

# Update - Recovery of Street Sweepings and Gully Emptyings

## Guidance for waste authorities - Update to FAQ C4

**We issued guidance in May 2012 about the recovery of street sweepings and gully emptyings. We have reviewed the guidance for composting of dedicated street cleansing leaf collections. The updated FAQ is below.**

### **C Recovery of untreated street sweepings and gully emptyings**

#### **C4 Can dedicated street cleansing leaf collections be used to produce compost or digestate?**

Some waste authorities operate dedicated leaf litter collections in autumn and early winter as part of street cleansing rounds. The waste will be mainly leaf litter, but may also contain contaminants such as plastics, paper, foil, grits and so on. This untreated waste has waste code 20 03 03.

Due to the potential for contamination our current guidance is that dedicated street cleansing collections of untreated leaf litter should not be used as a feedstock for composting or used as a feedstock to produce quality compost.

We wanted to review our position and gather information about whether this waste could be suitable for composting and, thereafter, for spreading to land. We conducted a limited trial with four local authorities in Wales.

The outcomes from this trial signal the need for a precautionary approach to composting of this waste. This is due to the presence of metals such as nickel, copper, chromium, molybdenum, zinc and other contaminants. Our current guidance therefore remains unchanged.

We intend to share the outcomes of the trial and we will continue to review evidence provided on the composting of separate leaf litter collections. We are working with the industry about this. Local Authorities interested in undertaking trials for composting of leaf litter can contact AfOR (Association for Organics Recycling) who have expressed a willingness to oversee trials. <http://www.organics-recycling.org.uk/>

Local Authorities wishing to treat street sweepings and street cleansing collections of untreated leaf litter for the purposes of recovery should refer to section C of the published guidance:

[http://www.wastedataflow.org/documents/guidancenotes/Specific/LATS\\_street\\_sweepings\\_guidance.pdf](http://www.wastedataflow.org/documents/guidancenotes/Specific/LATS_street_sweepings_guidance.pdf)

Waste collected from parks and gardens separately from street cleansing rounds would have waste code 20 02 01. This waste code is acceptable under exemptions and permits for composting (and is also reported separately from street cleansing wastes for LATS).

### **Further information**

If you need further information please contact the LATS team.

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