



Dane County Waste + Renewables

SUSTAINABILITY CAMPUS + LANDFILL

A hub for environmental education, renewable energy, and the circular economy

March 19th, 2025



DANE COUNTY TEAM



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COORDINATOR



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SUSTAINABILITY &
ENGAGEMENT COORD.



DELANEY GOBSTER
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
& OUTREACH COORD.



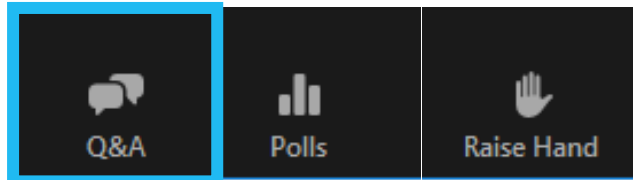
DOUG HUGHES
LANDFILL OPERATIONS
MANAGER



AARON COLLINS
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF,
COUNTY EXEC'S OFFICE

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- Waste + Renewables Overview
- Landfill Permitting Update
- Sustainability Campus Update
- Food Scrap Composting Update
- Q&A Session (in-person and online)



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, shingles, tires, vinyl siding, cardboard, aggregate, and other materials
- Public Private partnership, operated by a third party
- Employs approximately 15 on site staff + others



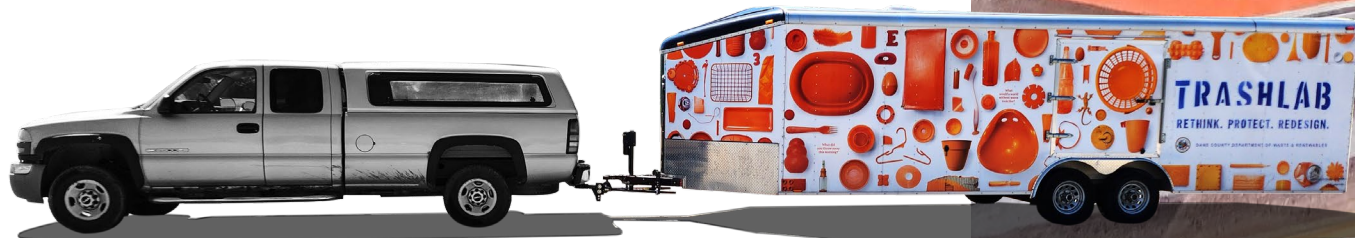
CLEAN SWEEP + PRODUCT EXCHANGE ROOM

- Accepts household hazardous waste and electronics from Dane County residents
- 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



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

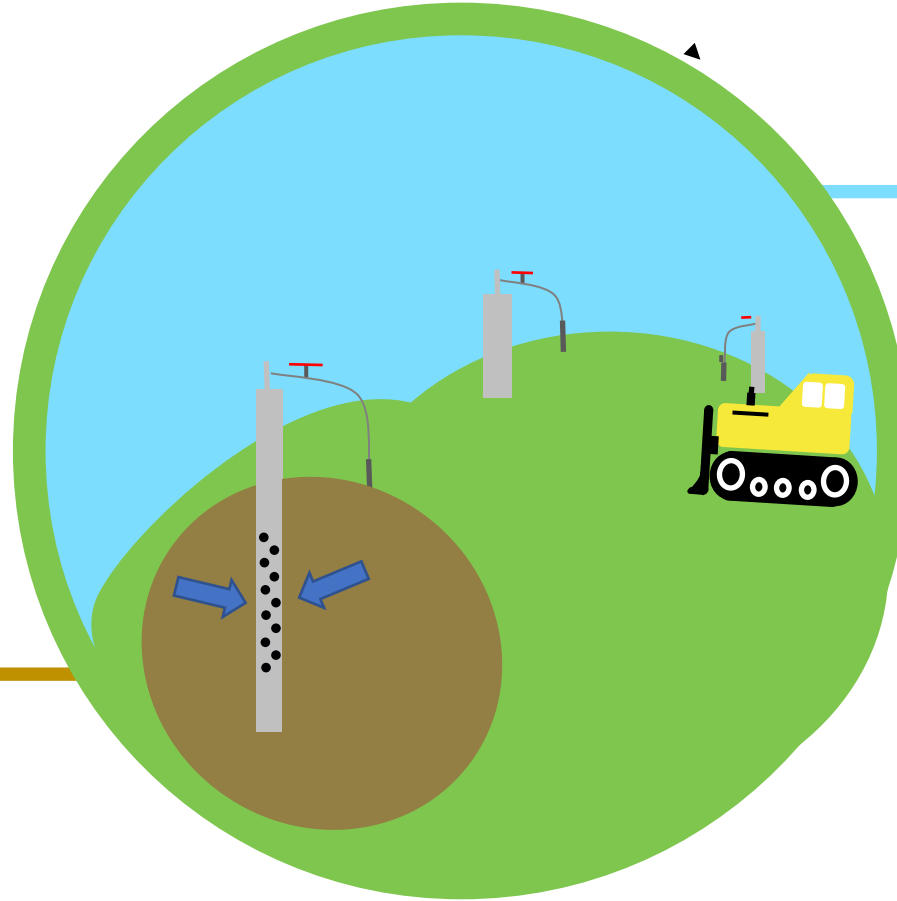
- Serves all of Dane County
- Accept ~300,000 tons of material each year
- Waste acceptance at the site since 1985
- Expanded in 1994 and 2015
- Estimated to reach capacity in 2029



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

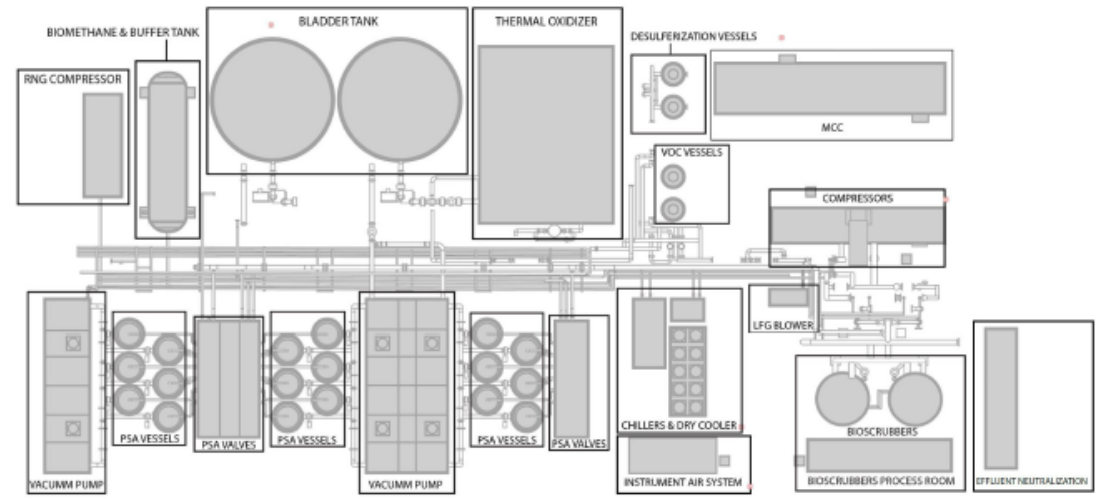
Landfill gas can be used as fuel in generators to make electricity



