

Can Transportation Solve the Landfill Problem?

THE PROBLEM:

Populations are **GROWING**

Which means local landfills are **RUNNING OUT OF SPACE**



THE SOLUTION:

Use rail to transport municipal waste to regional landfills in rural areas

Why Ship Waste by Rail?

1

EFFICIENT

One rail car can carry up to six trucks worth of waste.

2

REDUCES ROADWAY CONGESTION

Just one train can take 300+ trucks off the road.

3

ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE

Trains generate a carbon footprint up to 75% less than trucks.

What Is the Impact of Shipping by Rail?

In 2020, Union Pacific Railroad shipped

> 2 million tons of waste

from the greater Puget Sound area to Columbia Ridge. Shipping by train instead of truck was equivalent to

removing 75,000 trucks

from roadways and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by

11,000 tons.

If **10%** of freight shipped by trains instead of trucks, it would reduce GHG emissions by

↓↓↓↓ **17 million tons**

each year, which is like taking

3.35 million cars 

off the road or planting

260 million trees. 

“ Rail can provide a viable, long-term solution for moving solid waste, while helping communities reach their sustainability goals. ”

— Rob Jones, Waste Management