

# Latest on LATS

## First year report on the Landfill Allowances and Trading Schemes

**LATS was launched in England on 1 April 2005. The Environment Agency monitors and reports on local authority performance in the scheme.**

LATS is the first scheme of its kind in the world. It lets local authorities trade landfill allowances with each other, selling some if they have diverted more waste from landfill (eg recycling) or buying more if they are likely to exceed their own allowance. The scheme aims to help them meet the tough Landfill EC Directive targets to reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste going to landfill sites.

A similar scheme, the Landfill Allowance Scheme (LAS) has been running in Wales since 1 October 2004. The main difference between the schemes in England and Wales is that Welsh Assembly Government has decided not to implement trading arrangements, at least initially.

### Only 14 working days to go...

**Authorities have until 30 June 2006 to submit all their remaining data for 2005/6 using the WasteDataflow system**  
[www.wastedataflow.org](http://www.wastedataflow.org). Each local authority needs to have its data approved by its LATS administrator (rolled up to Level 30 within the on-line system).

Note that specific deadlines were:

Quarter 1 April – June 2005  
Quarter 2 July – September 2005  
by 31 Dec 2005

Quarter 3 October – December 2005  
by 31 March 2006

Quarter 4 January – March 2006  
by 30 June 2006

**Authorities can be fined £1,000 PER ITEM if they don't report on time. We cannot give any time extensions.**

### Auditing by the Environment Agency

As well as timely reporting, the submission has to be complete. At this point an authority's data passes the stage one audit (known as Level 35) with Enviros. We can then use it to predict individual performance. So far, we have only been able to predict performance of 34 of 121 authorities (40 Waste Disposal Authorities and 81 Unitary Authorities) for the first half of the year. This low figure is a real concern. Thank you to those of you who have already supplied data for all four quarters – and for those who haven't, please remember the 30 June deadline.

If you are a Waste Disposal Authority, then we need returns from all your Waste Collection Authorities to measure your performance. Unless you've made specific arrangements for them to enter data, you are responsible for making sure the data is in WasteDataFlow on time.

**'Authorities will be fined if they don't report on time, and persistent offenders can expect to clock up big penalties (£1,000 per item)'**

We have a very tight timeframe to complete our performance monitoring and report to Defra. We will publish a draft report by 31 August and the final position will be published by 30 September.

Authorities will **only have until Friday 15 September 2006** to provide written evidence to query their performance with us. Trading of 2005/6 allowances may continue until 30 September 2006.

For more information please visit the following web sites:

Environment Agency's LATS web site (to be updated October – November 2006)  
<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/>  
then click on Business and industry > How and why we regulate your business > Directives > The Landfill Directive > LATS

Defra's LATS web site  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/>  
then click on Environmental Protection > Recycling and waste > Information for local authorities > LATS

The trading registry which is a secure site  
<http://lats.defra.gov.uk/>

All LATS administrators and their data entry colleagues were offered training on how to use WasteDataFlow. Refresher courses were held recently. If you have new staff that need training, please contact Enviro via the secure site:

<http://www.wastedataflow.org/>

**For more information contact:**

**Tel      Keith Bates      01189 535235  
            Gwen Jennings 01392 442181  
            Pamela Mardon 01903 832291**

**LATS Technical Advisors**

**Email**

**keith.bates@environment-agency.gov.uk  
gwen.jennings@environment-agency.gov.uk  
pamela.mardon@environment-  
agency.gov.uk**