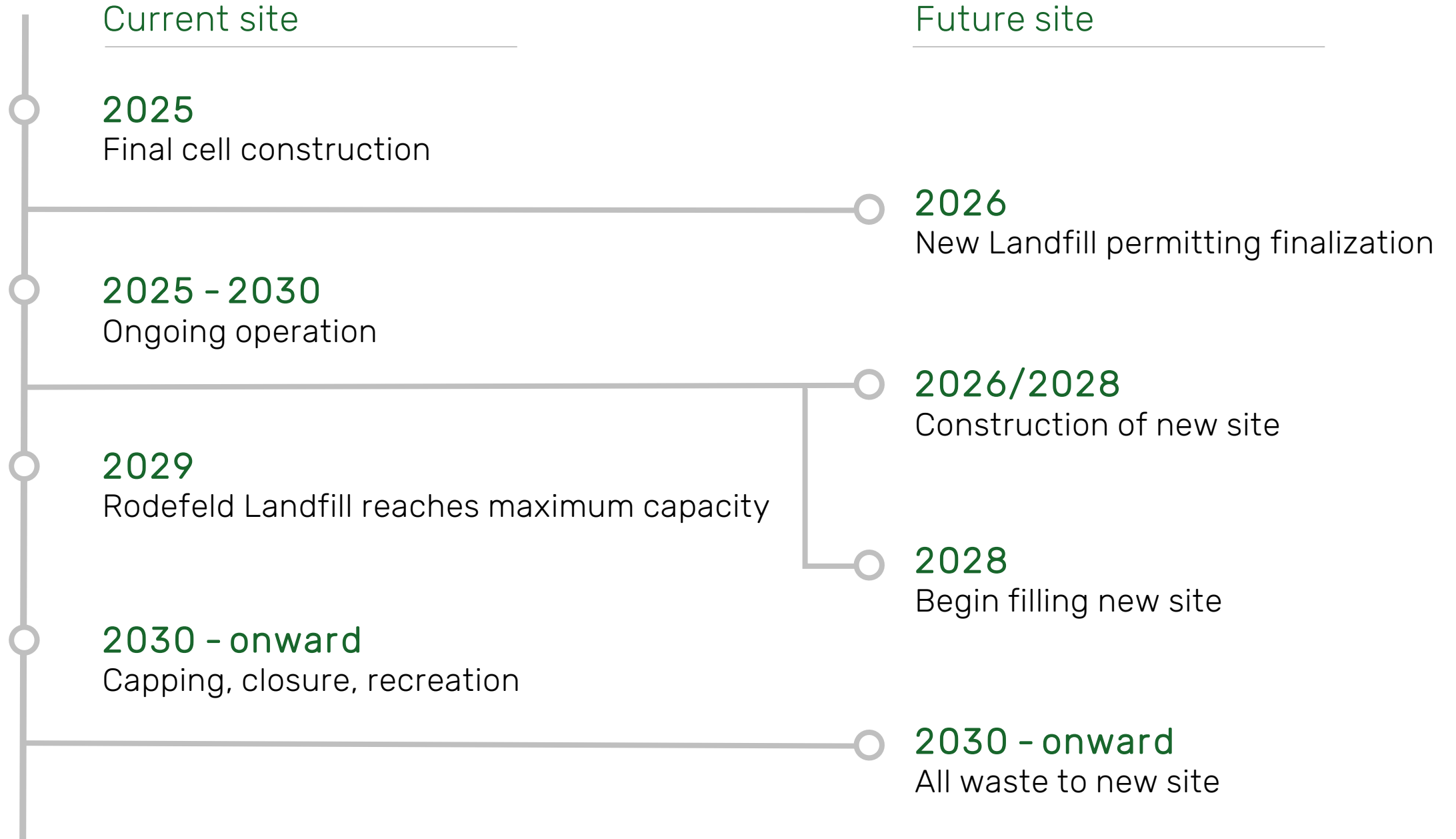
RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS

