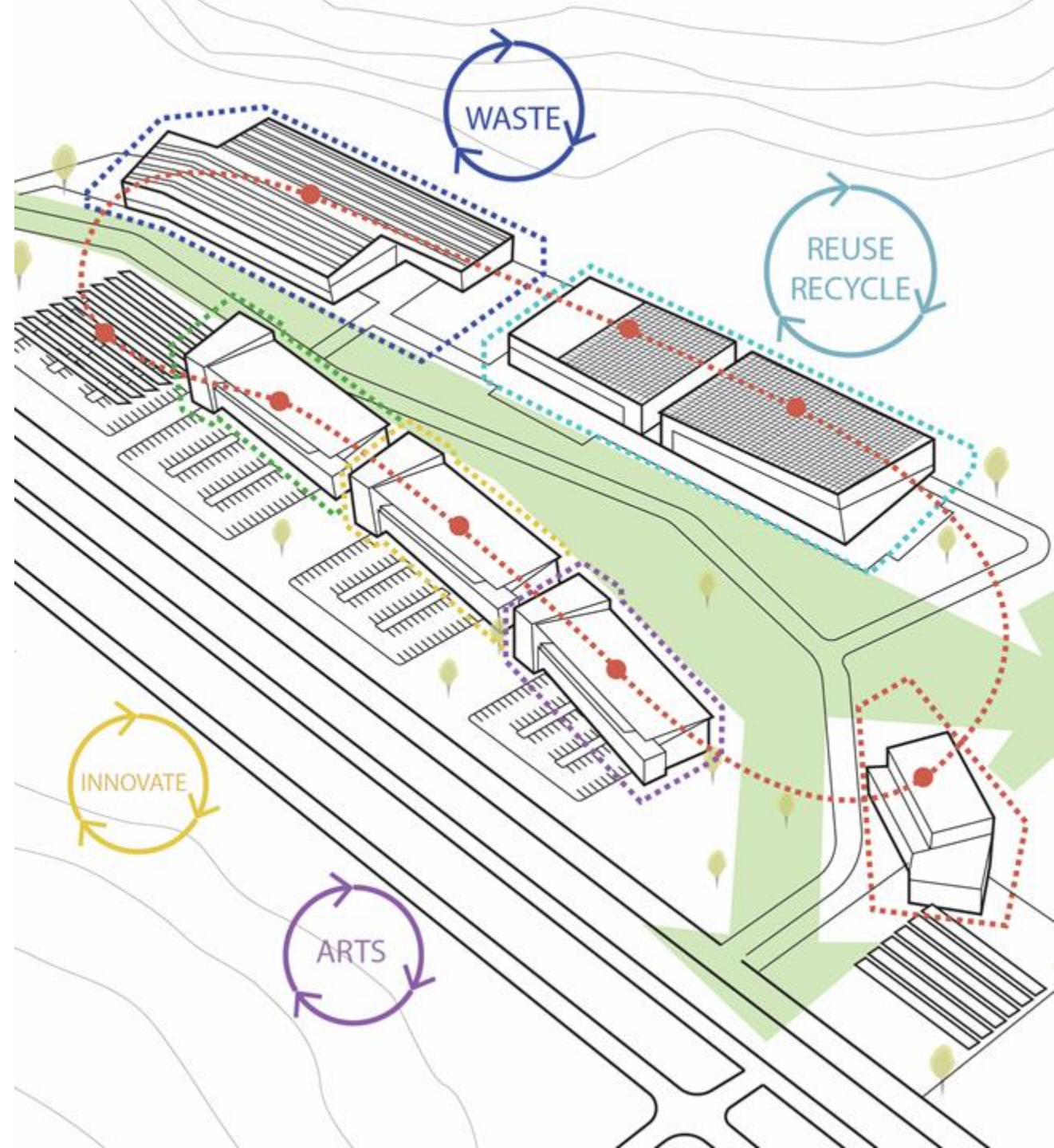




SUSTAINABILITY CAMPUS UPDATE

SUSTAINABILITY CAMPUS – OVERARCHING GOALS

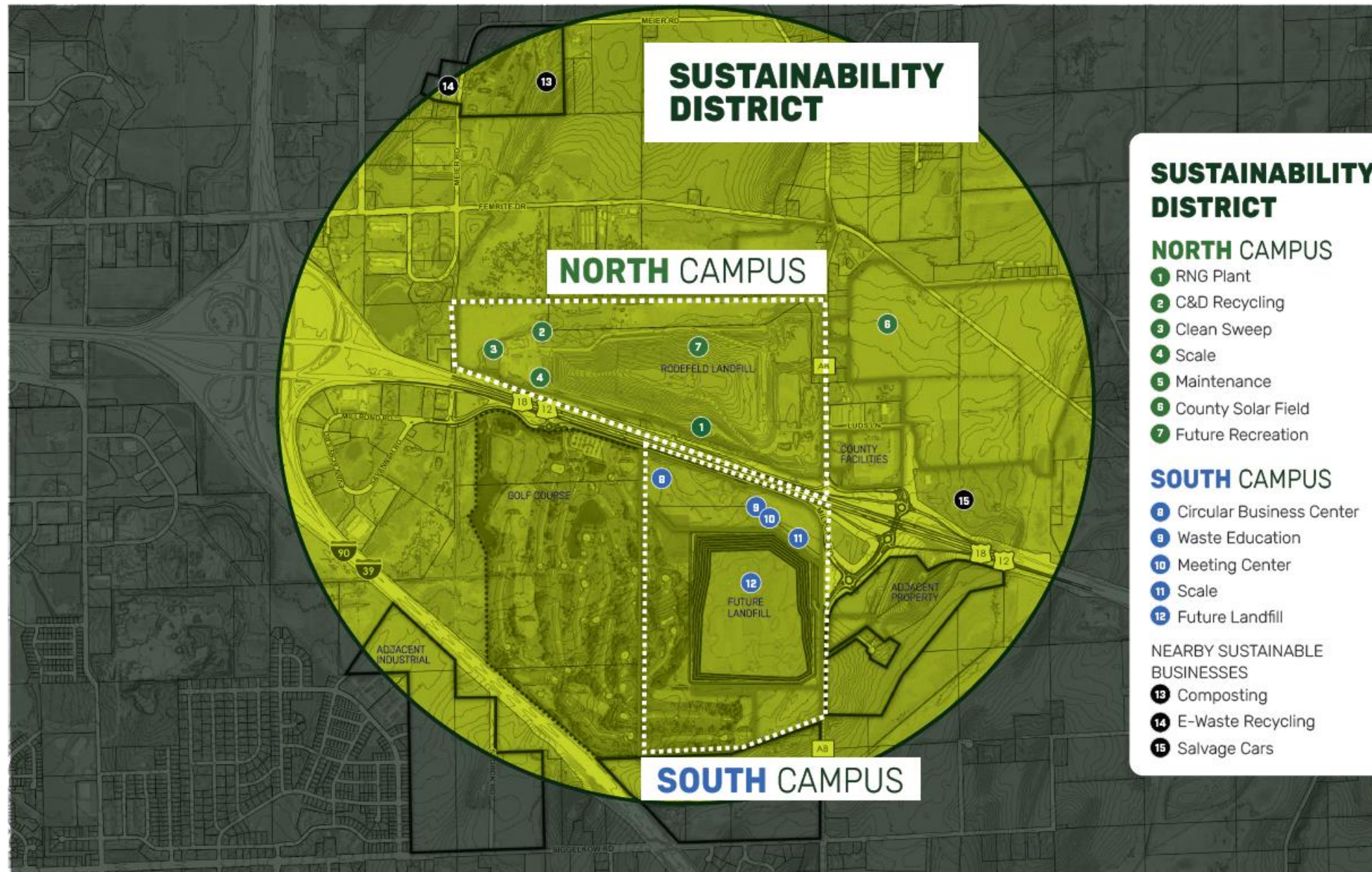
- Opportunity to redesign how the community's waste is managed
- Host waste processors, recycling businesses, and potentially research and development companies, startups, and public facing facilities
- Bolster economic development in the area, create jobs
- Designed for safe public access, education, and recreation where visitors can examine their relationship with waste
- Move towards a future where waste is not a liability, but a resource and opportunity.



