There’s an odor in the air! What am I smelling?

Many sites in the northwest corner of the county may be odorous from time to time. Such facilities include, but are not limited to:
- Salt Lake Valley (SLV) Landfill
- E.T. Technologies, Inc.
- Salt Lake County Composting
- Lee Kay Fish Hatchery
- Magna Water Treatment Facility
- Mountain View Landfill
- Central Valley Landfill
- Transfer stations (3)
- Two bodies of water:
  - Great Salt Lake
  - Lee Kay Ponds
- Trucking facilities
- Agriculture and Livestock Properties
- Sanitation Services

Is this odor coming from the County landfill?
The SLV Landfill uses several techniques to mitigate odor, including:
- Staff covers garbage every night with 6 inches of dirt
- Decomposing garbage emits several gases, which are captured through a system of pipes in the landfill, and are not emitted into the air
- Captured gases are piped to Aria Energies, an energy facility on-site, to be burned off and converted to electricity

Salt Lake County owns and operates the SLV Landfill, working hard to dispose of county residents’ waste responsibly and to mitigate odors that might otherwise reach residents in surrounding communities.

Are there other landfills in the area?
Yes, there are two other landfills nearby: the Mountain View Landfill and the Central Valley Landfill. Both of these landfills accept construction and demolition waste.

What type of waste does the SLV Landfill accept?
SLV Landfill accepts municipal solid waste (MSW) from households across the county. The SLV Landfill takes in approximately 2 million pounds of garbage per day.
What about composting programs?

SLV Landfill and others operate composting programs nearby. The SLV Landfill’s US Composting Council certified composting operation accepts only greenwaste. Odors tend not to be noticed outside the landfill.

Other, privately-run composting businesses operate in Magna at the I-215 and I-80 interchange.

What is E.T. Technologies?

E.T. Technologies, Inc. is a private company that has been leasing land at the SLV Landfill since 1984, operating a soil regeneration site (SRS). The SRS processes various industrial wastes, including biosolid waste from sewage treatment plants, auto-shop waste, used restaurant grease and more, all substances that should not be put into a landfill in their original compositions. Through processing, E.T. creates a compost-like material, state-approved for use as a landfill cover and revegetative soil.

E.T.’s contract with the SLV Landfill was amended in the Spring of 2018 to include additional measures to address odors. Salt Lake County formed a Community Review Committee to help address odor concerns, while E.T. has also taken steps to mitigate odors, including installation of a misting system and application of odor control chemicals.

Why are some days worse for odor?

Regardless of the source, a variety of factors can lead to better or worse odor days. These include wind strength, direction, heat, and humidity.

Still have questions or comments? Contact us below:

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