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

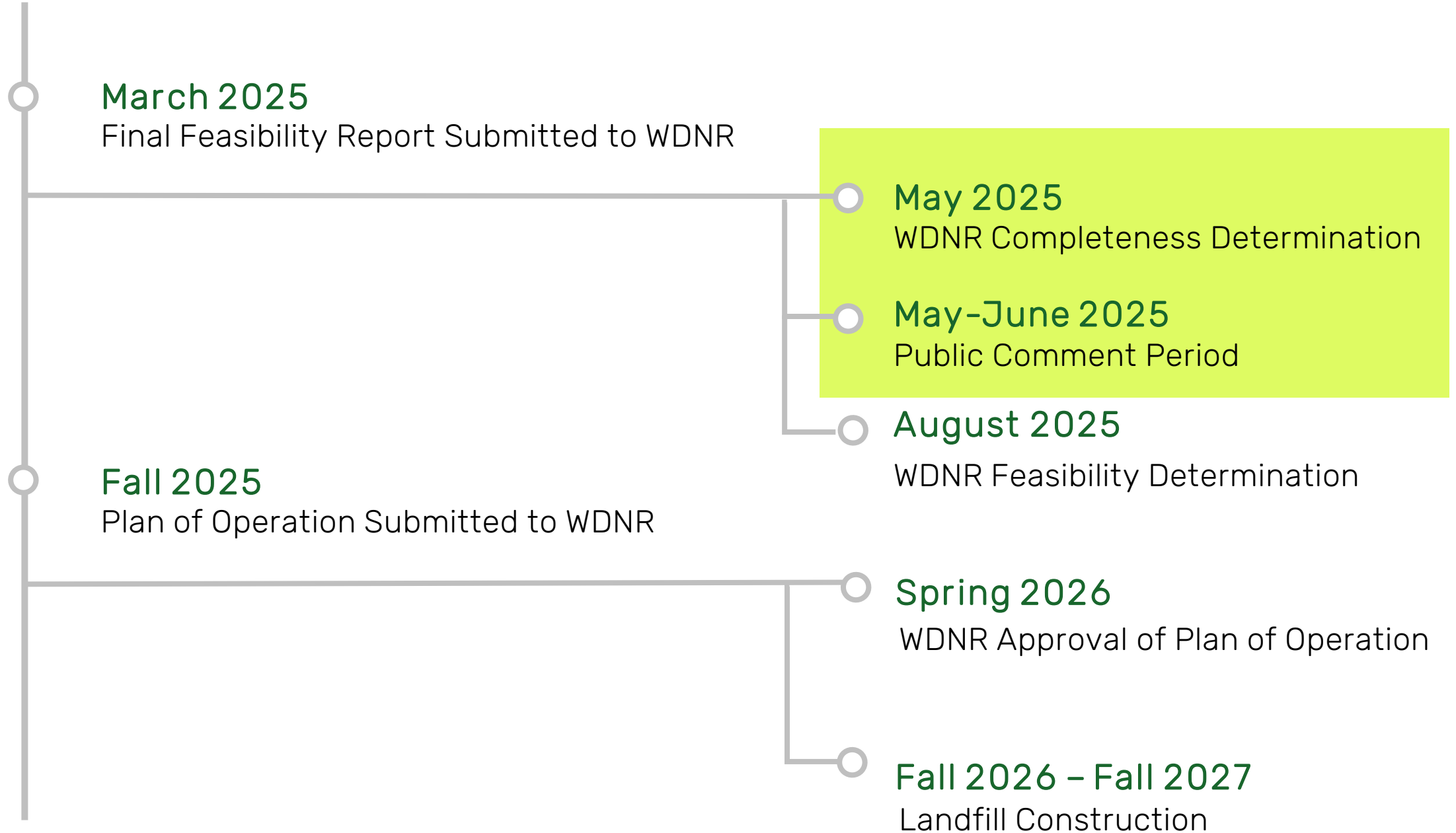




LANDFILL TIMELINE



PERMITTING TIMELINE



CONCEPTUAL VIEW OF LANDFILL



CTH AB

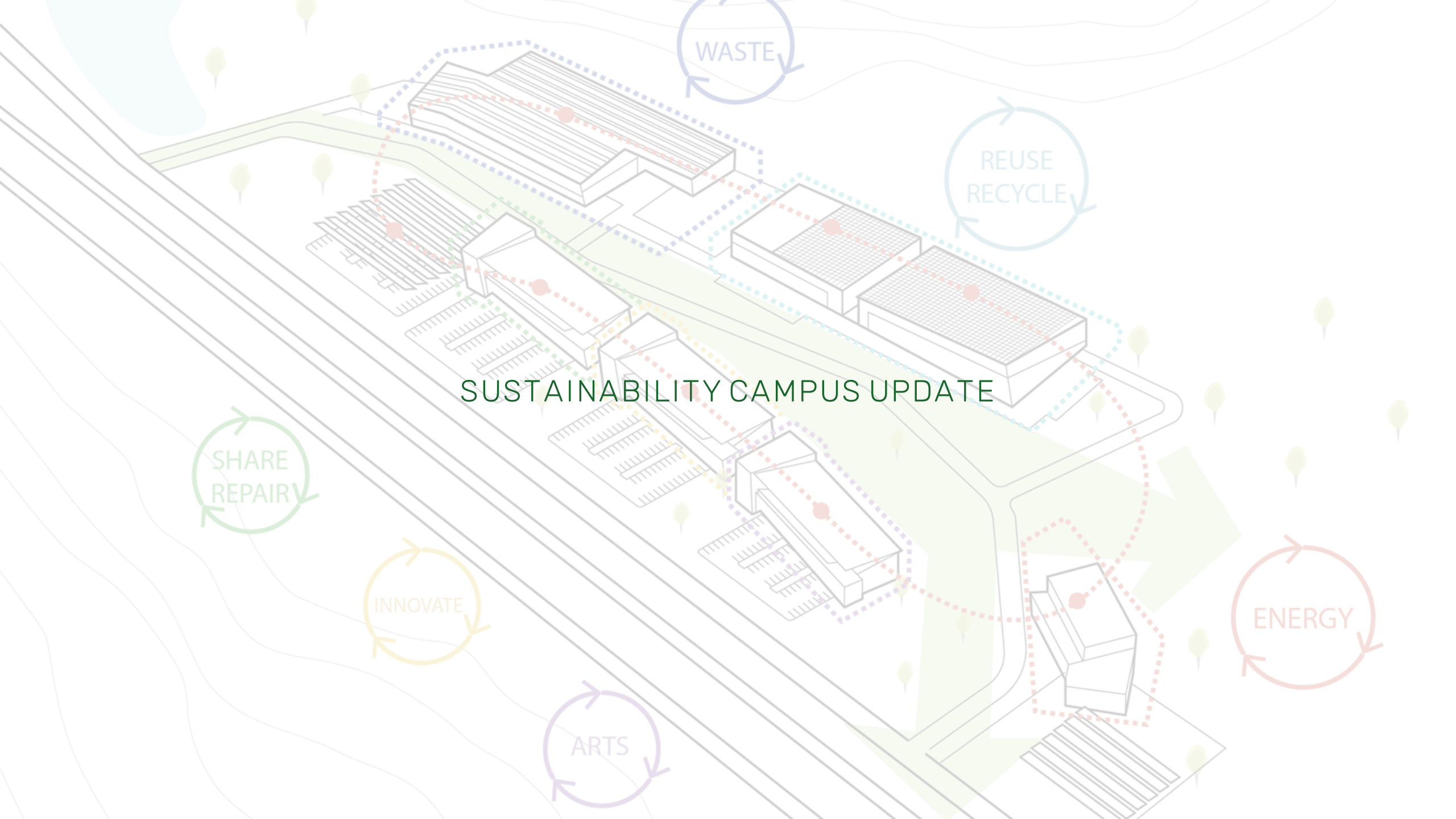
ROAD
CLOSED
AHEAD

SIGGELKOW RD

CONCEPTUAL VIEW OF LANDFILL



PENNOCK LANE



WASTE

REUSE
RECYCLE

SUSTAINABILITY CAMPUS UPDATE

SHARE
REPAIR

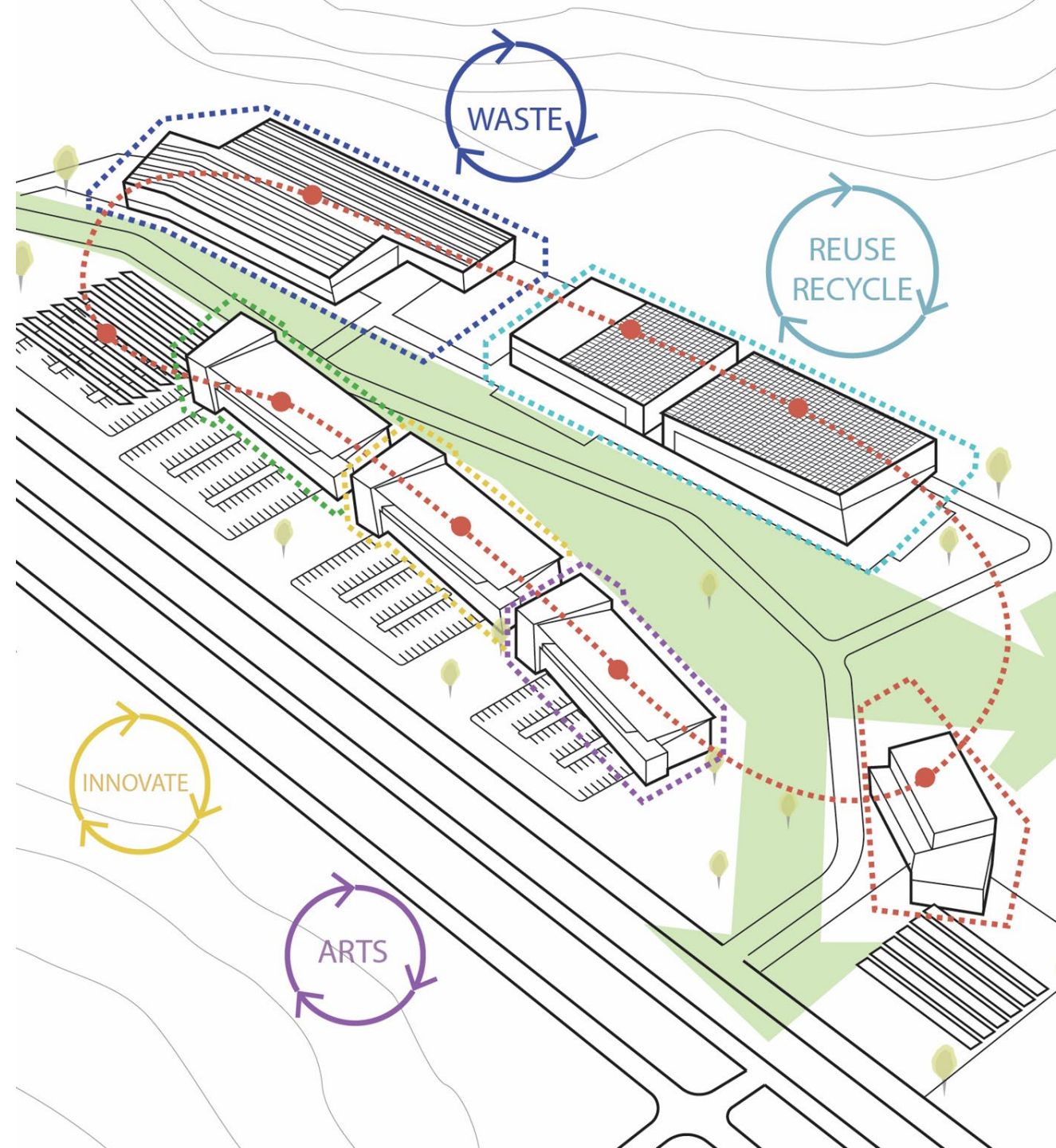
INNOVATE

ARTS

ENERGY

SUSTAINABILITY CAMPUS – OVERARCHING GOALS

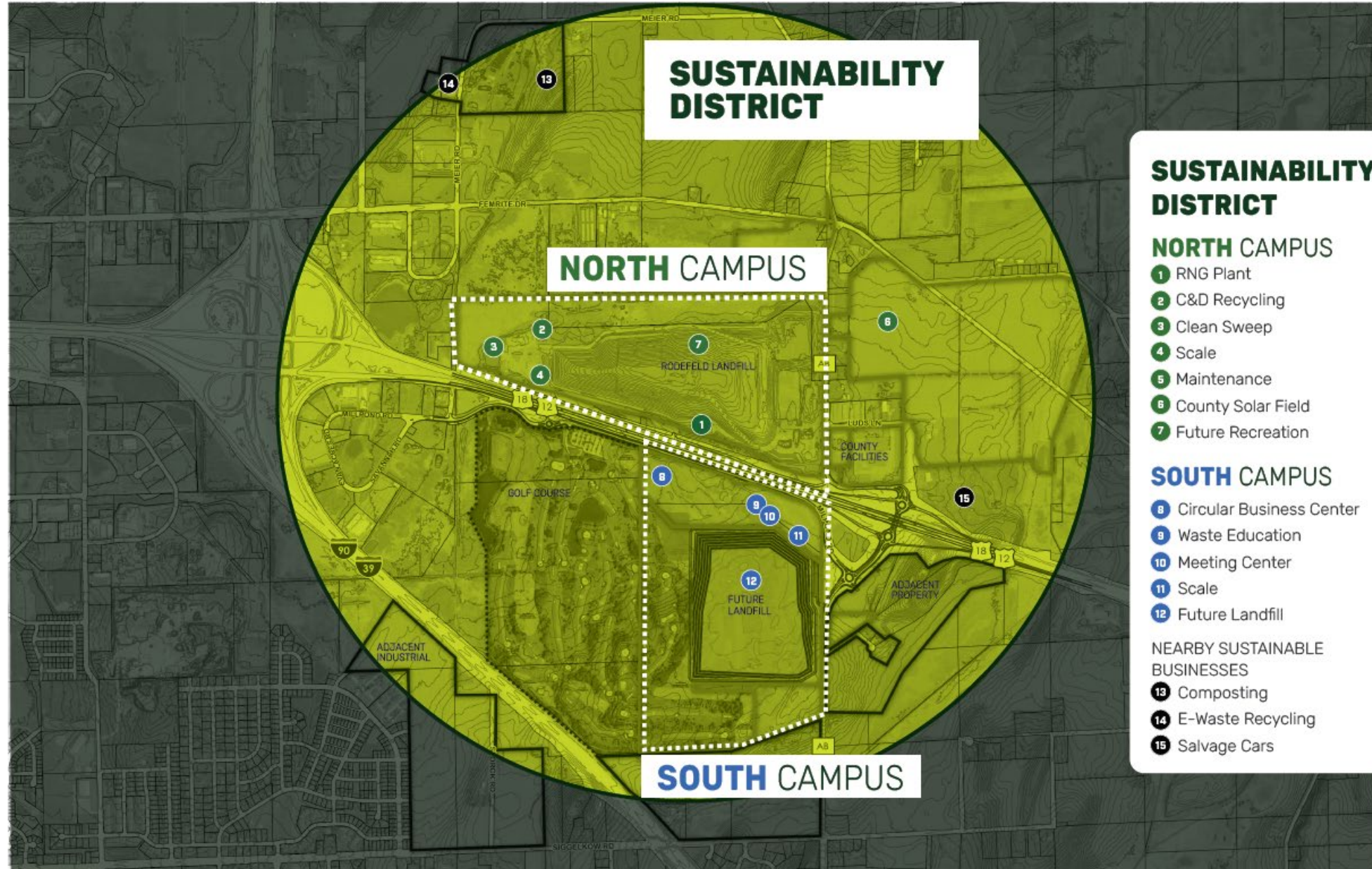
- Opportunity to redesign how the community's waste is managed
- Host waste processors, recycling businesses, and potentially research and development companies, startups, and public facing facilities
- Bolster economic development in the area, create jobs
- Designed for safe public access, education, 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			Department Engagement Workshop	Incorporate RFI Metrics & Dept Engagement Workshop Feedback	Complete Draft to County	County/City Review	Final Metrics Report		
Sustainability Campus Imp. Plan	Kickoff Plan Outline & Process	Draft Plan – with Staff Input Meetings			Complete Draft 1 Plan		County Review	Complete Draft 2 Plan	Review	Final Plan	
A/E	Schematic / Design Development				Construction Documents			Bidding		Construction (Beginning Spring 2026) →	