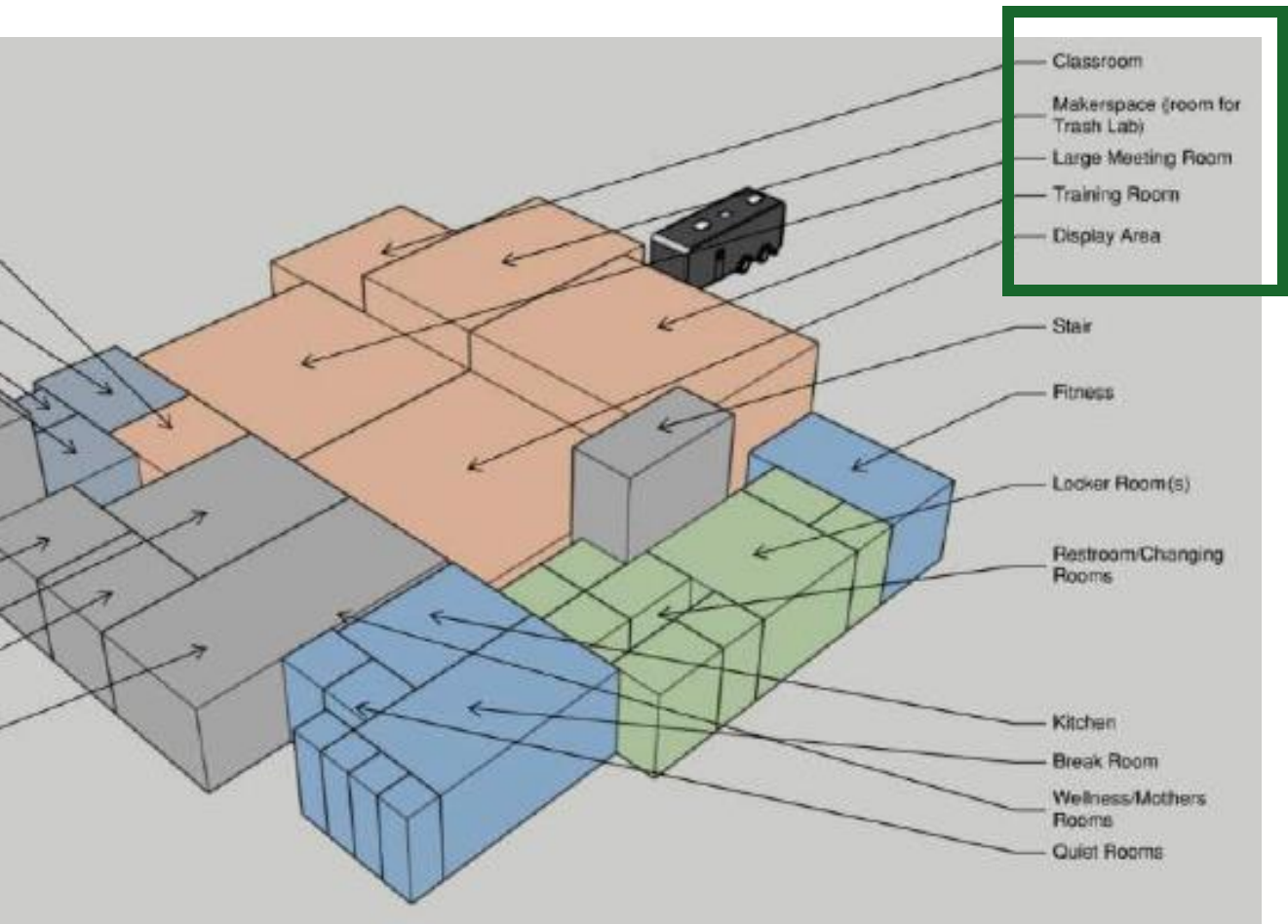
SUSTAINABILITY CAMPUS - DEPENDENCIES / SCHEDULE

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RFIs		Responses Due	Response Review and Interviews	Department Engagement Workshop / Determination Meeting	RFI Determination	RFI Summary and Recs					
Metrics Report	Kickoff	Report Planning & Preparation #1			Department Engagement Workshop	Incorporate RFI Metrics & Dept Engagement Workshop Feedback	Complete Draft to County	County/ City Review #2	Final Metrics Report		
Sustainability Campus Imp. Plan	Kickoff Plan Outline & Process	Draft Plan – with Staff Input Meetings #1			Complete Draft 1 Plan		County Review #2	Complete Draft 2 Plan	Review #3	Final Plan	
A/E	Schematic / Design Development				Construction Documents			Bidding		Construction (Beginning Spring 2026)	

