



**KENT COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC WORKS**

December 28, 2017

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**UPDATE: Kentwood Landfill Methane Migration – Field Work Complete & Flare Activated**

Dear Kentwood Residents,

In 2016 the DPW discovered methane gas migrating outside the solid waste boundaries of the Kentwood Landfill causing potential for methane gas intrusion into nearby City of Kentwood buildings and neighboring residences. Kent County DPW organized a project team and worked alongside the City of Kentwood, EPA, MDEQ, and engineering consultants to design a second methane extraction system.

This fall we moved forward with the installation of 18 new gas wells (both shallow and deep) and added five monitoring wells. On Wednesday, December 27, 2017 a new flare system was brought online and is now extracting methane gas along the western boundary of the landfill where methane was found to be migrating. In the coming months we will measure the effectiveness of this newly installed system and will continue to test the monitoring wells onsite indefinitely.

The cost of this new extraction system was roughly \$1 million and funding provided through the Kent County Solid Waste Surcharge.

To date, through voluntary testing of eight residences and monitoring of City of Kentwood facilities, no methane vapor intrusion into building structures has been found. Voluntary residential testing continues to be available through the Kent County DPW free of charge.

Should you want your residence tested for methane intrusion or if you have questions please contact me at 616.632.7919 or by email at [darwin.baas@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:darwin.baas@kentcountymi.gov).

Sincerely,

Darwin J. Baas  
Director

**2020**  
20%

REDUCE LANDFILL WASTE  
20% by 2020 | 90% by 2030

**2030**  
90%

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