How a Landfill Works

**Closed landfill area**
- The closed part of the landfill is sealed with a plastic liner and soil cap.
- Monitoring wells are used to test local groundwater quality.

**Active face**
- Garbage is unloaded and compacted at the active face.
- Decomposing garbage creates landfill gas which is conveyed by pipe to a landfill gas plant.

**Gas collection**
- Gas is collected and transported at the active face.

**Gas utilization plant**
- A landfill gas facility converts landfill gas to energy for local homes.

**Leachate**
- Leachate is rain water that has seeped through garbage and become contaminated.
- A liner prevents leachate from entering groundwater below.

**Leachate collection**
- Leachate is conveyed by pipe to a leachate lagoon where it is tested.
- Lining system

**Final cover system**
- The closed part of the landfill is sealed with a plastic liner and soil cap.
- Monitoring wells are used to test local groundwater quality.

**Groundwater**

**Monitoring well**
- Monitoring wells are used to test local groundwater quality.

**Temporary cover (tarps)**
- A liner prevents leachate from entering groundwater below.
- Aggregate

**Landfill Cells**
- Garbage is stored in cells and covered with aggregate.
- Cells are arranged in rows and layers called lifts.

**Leachate lagoon**
- A liner prevents leachate from entering groundwater below.

**To sewer system**
- Monitoring wells are used to test local groundwater quality.