 City Review Meeting



WASTE + EDUCATION CENTER - COMMUNITY SPACE



MAKERSPACE

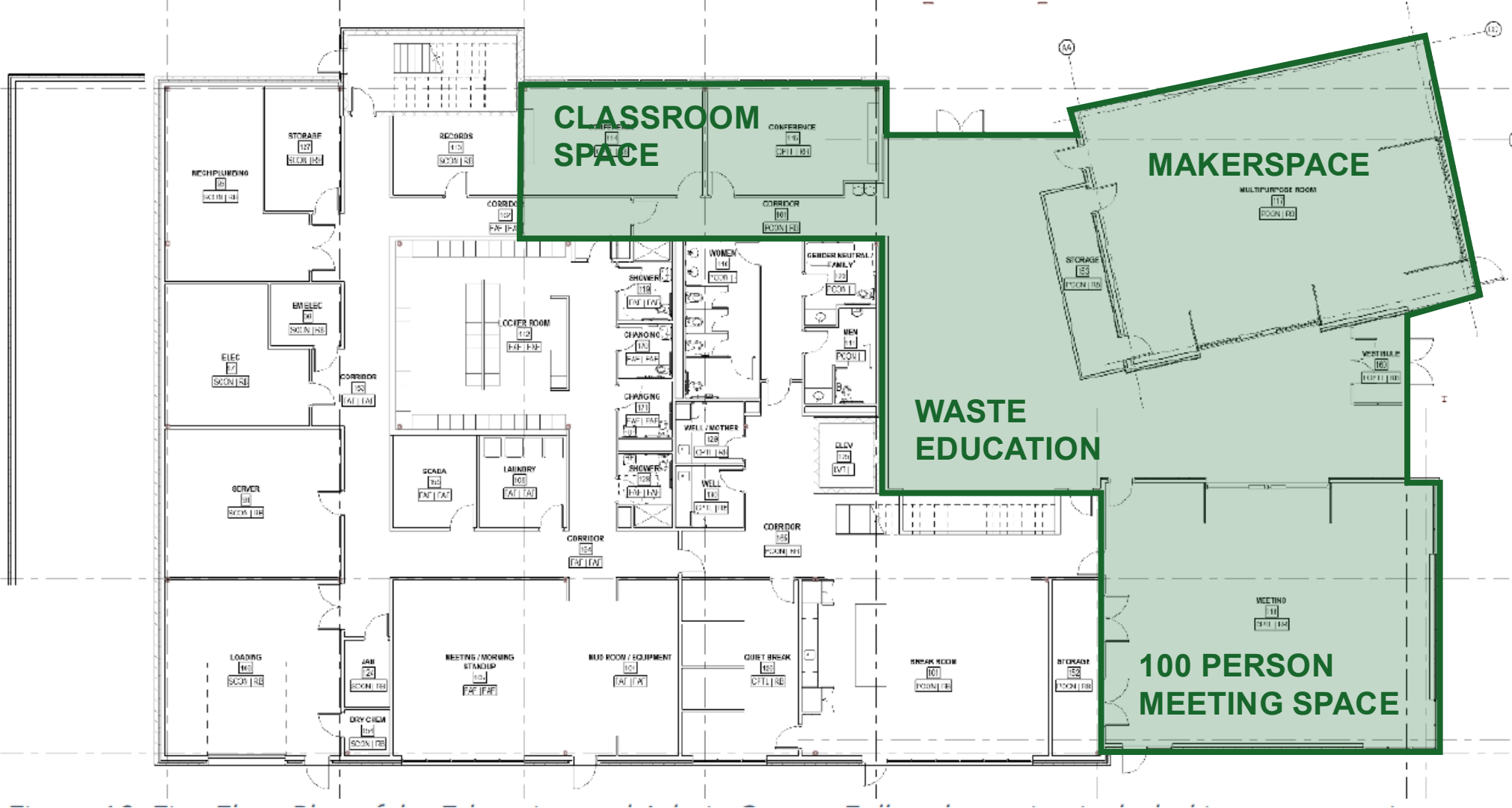


WASTE EDUCATION

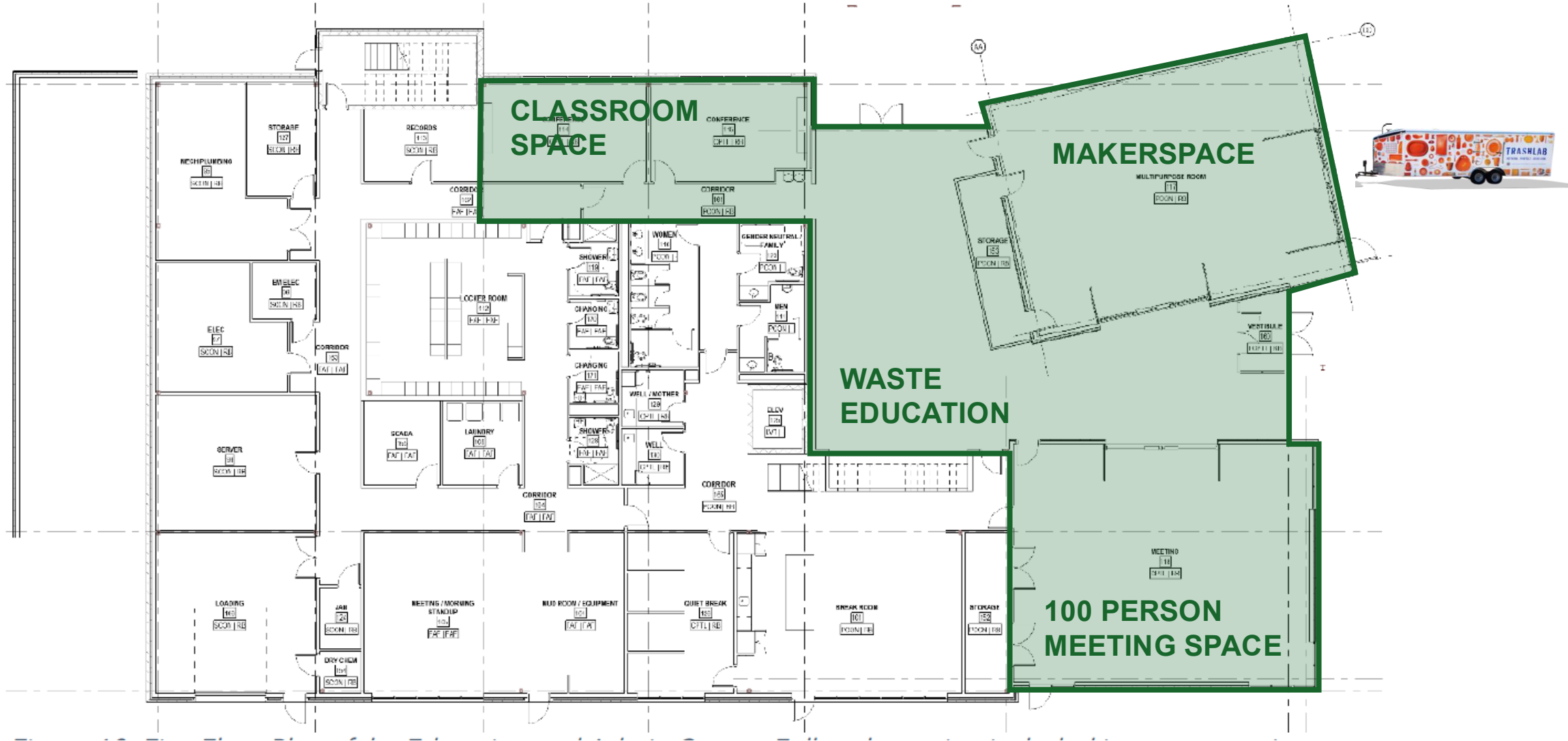


CLASSROOM SPACE

SUSTAINABILITY CAMPUS UPDATE – COMMUNITY SPACE



SUSTAINABILITY CAMPUS UPDATE – COMMUNITY SPACE



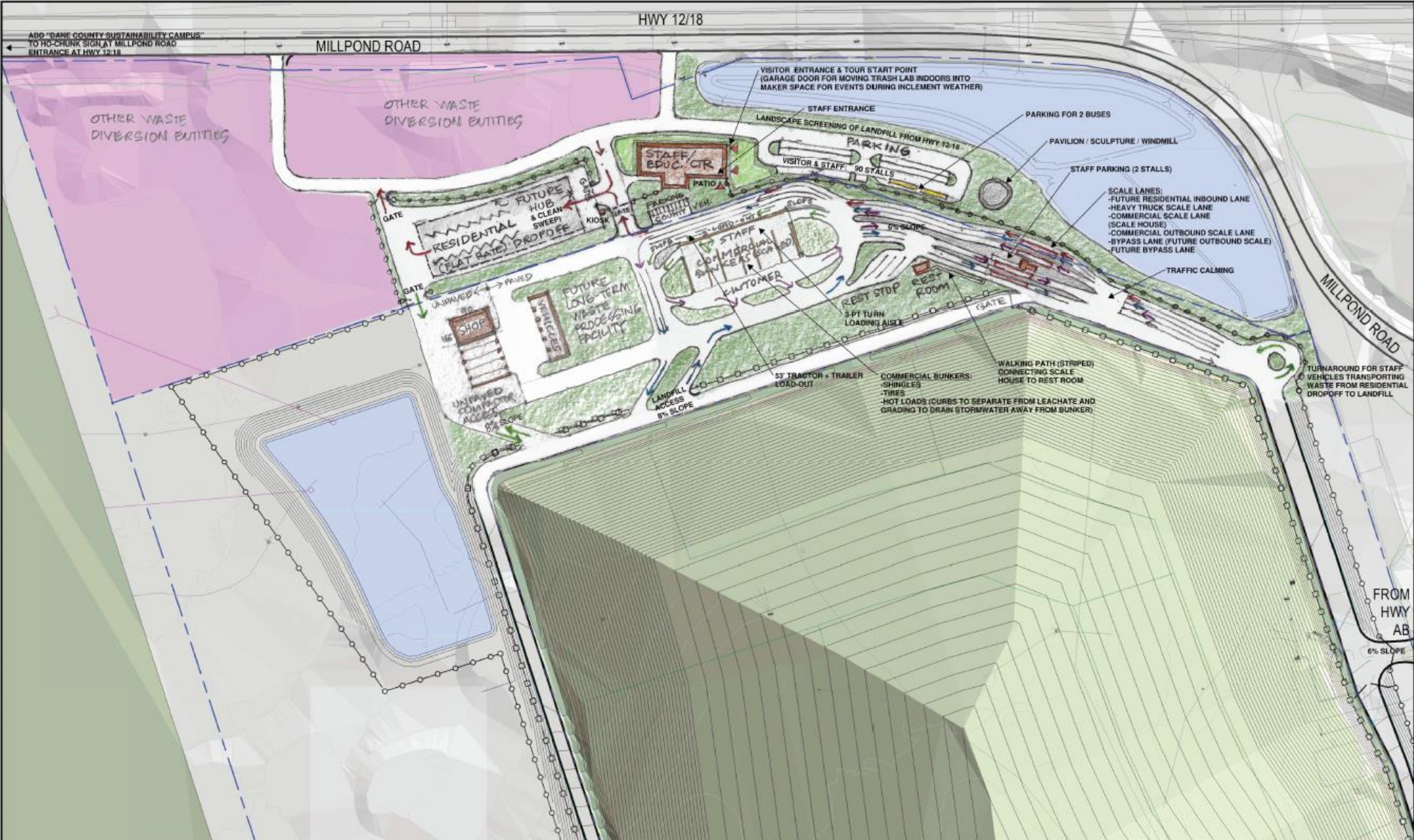
WASTE EDUCATION CENTER CONCEPT



WASTE EDUCATION CENTER CONCEPT



SUSTAINABILITY CAMPUS UPDATE – PRIORITIZING SITE PLANNING



SUSTAINABILITY CAMPUS UPDATE – PRIORITIZING SITE PLANNING



SUSTAINABILITY CAMPUS UPDATE – PRIORITIZING SITE PLANNING

Large scale
waste diversion



Mattress or other
smaller recycling



