Landfill Tax and Community Grants

Landfill Tax (UK) was introduced in 1996 and is an environmental tax primarily levied on Landfill Operators (LOs) on each tonne of waste sent to Landfill. Commercial users of managed Landfill sites are also subject to this tax.

This tax is to encourage sustainable waste management by promoting recycling and waste reduction, Landfill no longer being considered the cheap and easy option.

As part of the Landfill Tax Regulations the government introduced the Landfill Communities Fund. The Landfill Communities Fund is the name given to the scheme that allows Landfill Operators (LOs) to contribute funds to community and environmental projects and register the amount on their Landfill Tax Return. For the 2025/26 financial year a LO can divert up to 5.3% of its Landfill Tax liability to the Landfill Communities Fund.

These funds are managed and distributed by Environmental Bodies (EBs). FCC Communities Foundation Ltd manages and distributes the Landfill Communities Fund money generated by Severn Waste Services in Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

Projects can apply for funding from FCC Communities Foundation if they are located within a 10-mile radius of the Hill and Moor landfill site at Pershore or the EnviRecover EfW at Leominster. Applications can only be accepted from:

Registered Charity which operates a community facility
A Church or Parochial Church Council
A Parish or Town Council or a Management Committee or User Association acting on behalf of a Parish or Town Council
A Local Authority
A CASC Registered Sports Club

For more information: https://www.severnwaste.com/community/

Landfill

Managing the Landfill for Herefordshire and Worcestershire

Landfill

There has been a landfill site at Hill and Moor since the 1960's. Severn Waste Services took over the running of this site from 1998 when the company was founded to run the Waste Management contract for Herefordshire and Worcestershire County Councils.

The primary focus with waste management is ***Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.*** Once these have been explored, then the process of ***Recovery*** should be considered. **Landfill** is used only when these options have been exhausted.

In 1998 around 90% of Herefordshire and Worcestershire's municipal waste was taken to Landfill. Today's figure is around 15%.

This decrease has been achieved by improving recycling rates and by using non-recyclable waste for the purpose of energy recover at our Hartlebury Site.

Today, the categories of items permitted to be deposited are more stringent than the "anything goes" ethos of previously. For example, soft furnishings such as sofas and mattresses are no longer able to be deposited in a Landfill Site, due to POPS (Persistent Organic Pollutants) regulations. They are now sent for Energy Recovery.

Did you know…?

The earliest known waste disposal site was a covered pit in Crete dating back to 3000 BCE.

LET'S WASTE LESS

Herefordshire Council

worcestershire county council

severn waste services

enquiries@severnwaste.co.uk

So, what is a landfill?

Whilst Landfill sites are often thought of as "a hole in the ground" the reality is now completely different.

In the 1800's, the link between ill health/disease and poor environmental conditions was identified. Waste, at this time had been disposed of by dumping it in cities. In the late 1800's, householders were required to store their waste in dustbins and Local Authorities became responsible for the collection and disposal of waste. This led to the use of landfill sites.

Prior to the 1980's, the majority of landfill sites relied on the natural ability of the disposed waste to biodegrade and for the surrounding land and geology to absorb the resulting leachate. (Leachate is defined as a contaminated liquid derived from water, such as rainwater, that has percolated through a landfill site absorbing contaminants. It is highly polluting. Think bin-juice on an industrial scale.)

During the 1980's, European Legislation was adopted and landfills operated as full containment facilities, in that biodegraded waste and its byproducts stay within the facility. This is to ensure the waste doesn't cause harm to human health or the environment.

Waste is deposited in specific areas within a landfill site. These areas are called Cells. Cells are clay-lined, then layers of impermeable membrane are added to avoid leakage contamination. As one cell is being filled, another is being prepared and another is being completed.

Waste is spread out and compacted by a steel wheeled/drum landfill compactor which tears, shreds and presses the items in a series of layers. The compaction reduces the amount of landfill air space. The waste decomposes as it is broken down by anaerobic microbes due to the lack of oxygen.

At the end of each day, the final layer is covered by a layer of soil and other inert (non-contaminating) material. This is also compacted. When the cell is full, it is capped with a deep layer of clay and planted with vegetation. The cap prevents rain from getting into the site and stops gasses and smells from escaping into the atmosphere. This is repeated across the remaining cells until the landfill is full.

But then what?

A landfill site is carefully managed both during its use and after it's been closed.

Leachate is harvested by a series of wells drilled into the waste which are lined with pipes. Pumps are fitted into each well and any leachate is pumped to on-site storage tanks. The leachate is then removed by tanker to a licenced disposal facility. Leachate is also treated on site and discharged under strict rules. Landfill leachate is monitored and sampled regularly to ensure there is no potential contamination.

Gas control – when biodegradable waste (all waste will biodegrade eventually) rots in a landfill without air, it releases greenhouse gasses such as methane and carbon dioxide. Methane is over 20 times more harmful to the environment than carbon dioxide. It is vital that gas levels are monitored around landfill sites so any changes can be detected.

Our landfill site has a gas control system installed. Wells are drilled into the waste and lined with pipes, these pipes in turn are connected to a central pump which sucks out any landfill gas produced. This gas in turn is used to produce electricity.

Groundwater/Surface waters – these waters are monitored to ensure they remain uncontaminated by leachate and landfill gasses. This ensures leachate control systems are working and leachate isn't leaking from the landfill cells.

Once a landfill is full it is then closed. Its surface is capped with clay and then soil. Once compacted, landfills are often planted with vegetation so they blend into the landscape. Methane and greenhouse gasses are produced by the biodegrading waste for over 20 years after a landfill's closure. These gasses, along with leachate, groundwater and surface water are monitored for at least 20 years.