● City Review Meeting



SUSTAINABILITY DISTRICT

NORTH CAMPUS

SOUTH CAMPUS

SUSTAINABILITY DISTRICT

NORTH CAMPUS

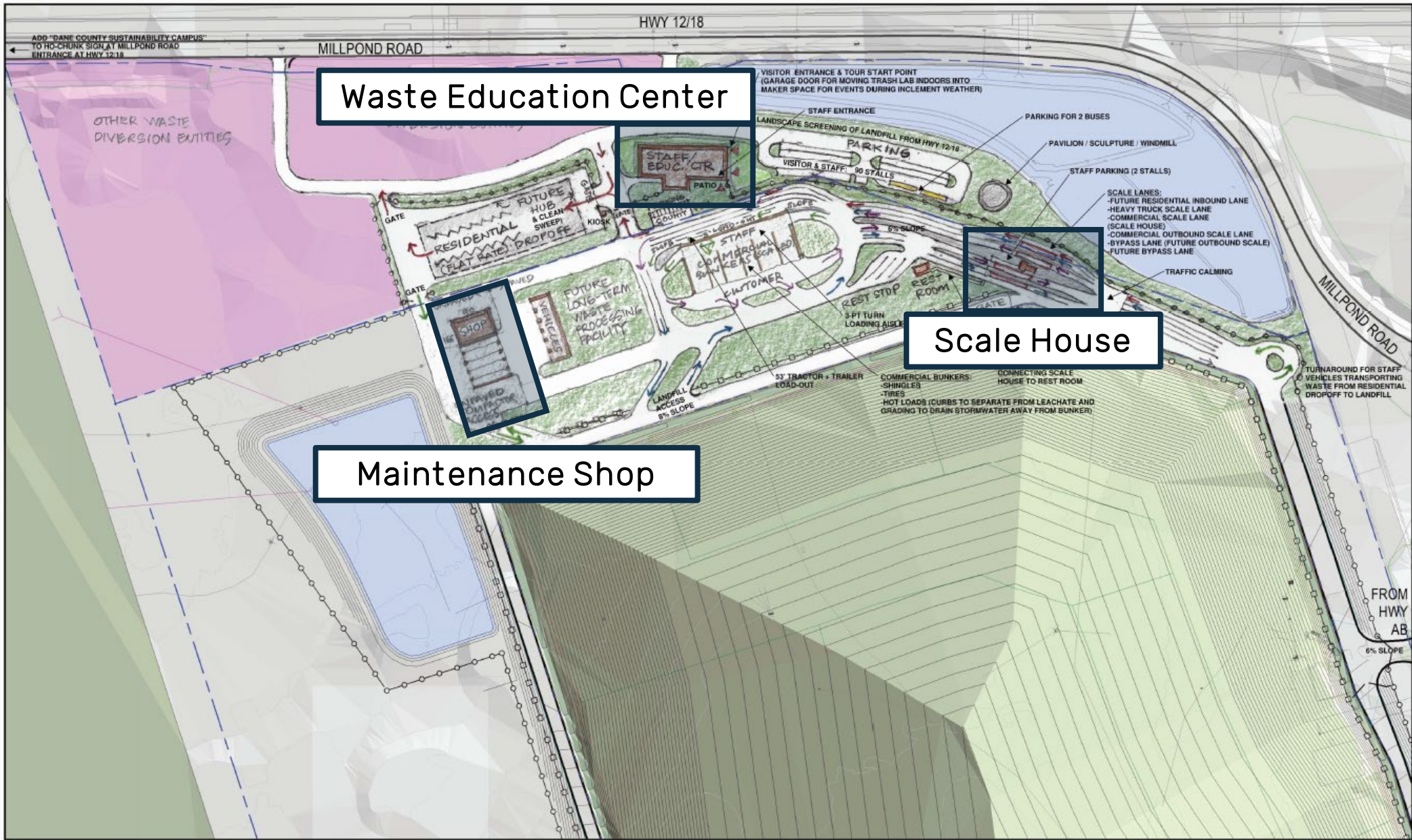
- 1 RNG Plant
- 2 C&D Recycling
- 3 Clean Sweep
- 4 Scale
- 5 Maintenance
- 6 County Solar Field
- 7 Future Recreation

SOUTH CAMPUS

- 8 Circular Business Center
- 9 Waste Education
- 10 Meeting Center
- 11 Scale
- 12 Future Landfill