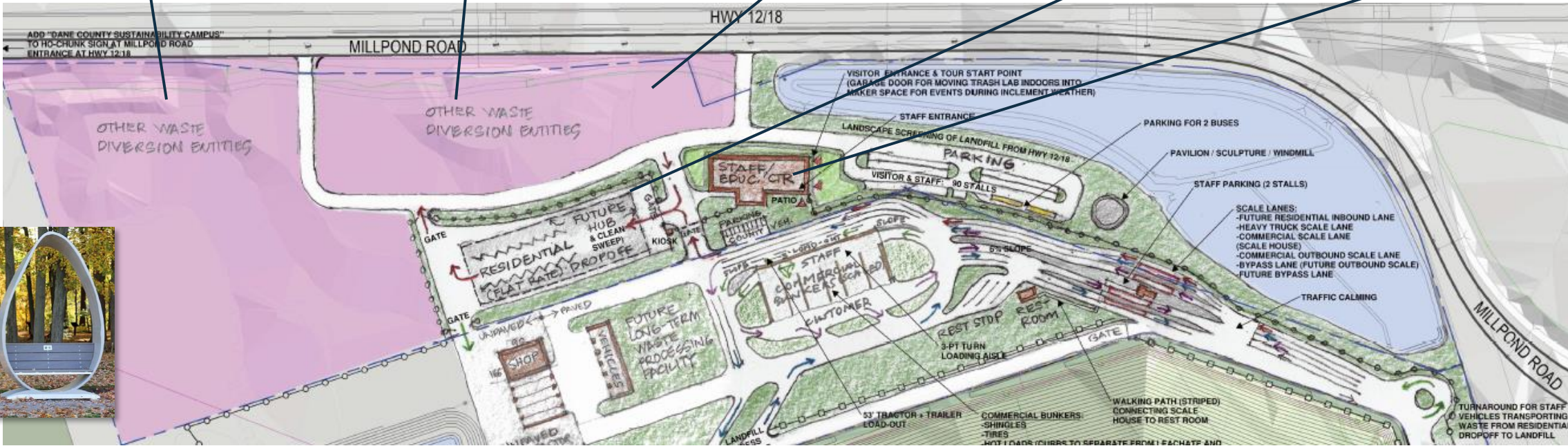
Reuse retail or
transfer location



Residential
drop off area



Waste
Education Center



upcycled art



REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (RFI) FOR POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- Intended to generate interest, solicit ideas and assess initial feasibility
- Will be used to shape upcoming RFPs and design of the site
- Aim to maximize waste diversion, energy generation, job creation and advance sustainability
- Enables new innovative ideas to be considered by the County



RFI CATEGORIES

- Broken into four categories to convey interest in solutions across the spectrum, from large-scale diversion to upstream education and art
