

A typical day starts early. Avoiding the morning traffic is helpful so as to arrive on site on time.

Being based remotely from the office means that travel times to site can be kept to a minimum. Most sites will be within an hours drive of your remote location

On arrival at site it is necessary to spend 10-15 minutes reporting to site staff for a safety briefing and being made aware of site issues that affect the scheduled day's work.

A Technician's role requires preparation, organisation and time management. Getting your equipment organised can save time throughout the day. There is a lot of equipment used when carrying out environmental monitoring, from landfill gas instruments to sample bottles. Also dressing in the appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment is essential, in the summer you'll need sun cream and in the winter waterproofs.



Monitoring generally begins by conducting gas and groundwater monitoring. Gas and groundwater monitoring points are normally situated around the perimeter of the landfill site. You will be carrying your portable infra-red gas analyser, groundwater monitoring equipment (water level meter and sampling pump) and sample bottles with you as you walk around the site.



Once all of the external monitoring has been completed it is time to conduct the leachate monitoring. Leachate is normally rain water that has drained through the waste and will have collected the various chemicals and substances that are released as the waste within the landfill decomposes.

Leachate levels will be monitored using dedicated leachate level monitoring meters and sampling equipment. Leachate samples are also collected either by operating a leachate pump or drawing a sample directly from the well using a bailer.

Leachate can be hazardous so you will be wearing all relevant protective equipment such as disposable gloves and eye protection.

Finally, surface water sampling involves taking samples from a stream or pond or watercourse. From this sample a test for pH, electrical conductivity and temperature of the sample is often carried out.

Once all of the monitoring has been completed you will need to write up your results and present them to the site manager. Technicians take this opportunity to inform the manager of any problems encountered during the day including details of any monitoring that could not be completed.

After meeting with the site manager you are free to sign yourself out in the visitor book and can start your journey home.

Once at home your final duty of the day will be to email all your data and field data on a spreadsheet to one of our environmental analysts for checking and processing. Attention to detail is critical as poorly entered data can erase all the good work conducted in the field.



The analyst will make sure all of the required monitoring has been done and that your data has been input correctly before issuing to the client.

Your day will generally finish by 4pm.