NEARBY SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES

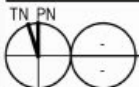
- 13 Composting
- 14 E-Waste Recycling
- 15 Salvage Cars



Waste Education Center

Scale House

Maintenance Shop



CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 100'-0"

DANE COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY CAMPUS

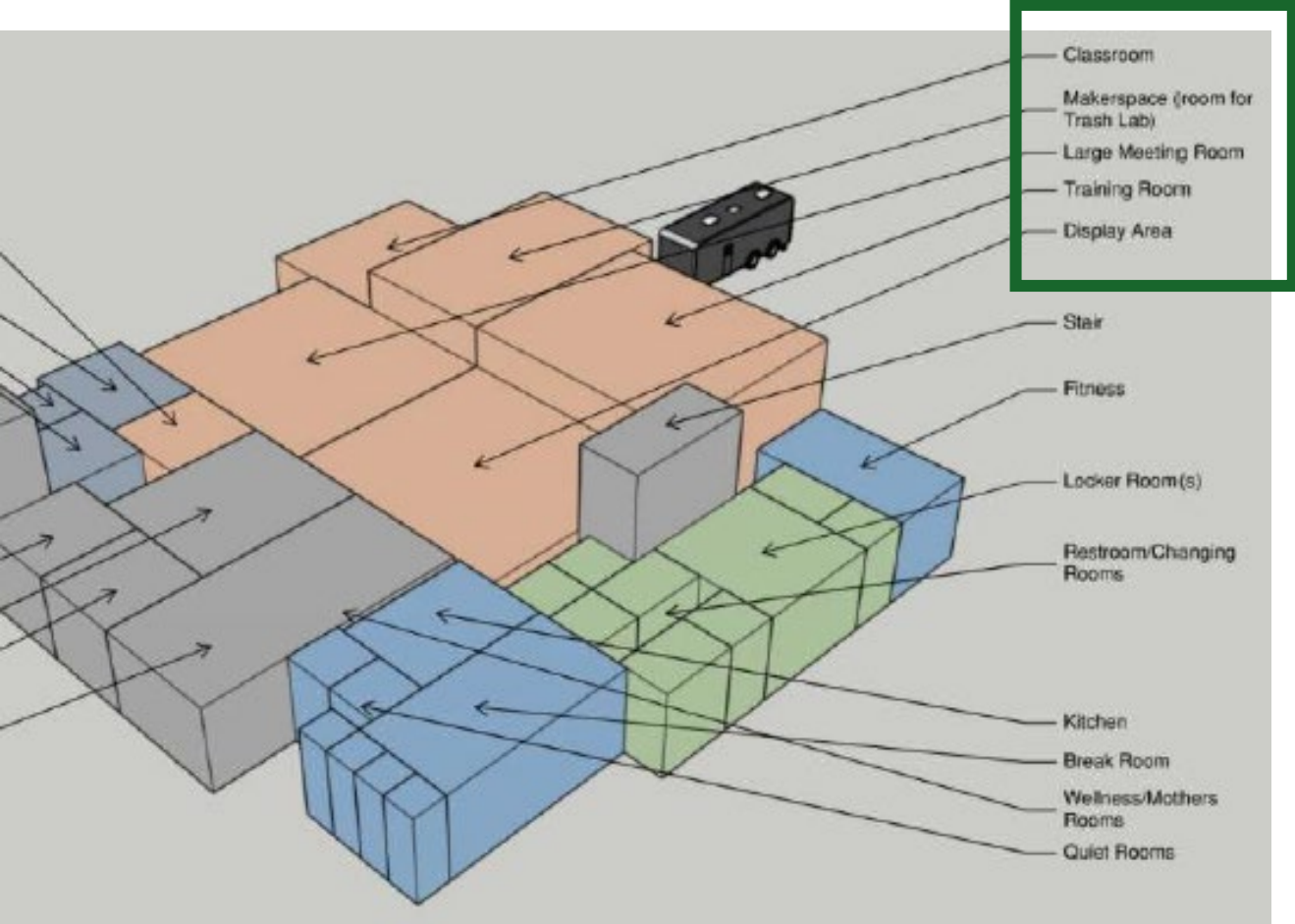
- VEHICLE TRAFFIC KEY:**
- ← RESIDENTIAL VEHICLES
 - ← HEAVY TRUCKS
 - ← COMMERCIAL VEHICLES
 - ← STAFF VEHICLES

03/04/2025



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SUSTAINABILITY CAMPUS UPDATE – COMMUNITY SPACE



MAKERSPACE



WASTE EDUCATION



CLASSROOM SPACE

WASTE EDUCATION CENTER CONCEPT



SUSTAINABILITY CAMPUS UPDATE – PRIORITIZING SITE PLANNING

Large scale waste diversion



Mattress or other smaller recycling



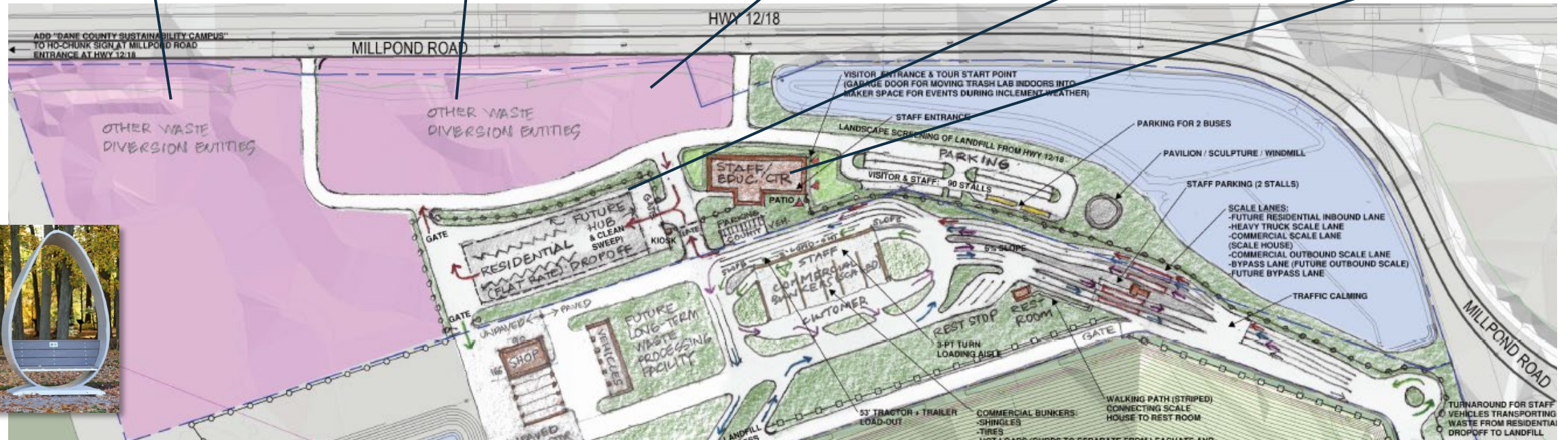
Reuse retail or transfer location



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**

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (RFI) FOR POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- Close on March 21st
- 3500+ views across RFIs
- 16 responses – as of today
- Interest from many types of technologies and approach including:
 - Bicycle repair
 - Mixed waste processing
 - Building material reuse
 - Mattress recycling
 - Startup accelerators
 - Academic research