- Open to many forms of partnerships, e.g.
 - Land Lease
 - Public ownership, private operation
 - Waste Agreement
 - Transfer/Storage space
 - Space within Waste Education Center
 - Art commission

RFI 001

**LARGE-SCALE
WASTE
DIVERSION,
PROCESSING,
AND
RECYCLING**

RFI 002

**PROBLEM
MATERIALS,
BULKY
WASTE, AND
EMERGING
MATERIALS**

RFI 003

**REUSE,
RETAIL, AND
UPCYCLING**

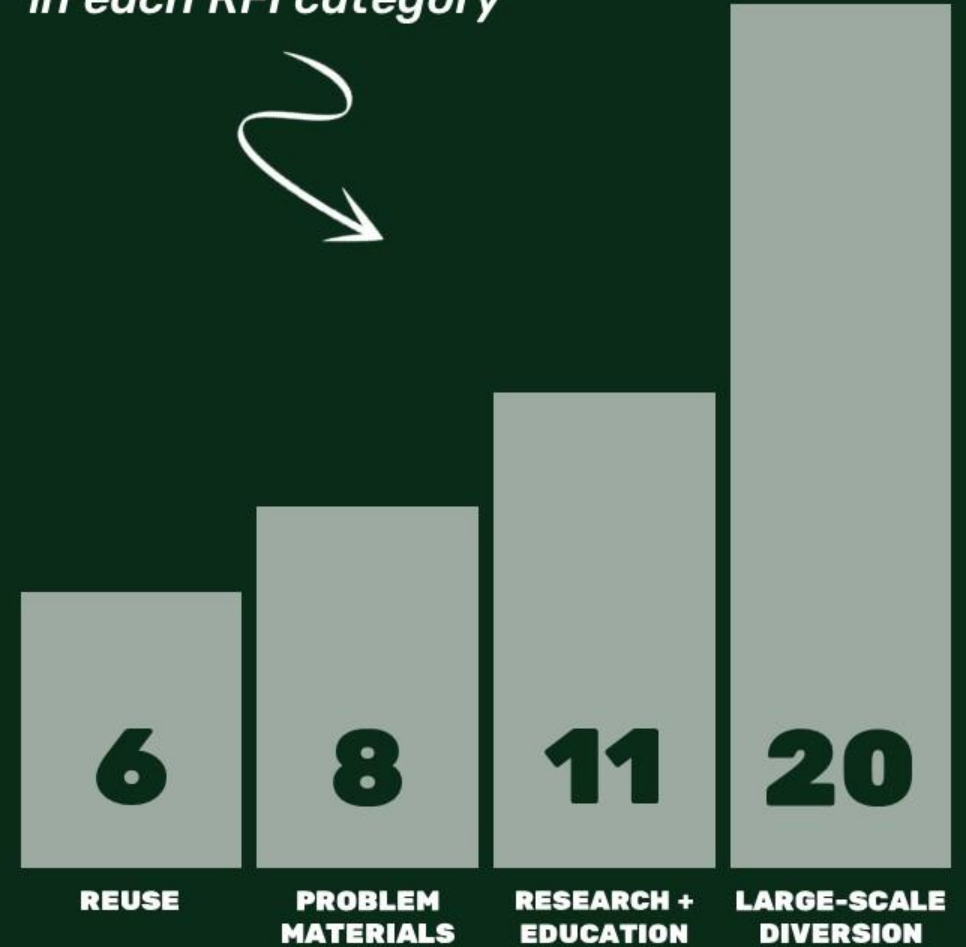
RFI 004

**RESEARCH,
EDUCATION,
AND ART**

DANE COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY CAMPUS
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

