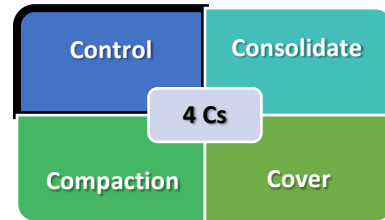


7.4 Landfill Operator Training

It is important that the landfill operator receives the proper training. Remember, the operator is going to be responsible for ensuring the landfill doesn't harm the environment or the people in the community. That is an important job!



There are several solid waste trainings available to make sure landfill staff learn how to properly manage the landfill. The most relevant training is the ADEC Solid Waste Bootcamp and the Rural Alaska Landfill Operator training (RALO). These training will teach operators the basics of solid waste management and what they need to know to run a rural landfill.

Other trainings that could be beneficial for landfill staff include:

- 24-hour HAZWOPER (Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response)
- CFC removal training (removing refrigerant gases from refrigerators and freezers)
- Rural Alaska Landfill Administrator training (RALA)
- The Alaska Forum on the Environment (AFE) and the Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM).
- Backhaul training
- Grant writing training
- ITEP (Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals) mentorships
- RACEJT (Rural Alaska Community Environmental Job Training Program) and other trainings offered by Zender Environmental Health & Research Group



People attending a solid waste session at a conference.

Places to watch for training opportunities:

- ADEC Solid Waste Program website
- Zender Environmental Health & Research Group website
- Alaska Forum on the Environment website

Ways that landfill administrators can help:

Administrators can assist operators in several ways with finding and attending trainings. They can keep track of available trainings and determine when the next trainings are scheduled. The administrator can also assist with travel bookings for the operator.

Funding for training:

Some trainings are free, and others cost money. It is important to select trainings that work with the available budget in the community.

Scholarships are also an option for some training programs, so inquire about the training and any potential assistance as early as possible.

If IGAP or another type of funding is available, these funds can be used to attend trainings or to bring the training to the community. Sometimes sharing the cost of the training with a neighboring community can save money for both communities when the training is conducted locally.



Landfill operators attending a RALO.