

What have you done to prevent odors at the landfill?

Over the last year, we have undertaken a combination of steps that have resulted in improved odor control. As always, odor prevention and control will remain a top priority for ISWM and we plan to continually review our operations to ensure that odors do not migrate off-site.

The steps we have taken include:

1. We no longer accept the materials that were the chief suspect for causing the odors. This will shorten the generation and degradation periods for hydrogen sulfide gas (H₂S) which is the offending odor. Over the next one to two years the likelihood for generation of H₂S will continue to decline.
2. We have installed eight additional vertical gas extraction wells targeted at collecting gas in the area of the landfill where H₂S was most prevalent. These wells are in addition to an expansion of our horizontal gas collection piping in the same area. This expanded collection system allows us to apply more vacuum where it is most need to contain and remove landfill gas.
3. We have installed a plastic cap called a Flexible Membrane Liner (FML) over approximately 11 acres of the landfill. The area covered was identified as the area causing off-site migration of odors. When you come to the drop-off area you will see a large black area on the landfill indicating where the cap has been installed. This cap provides an impermeable barrier to keep the gas from escaping and helps direct it to the gas collection system.
4. We have obtained equipment and supplies for a cover system called "Posi-Shell" which contains cement in the mixture. It is applied to critical areas of the landfill not covered by the plastic cap with a hydroseeder. A hydroseeder is an application system consisting of a tank, which holds the liquefied Posi-Shell mixture, and a hose. A high pressure pump is used to force the material out of a nozzle that is directed by a worker who builds up a protective cover in successive layers of approximately 1/4" to 1/2" to provide an impermeable layer to contain gas and resist erosion. The Posi-Shell will be used to help form a seal where the plastic cover ends. It will also be used on slope areas that will be disturbed sooner than those areas covered by plastic. This is done because Posi-Shell can be disturbed and repaired more easily than the plastic cover.
5. Pending annual town meeting approval in May, we will install a permanent landfill cover system on the northern slope of the Phase 2A/3A landfill during the summer and fall of 2010. Installation of this system will also include installation of an additional eight to nine vertical gas extraction wells giving us even more flexibility to apply vacuum in targeted areas as needed. This permanent cap will seal this slope preventing escape of landfill gas and erosion.