45
RESPONSES!

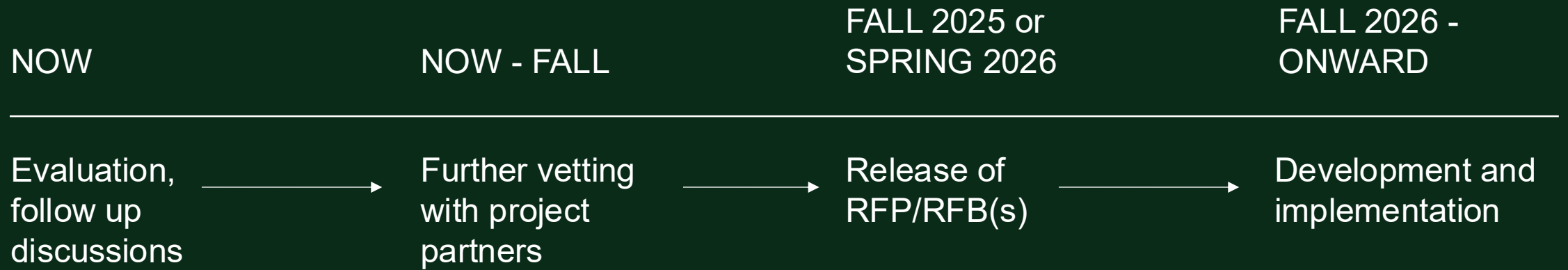
*Number of responses
in each RFI category*



Interest from many types of technologies and approaches including:

- Bicycle repair
- Mixed waste processing
- Building material reuse
- Mattress recycling
- Startup accelerators
- Anaerobic digestion
- Community education
- Academic research
- Chemical plastic recycling
- Waste audits

RFI TIMELINE





Dane County Waste + Renewables

FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING UPDATES



DANE COUNTY
W+R

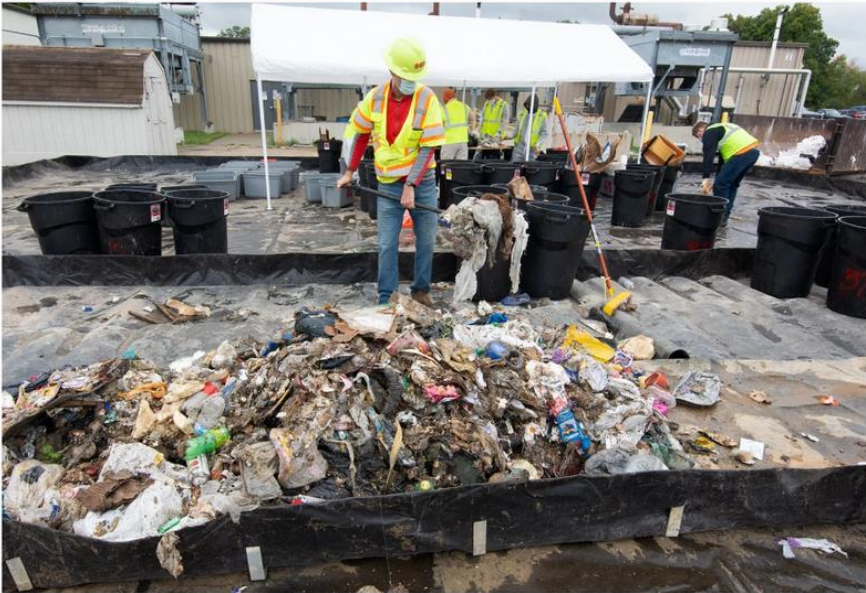
Dane County Waste & Renewables

Food Scrap Composting



WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

NEW DNR WASTE CHARACTERIZATION STUDY REVEALS INCREASE IN FOOD WASTE AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WASTE REDUCTION



[\(WI DNR, 2021\)](#)

- ❑ 2020 landfill study shows organics is the largest waste stream entering the county Rodefild landfill (34% overall, 38% residential)
- ❑ Overall organic waste breakdown:
 - ❑ 35% wasted food
 - ❑ 26% non edible food
 - ❑ 9% yard waste
 - ❑ 12% diapers
 - ❑ 9% animal waste
 - ❑ 6% fines/ dirt



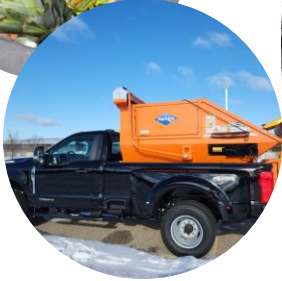
Solid waste samples are prepared for sorting.
Photo credit: Wisconsin DNR

Food Scrap Composting

- ❑ Began public/ private partnership with Purple Cow Organics in Fall 2024
- ❑ County invested in new infrastructure at partner's existing site, to outfit for food scrap composting
- ❑ County to coordinate collections, partner to process food scraps
- ❑ Ability to process 600+ tons of food scraps, 100+ tons of manure, and 3,000+ tons of brush/ yard waste a year



Food Scrap Composting



Food scraps are collected, hauled, and scaled at the County landfill.



Once transported to Purple Cow, food scraps are tipped onto a bed of carbon material.



The material is mixed and preconditioned in concrete bunkers.



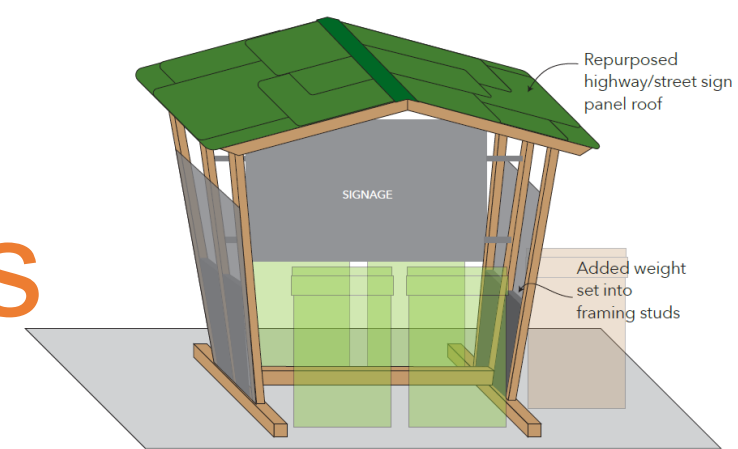
The pile is then formed into windrows to complete composting.



Finished compost is screened, removing large particles, and mixed into a soil amendment for sale.



