Everyone generates waste. From residents, businesses and industries, NTMWD processes and properly disposes about one million tons of solid waste each year. We have designed our solid waste system to take care of this waste safely and reliably, protecting the environment and water quality.

We serve five solid waste Member Cities with a combined population of almost 900,000: Allen, Frisco, McKinney, Plano and Richardson. NTMWD operates the 121 Regional Disposal Facility (landfill) in Melissa, Texas to protect the environment, control odors, and provide an affordable and effective option for waste disposal. Our landfill meets or surpasses state and federal waste management regulations. As part of our solid waste service, NTMWD also manages and operates three solid waste transfer stations.

Collection
Solid waste is collected by our Member Cities from residents and businesses and either delivered to the landfill or to one of our three transfer stations:

- Lookout Drive (Richardson)
- Parkway Drive (Plano)
- Custer Road (Plano)

At the transfer stations, NTMWD operators push and compact the solid waste into larger covered tractor-trailers for transport to the landfill. The transfer stations are permitted to process up to a combined 3,295 tons of solid waste per day. This transfer process saves money by ensuring that smaller waste collection vehicles do not have to travel the additional distance to the landfill. It also reduces traffic and vehicle emissions associated with fewer trucks on the road.

As part of our solid waste service, the landfill and each transfer station provides a citizen drop-off area for residents of Allen, Frisco, McKinney, Plano and Richardson to bring certain types of waste twice per month. A list of requirements for drop off, and what can and cannot be accepted is available on our website: NTMWD.com/AcceptableWaste.

Don’t Forget to Recycle and Compost
The most environmentally sound approach to managing municipal solid waste is to reduce or reuse where possible, recycle or compost, and dispose of waste only when needed.

Time to Recycle
The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Resource Conservation Council wants to help North Texans increase recycling participation and decrease contamination. Do you #KnowWhatToThrow? Visit TimeToRecycle.com to take a quiz and learn how you can help us divert waste from landfills.

Texas Pure Products
Through a partnership with the City of Plano’s Texas Pure Products, NTMWD Solid Waste Member City residents are able to drop off yard trimmings and clean wood at our Custer Road Transfer Station where it is composted. This program diverts approximately 50,000 tons of yard waste from the landfill each year. Learn more at TexasPureProducts.com.
Odor Management

Solid waste management is an essential service to the community, however, waste decomposition produces an unpleasant side effect – smelly odors. NTMWD works around the clock to prevent and minimize odor.

Transfer Stations:
- First waste delivered is the first waste taken out and transported to the landfill.
- We use an odor management system and floors are regularly washed.
- No waste is left in the facility overnight.

Landfill:
- Waste is spread and compacted as it arrives.
- Active disposal area covered daily with at least 6 inches of clean soil at the end of each day.
- Several hundred collection wells capture landfill gas before it leaves the landfill.
- Staff monitor daily the presence of odor at 13 nearby locations.

Monitoring and Reporting

We monitor subsurface water around the landfill perimeter as well as monitor for the presence of methane gas created by the decomposition of waste. We currently have nearly 200 gas wells throughout the developed sections of the landfill to collect gas produced by the decomposition of solid waste.

As part of our municipal solid waste disposal permit, we are required to report the types and amounts of waste processed or disposed, and remaining disposal capacity to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). TCEQ analyzes the data provided in these reports and publishes an annual summary report. Also, TCEQ evaluates a number of factors to create an environmental performance score which is converted into a general classification. NTMWD continues to maintain a “high” rating for all solid waste facilities.

Renewable Energy

Through a public-private partnership, we teamed up with Morrow Renewables to construct a High BTU Gas Plant for a gas-to-energy production program.

Landfill gas is harvested by wells throughout the site and routed to the gas plant where it is cleaned to natural gas pipeline quality. It is then sold as renewable energy. Not only does this create a new source of renewable energy, it also generates revenue to help offset operation and maintenance costs for the solid waste disposal system.
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