A large, dark brown pile of compost dominates the foreground and middle ground. The compost is piled high, with some smaller mounds visible in the distance. In the background, there is a dense line of green trees under a bright sky. The overall scene is outdoors, likely at a composting facility or farm.

FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING UPDATE

FOOD WASTE AS A PRIORITY



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



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

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

- 2020 waste sort by WDNR showed organics is the largest waste stream entering the Rodefeld landfill:
 - 34% of overall waste stream
 - 38% of residential
 - 61% of organics in landfill is food
- Food in a landfill generates GHGs that contribute to climate change

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

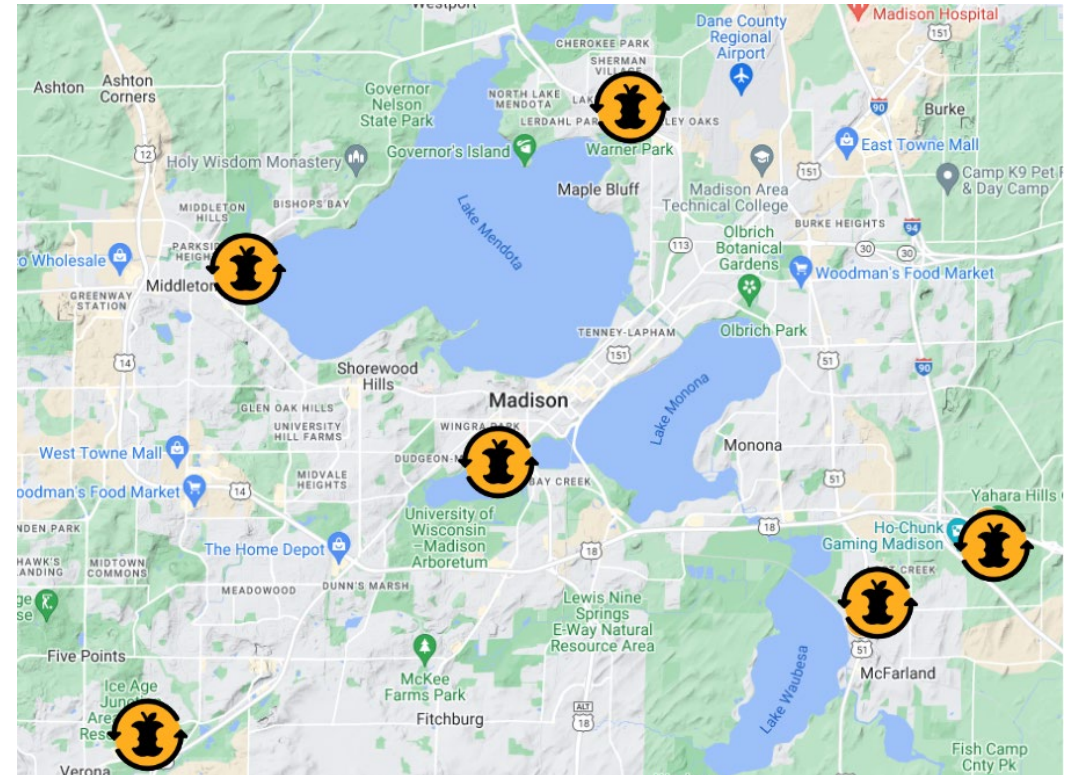
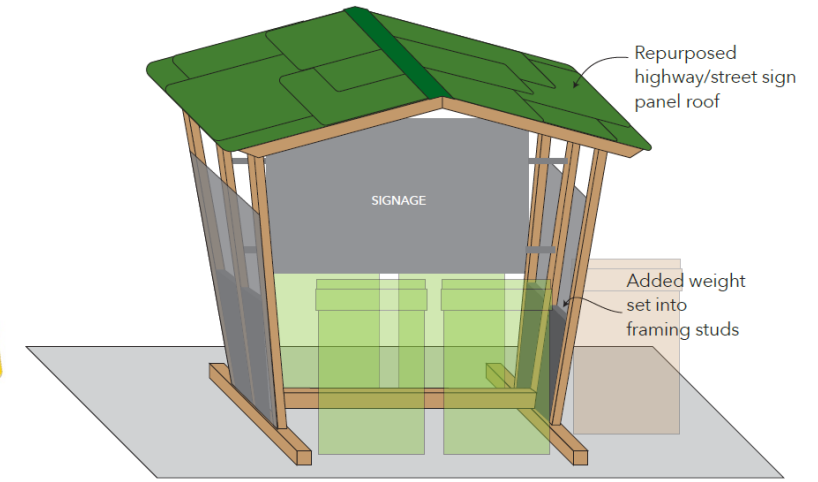
- Awarded \$400,000 USDA grant to expand food waste composting availability to area residents
- Created a new role focused specially on developing and implementing the program
- Contracted with Purple Cow Organics to process local food scraps, yard waste, and manure into compost



RESIDENTIAL DROP OFF PROGRAM

- With assistance from Madison Children's Museum, launching Food Scrap Stops in *June 2025*

- Locations include:
 - McFarland Public Works Building
 - Warner Park, Madison
 - Henry Vilas Zoo, Madison
 - City Hall area, Middleton
 - Badger Prairie Needs Network, Verona
 - Dane County Rodefild landfill, Madison
 - Opening April!*



FOOD

SCRAP STOP



ACCEPTED FOR RESIDENTIAL DROP-OFF



FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Raw fruit and vegetable scraps (including cobs, rinds, pits, etc)



COFFEE & TEA

Coffee grounds and loose tea (no filters or bags)