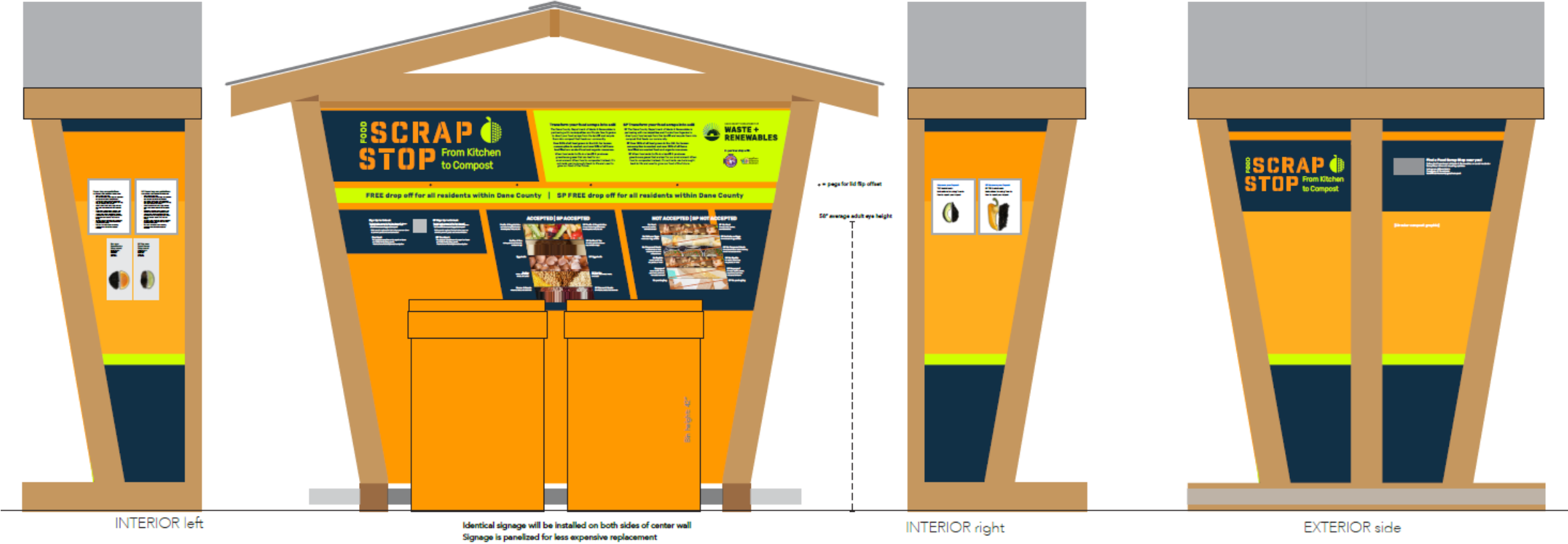
Residential Food Scrap Stops



- ❑ USDA grant funded collection from municipal host sites
- ❑ Food Scrap Stops designed by Madison Children's Museum, launching June 2025
- ❑ Monthly stakeholder engagement meetings to center community input and needs
- ❑ Future stops based on municipal interest, countywide distribution, and community accessibility



DCW&R Scrap Stops Sign Map



County Landfill Food Scrap Drop-Off



County landfill site food scrap and yard waste collections
launched April 2025

Online form for free resident registration to receive combo
lock code- visit landfill.danecounty.gov/compost
Option to sign up for program email updates



Address: 7020 Maahic Way, Madison

Primary Phone: (608) 206-6952

Landfill Phone: (608) 838-9555

Hours: M-F: 6:30am-3:15pm | Sat 8:00am- 10:45am



Food Scrap Stop Program Launch



To spread the word, share our program updates:

Facebook & Instagram @ReneWaste

LinkedIn @ Dane County Department of

Waste + Renewables

- ❑ 6/1 Madison, Middleton, McFarland site launch tabling
 - ❑ Free collection bucket distribution
 - ❑ Program Q&A
- ❑ Trash Lab + Scrap Stop tabling events at each location
 - ❑ 5/28 Henry Vilas Zoo 9am-1pm
 - ❑ 6/1 3-6pm Middleton
 - ❑ 6/13 3-6pm Warner Park
 - ❑ Date TBA McFarland
 - ❑ Aug date TBA Badger Prairie Needs Network Open House
- ❑ Ongoing resident programming in development





LEGEND



Drop-off
location

Dane County Landfill, Madison 7020 Maahic Wy (4/1/25)

Dane County Zoo, Madison Parking lot, S Orchard St+Vilas Park Dr (6/1/25)

Warner Park, Madison 2930 N Sherman Ave (6/1/25)

Quarry Skate Park, Middleton 7715 Terrace Ave (6/1/15)

McFarland Public Works 5115 Terminal Dr (6/1/25)

Badger Prairie Needs Network, Verona 1200 E Verona Ave (8/1/25)

FOOD SCRAP STOP

FROM KITCHEN TO COMPOST • DE LA COCINA AL COMPOST



DANE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
**WASTE +
RENEWABLES**

FREE drop off for all residents within Dane County
Servicio **GRATUITO** para todos los residentes del Condado de Dane

RESIDENTIAL

ACCEPTED | ACEPTABLES

FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Raw and cooked fruits & vegetables
—pits, peels, cobs and all



FRUTAS Y VERDURAS

Frutas y verduras crudas y cocidas
—con hueso, cáscara, mazorca y todo

COFFEE & TEA

Grounds or loose tea without filters
or bags



CAFÉ Y TÉ

Té molido o suelto, sin filtros
ni bolsitas

EGGSHELLS

Shells, but not the eggs



CÁSCARAS DE HUEVO

Cáscaras, pero no los huevos

BEANS & NUTS

All beans, seeds, nuts, and shells



FRIJOLE Y SEMILLAS

Todos los frijoles, semillas, frutos
secos y cáscaras

For **lock code** access to the free drop-off,
please register online by using the QR code
or visit landfill.danecounty.gov/compost.



Para acceder al punto de entrega gratuito
que tenga **código de bloqueo**, regístrese
en línea usando el código QR o visiten el
sitio landfill.danecounty.gov/compost.

