**Table S1.** Typical landfill cover types for different landfill areas

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| **Cover Type** | **Typical Materials Used** | **Thickness** |
| Daily | Either a compacted thin soil cover ( ≥15 cm) or “alternative daily cover” (tarp, foam, ground garden waste, etc.) placed on top of the compacted waste in the working area at the end of each day. | <15 cm |
| Intermediate  | A thicker engineered cover typically constructed from local soils which remains in place over a period of years until i) it is stripped for a vertical expansion consisting of new overlying waste “cells”, ii) remains in place prior to placement of overlying waste cells, or iii) is converted to a final cover when a site reaches final grade [see below]. Specific regulations typically specify a minimum thickness of 30 – 45 cm but, in practice, intermediate covers can be much thicker, as they are also used to provide storage for excess cover soil.  | 30-50 cm |
| Final  | Either a very thick soil cover or a composite cover which includes a geomembrane, geomembrane protection layers, and soil layers. Thickness typically >125 cm. This is placed on cells which have reached final grade according to permit specifications. When the entire site has final cover, a 30-year post-closure monitoring period begins | >1.25 m |