

**Mayor Micciche and the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly
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The Landfill Diversion Project - Homer Drawdown

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Waste disposal is something that we all have in common. We view solid waste management and our local transfer facilities as community resources. Homer Drawdown imagines a future where all KPB residents recognize its importance, and work together to efficiently and safely manage waste disposal for the benefit of everyone.

Currently, the Borough permits two volunteers to access the construction & demolition (C&D) pile at the Homer Transfer Facility. Using the scales on site, we diverted more than 10,000 lbs on the first day of salvaging!

We estimate that we have diverted at least 123 cubic yards of material in seven workdays. That is equivalent to about 10 full-size school buses! Each truckload of construction material that we bring down from the C&D pile to the re-use area disappears by the time we return. As of July 18th, we have diverted an average of four truckloads each day.

Our ultimate goal is to encourage residents to sort and divert before discarding. We hope to encourage contractors and homeowners to leave usable material on the racks and shelves in the re-use area, so it does not need to be diverted at all.

Since we have begun salvaging and maintaining the re-use area, community feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Every day that volunteers are on site, transfer facility users express their appreciation for this opportunity, and excitement for the availability of salvaged construction material.

Our community is ready to see this project succeed. Many of us remember when the public was allowed to salvage from the scrap metal, C&D, and woody waste piles at the Homer Transfer Facility. We have heard plenty of stories of dog houses, sheds, greenhouses etc, which have been built from salvaged material. The buzz at coffee shops and grocery stores around town has been unanimously enthusiastic about this new effort.

We are grateful for the collaboration and support that we have received from all levels of the KPB Solid Waste department. Most notably, Eric Lervig, Jim Norcross, John Dudley, and the staff of the Homer Transfer Facility.

We would like to thank the KPB Assembly, and KPB Solid Waste staff for collaborating with us so far. We look forward to your continued collaboration and support, as we continue to work together to promote proper waste disposal across the community.

Homer Drawdown Background

Homer Drawdown is a collaborative grassroots volunteer group, supported by Cook Inletkeeper. We aim to sequester carbon, reduce emissions and build community resilience to address climate change, working from frameworks in the book *Drawdown* published in 2016. We are strictly democratic, selecting projects and implementing them as the group chooses. **Homer Drawdown is grounded in the belief that community-led solutions are the most impactful and lasting. To that end, we aim to build solutions which can continue independently and stand on their own.**

The Landfill Diversion Project is just one part of our fourth Drawdown solution. Volunteers selected curbing local waste streams as our focus. We are taking a three-part approach:

- education and outreach to prevent waste;
- redirecting edible food and usable material before it becomes waste;
- diverting usable material which has already been discarded.

Homer Drawdown has completed three solutions to date. First we began with the Peatland Project in 2020 and:

- coordinated citizen science outings to map local peat depth which is now being used in a larger study by Kachemak Bay Research Reserve;
- held a youth peatland-themed camp, artist collaborations and public presentations;
- established experimental restoration plots
- Highlighted the importance of peatlands which has led to lasting partnerships continuing to work toward local peatland conservation in the Homer area today.

The next Drawdown project was People-Oriented Transportation and we:

- contributed to the City of Homer's Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Plan;
- established new trails and bike lanes around town supported by maps and signage; and
- partnered with the City of Homer, City Council and KPB Assembly, and the Homer Cycling Club.

Our Climate-Smart Homes project addressed residential home energy efficiency and we:

- hosted a Heat Pumps 101 event drawing over 130 people and garnering hundreds more views online;
- compiled resources, conducted assessments of local residences, and taught basic DIY improvements; and
- hosted the Homer Energy Fair attended by 250 people, featuring 19 exhibitors, and partnered with tradespeople, utility providers, and business leaders.