To report issues or for program questions
contact: Waste.Renewables@DaneCounty.Gov

Para preguntas sobre el programa o para reportar un
problema en una estación para desechos de alimentos,
envíen un correo electrónico a
Waste.Renewables@DaneCounty.Gov

Keep lid closed when not in use

Replace and close lock when finished

Mantengan la tapa cerrada cuando no esté en uso

Al terminar vuelvan a colocarla, y cierren el candado

NOT ACCEPTED | INACEPTABLES

NO MEAT

No meat, bones, seafood, or
animal products



NADA DE CARNES

Nada de carne, huesos, mariscos ni
productos animales

NO DAIRY OR EGGS

No cheese, cream, yogurt, or other dairy
and egg products



NADA DE LÁCTEOS O HUEVOS

Nada de queso, crema, yogur, productos
lácteos ni productos con huevo

NO BREADS OR BAKED GOODS

No breads, pastas, baked goods,
or candies



NADA DE PAN O PRODUCTOS HORNEADOS

Nada de pan, pastas, productos horneados ni dulces

NO LIQUIDS

No milk, coffee, juices, sauces, fats, oils,
greases, or waxes



NADA DE LÍQUIDOS

Nada de leche, café, jugos, salsas, grasas,
aceites ni ceras

NO PAPER*

No paper, napkins, tissues, pizza boxes,
parchment, wax paper, or cardboard
(*paper bags for collecting food scraps
are an allowed exception)



NADA DE PAPEL*

Nada de papel, servilletas, pañuelos desechables,
cajas de pizza, papel pergamino, papel encerado ni
cartón (*las bolsas de papel para disponer de restos
de comida son una excepción permitida)

NO INORGANICS OR HAZARDS

No plastic, metal, or Styrofoam
(inorganics),
or glass, sharps, chemicals, animal waste,
or litter (hazards)



NADA DE MATERIALES INORGÁNICOS O PELIGROSOS

Nada de plástico, metal o poliestireno (materiales
inorgánicos), tampoco vidrio, objetos punzantes,
productos químicos, desechos animales ni basura
(materiales peligrosos)

NO PACKAGING

No produce stickers, twist ties, staples,
rubber bands, food service products, or
"compostable/biodegradable" items



NADA DE ENVASES

Nada de etiquetas para productos agrícolas, lazos de
torsión, grapas, elásticos, productos de servicios
alimentarios ni artículos "compostables/biodegradables"

FOOD SCRAP STOP

FROM KITCHEN TO COMPOST • DE LA COCINA AL COMPOST



DANE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
**WASTE +
RENEWABLES**

COMMERCIAL

ACCEPTED | ACEPTABLES

FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Raw and cooked fruits & vegetables
—pits, peels, cobs and all



FRUTAS Y VERDURAS

Frutas y verduras crudas y cocidas
—con hueso, cáscara, mazorca y todo

COFFEE & TEA

Grounds or loose tea without filters
or bags



CAFÉ Y TÉ

Té molido o suelto, sin filtros
ni bolsitas

EGGSHELLS

Shells, but not the eggs



CÁSCARAS DE HUEVO

Cáscaras, pero no los huevos

BEANS & NUTS

All beans, seeds, nuts, and shells



FRIJOLES Y SEMILLAS

Todos los frijoles, semillas, frutos
secos y cáscaras

MEAT

Meat, bones, seafood, or
animal products



CARNES

Carne, huesos, mariscos ni productos
animales

DAIRY OR EGGS

Cheese, cream, yogurt, or other dairy
and egg products



LÁCTEOS O HUEVOS

Queso, crema, yogur, productos
lácteos ni productos con huevo

BREADS OR BAKED GOODS

Breads, pastas, baked goods,
or candies



PAN O PRODUCTOS HORNEADOS

Pan, pastas, productos horneados
ni dulces

NOT ACCEPTED | INACEPTABLES

NO LIQUIDS

No milk, coffee, juices, sauces, fats, oils,
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or litter (hazards)



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No produce stickers, twist ties, staples,
rubber bands, food service products, or
"compostable/biodegradable" items
(*BPI/TUV certified bags for collecting
food scraps are an allowed exception)



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Nada de etiquetas para productos agrícolas, lazos de
torsión, grapas, elásticos, productos de servicios
alimentarios ni artículos "compostables/biodegradables"
(*las bolsas certificadas de BPI/TUV para disponer de
restos de comida son una excepción permitida)

Keep lid closed when not in use

To report issues or for program questions
contact: Waste.Renewables@DaneCounty.Gov

BPI/TUV certified bags for collecting food scraps
must be pre-approved prior to using.

Mantengan la tapa cerrada cuando no esté en uso

Para preguntas sobre el programa o para reportar un problema
en una estación para desechos de alimentos, envíen un correo
electrónico a Waste.Renewables@DaneCounty.Gov

Las bolsas certificadas por BPI/TUV para recolectar desechos
de comida deben ser aprobadas previamente antes de uso.

Commercial Food Scrap Pickup

- ❑ W&R collects food scraps from local organizations for composting
- ❑ W&R staff will provide food scrap collection education, work with partner businesses to establish best practices, and intervene in cases of contamination
- ❑ Pickup options
 - ❑ W&R provides hauling services or coordinates with existing hauling service
 - ❑ Drop off options available for interested groups
- ❑ Optional food service sustainability offerings for W&R hauled customers
 - ❑ Waste reduction consulting services
 - ❑ Connection to food recovery and donation resources
 - ❑ Connection to broader waste reduction and network opportunities, grants



County Organic Recycling Drop-Offs

Brush + Log -> Mulch



Yard Waste -> Compost



Commercial Food Scraps -> Compost



W&R Organics Management Grant

Dane County [W&R provided grant](#) for area programs diverting organic material from the landfill.
\$10,000 annual grant pool, \$2,500 application maximum.

2022



Over \$8,100 awarded,
collectively diverting over
13,970 pounds of food waste.

Awardee groups included:

*The Dane County Farmers Market,
Sustain Dane, City of Sun Prairie, Madison
Children's Museum, McFarland High School
Eco Club*

2023



Over \$7,240 awarded,
collectively diverting over
39,467 pounds of food waste.

Awardee groups included:

*Sustain Dane,
Brainplate Grows,
City of Sun Prairie*

2024



Over \$10,000 awarded

Awardee groups included:

*Innovation Center Stoughton, Brainplate
Grows,
REAP Food Group, FEED Kitchens, Sustain
Dane*

2025 W&R Organics Management Grant



3/1/25 - 4/4/25

2025 application cycle live

Earth Day 4/22/25

Awardees announced

4/22/25 - 5/31/25

Grant contract development

5/31/25 - 11/30/25

Project execution

12/1/25

Project conclusion and final report due



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608.590.9534

Dane County Waste + Renewables

SUSTAINABILITY CAMPUS + FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING

Sustainable Madison Committee | May 19th, 2025



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