

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

# Getting more from your data

**W**aste management and recycling managers are increasingly finding themselves spending more time on repetitive and low value tasks associated with collecting, processing and reporting environmental information.

Initially, this was mostly associated with the need to manage legislation but now it includes communicating data and information to external third parties.

### Legislation

With the increase in environmental legislation, there is a greater need to predict, monitor and report on environmental issues, such as emissions. This has meant that companies need to monitor and measure more parameters and present the data in increasingly complex reports.

While many organisations have used spreadsheets, these in time have become less flexible. The trend is to reduce the amount of costly human involvement in monitoring and reporting and to let customised software do the job.

### Validation

Using Monitor-LT, information can be viewed before it is committed to the database. Inconsistencies in the data will be highlighted by the software's internal checking and validation system and can then be amended accordingly.

There is flexibility in the retrieval and the reporting of data, while a graphing package allows any number of parameters to be checked and correlations identified.

Onyx Landfill manages 18 landfill sites in the north and

west Midlands on behalf of its parent waste disposal company. The volume of monitoring data has increased steadily, and an efficient method of capturing, collating and retrieving data became essential.

"Onyx Landfill decided to use Monitor-Pro's Monitor-LT software to help it draw together information held at multiple sites, so it could better control legislative issues and report validated data and information more effectively," says Tim Dowling, sales and marketing manager for Monitor-Pro, a division of AEA Technology in Culham, Oxfordshire.

Monitor-Pro software is also used by Cory Environmental, Cleanaways, S Graddon, Initial Projects, LaFarge-Redland, WRG, and various county councils to manage waste operations. ■