

Landfills are a sort of necessary evil in today's society. They are definitely not the best way to handle our garbage, but they're really the best and most practical strategy we have right now. Most people think of landfills as simply piles of garbage, but there is much more planning, science, and regulations involved. Landfills are truly fascinating once you start to learn about them. By partnering with the Blue Earth County Environmental Services Department and their Ponderosa Landfill, this facility would give the public the opportunity to learn about landfills by visiting one. Hopefully, seeing for themselves exactly what happens to their garbage would inspire those people to recycle, compost, or donate what they can, keeping as much waste out of the landfill as possible. This also provides the perfect opportunity to educate visitors about other environmental and sustainability issues, such as global climate change, and what people can do in their daily lives to become more sustainable.

- 1. Lobby/Information (850 sq. ft.)
- 2. Offices (672 sq. ft.)
- 3. Conference Room (350 sq. ft.)
- 4. Employee Break Room (230 sq. ft.)
- 5. Mechanical (385 sq. ft.)
- 6. Storage (484 sq. ft.)
- 7. Classrooms (1427 sq. ft.)
- 8. Flexible gallery/exhibit space (Landfill info) (1979 sq. ft.)
- 9. Flexible gallery/exhibit space (What you can do at home to become more green) (2229 sq. ft.)
- 10. Flexible gallery/exhibit space (Green systems used in the building) (1880 sq. ft.)
- 11. Flexible gallery/exhibit space (Climate change) (2792 sq. ft.)
- 12. Observation deck (2260 sq. ft.)
- 13. Garden