EGGSHELLS



GRAINS

Grains, rice, cereals, breads, baked goods, and pastas

NOT ACCEPTED



NO MEATS

Meat/bones, seafood, or animal products



NO DAIRY OR EGGS

Non-liquid dairy and egg products



NO PREPARED FOODS/MEALS

Consisting of not accepted materials



NO STICKERS & TIES

Produce stickers, twist ties, rubber bands, staples



NO LIQUIDS

Liquids, sauces, fats, oil, and grease



NO PAPER

Paper and tissue products



NO BAGS & TAKEOUT

"Compostable" or "biodegradable" bags or food service



NO HAZARDS

Pet or human waste, hazardous materials including sharps, glass, metal, and chemicals

*Commercial services include meat, dairy, and all prepared foods

COMMERCIAL SERVICE

- We are looking to work with school districts, restaurants, grocery stores, hospitals, breweries, and other large food waste generators within Dane County
- W+R pickup service will provide:
 - 65-gal carts for pick up
 - Locks and/or cords to restrict pest access and unapproved dumping
 - Food scrap landfill diversion metrics reporting
 - Connection to food recovery and donation resources



W&R Organics Management Grant

Dane County W+R provided grant for area programs diverting organic material from the landfill.



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 in process of being awarded.
- Awardee groups included:
 - Innovation Center Stoughton
 - Brainplate Grows
 - REAP Food Group
 - FEED Kitchens



2025

Open for applications now until April 4th!



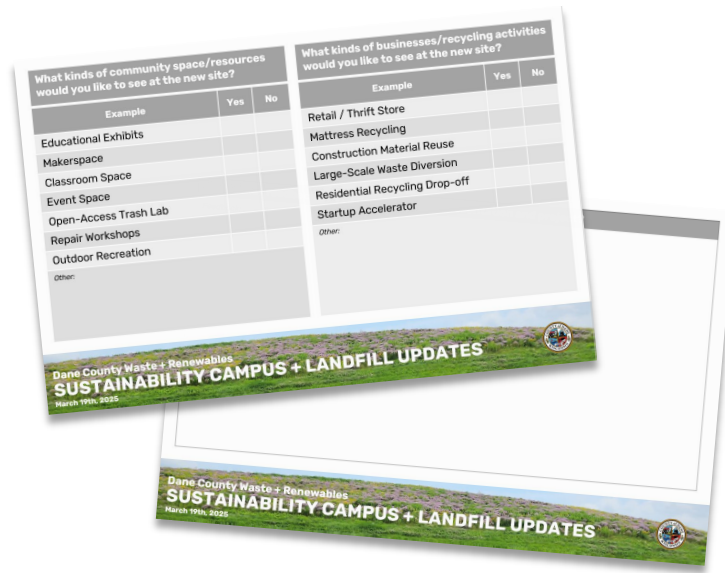
HOW TO ENGAGE

HOW TO ENGAGE:

Registration –
Residential Food
Scraps Drop Offs



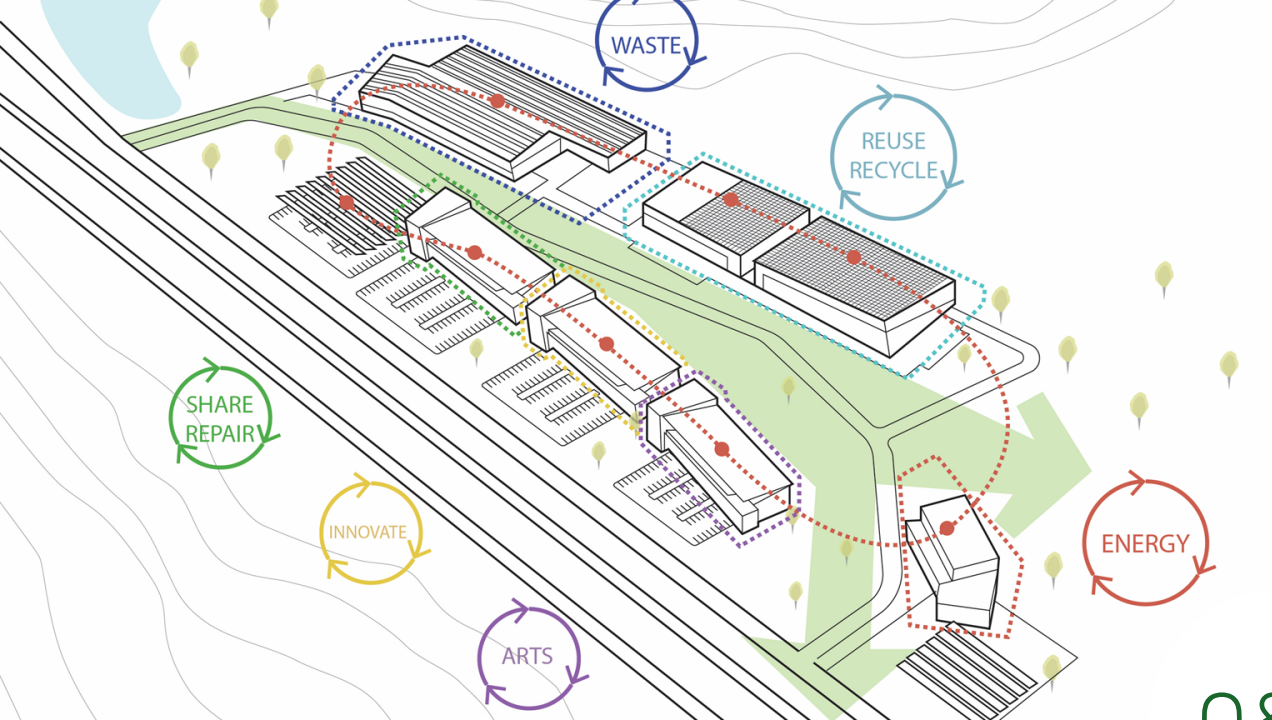
Feedback Form from
Today's Meeting



What kinds of community space/resources would you like to see at the new site?			What kinds of businesses/recycling activities would you like to see at the new site?		
Example	Yes	No	Example	Yes	No
Educational Exhibits			Retail / Thrift Store		
Makerspace			Mattress Recycling		
Classroom Space			Construction Material Reuse		
Event Space			Large-Scale Waste Diversion		
Open-Access Trash Lab			Residential Recycling Drop-off		
Repair Workshops			Startup Accelerator		
Outdoor Recreation			Other:		
Other:					

Tour
Registration
(4/10, 4/29)





Q&A

