



Welcome to the Spring 2007 edition of your WasteDataFlow Newsletter

This is the second quarterly newsletter and is aimed at providing Local Authority Users, External Users and other interested parties with an update on the WasteDataFlow system including any new developments and performance.

If there are specific topic that readers would like to see covered in future newsletter, please provide feedback through the User Groups or the WasteDataFlow Helpdesk

Training Workshops (England)

The training sessions have continued with high levels of attendance in all regions. The sessions on offer i.e. Basic or Advanced, were tailored to the regions user demand. Any new developments with the system, feedback from the previous sessions and the user group are incorporated where appropriate into the sessions. This provides clarity on guidance issues and enhances the training sessions.

There are two different types of workshops:

Basic: "Understanding and using WasteDataFlow"

Advanced: "Uses of WasteDataFlow and Specific Data Issues Workshop"

During October to December both types of session were held in London, East England and Yorkshire and Humber. An extra Advanced session was organised for London due to LA demand.

There are still sessions to be held in London, East Midlands and the North East during March and April. Please call the WasteDataFlow Helpdesk for more information

In this issue

- Training workshops in England
- User Group information
- System Developments
- Landfill Allowance Schemes
- LA Response rates

User Groups

England

The User Group for Local Authorities in England was set up to ensure that WasteDataFlow is a successful data capture system with a high level of timely, good quality data returns.

The England user Group will meet for the fourth time on 7th March. If you have any comments or ideas you want to contribute to the next User Group meeting please contact one of the LA representatives of the group. Contact details of LA representatives along with details of previous User Group meetings can be found at:

<http://www.wastedataflow.org/htm/partners.aspx>

Wales

The Wales User group has met twice to date, with the next meeting planned for March 15th. The purpose of these meetings is to ensure that Local Authorities have an opportunity to raise any issues or development needs through their local representative in the User Group. For minutes of the meetings, or further information, please contact caroline.hawkins@environment-agency.gov.uk

Scotland

The second Scottish User Group meeting took place on the 29th November 2006. The focus of the meeting was the interpretation of the definitions in the LAS Guidance and the use of the Scottish WDF Guidance for inputting data correctly. The feedback received helped SEPA and local authorities in addressing issues not clarified before. Copies of the minutes are available on request. A third User Group meeting will be arranged for March 2007.

System Developments

During the last Quarter there have been a number of new developments to the system. These have been implemented in response to feedback from the Helpdesk, training sessions and the User Groups. The England User Group has been consulted to provide both feedback on the prioritisation of potential new developments and also to provide views on the new live developments from a user perspective.

New Developments:

- ◆ **Core Data Sets:** These are reference excel spreadsheets for the question sets for each type of authority and these were made available under the Datasets section of the website.
- ◆ **Summary Spreadsheet:** This has been updated to reflect system changes for BVPIs.
- ◆ **On Line Help Text:** This was revised at the England User Group meeting and has been updated on the system. Data entry users can access on-line help by clicking on the '?' on the question screens.
- ◆ **Question changes:**
 - Qu23: end destination information is now optional for LAs in England, Northern Ireland & Scotland.
 - Qu21: question wording has been changed to "number distributed prior to this quarter"
 - Qu15a: on the total number of bring sites has been introduced.
- ◆ **Capital Waste Facts:** An on-line discussion forum for those LAs in London was piloted by the GLA from July to October. This has been taken off line as it was not being used.
- ◆ **Roll up procedure:** This has been enhanced to provide a quicker progression of data from level 0 to level 10. The Data Rollup screen (under the Data menu) shows the LA the progress of the roll-up request.
- ◆ **Mass Balance:** The mass balance calculation is now available in an on-line report for data-entry data authorisation users at WDAs and UAs. Scottish local authorities will obtain this through the Summary Spreadsheet which will be available online from spring 2007.
- ◆ **Selection lists:** These have been updated with data made available from the Environment Agency.
- ◆ **Guidance Updates:** The green waste Fact sheet has been updated. Scottish local authorities should consult SEPA for the recording of daily cover.

Agreed Developments in progress:

There will also be new developments made to the Helpdesk call system. This will facilitate easier monitoring of common issues raised by LAs which can then be fed back into the system as guidance and in the training sessions.

We are adding in a new screen from which the LA data-entry user will be able to navigate between questions and check which they have answered. Especially useful for the disposal questions will be the ability from this screen to be able 'turn off' certain questions. Should the LAs disposal options change questions can be turned back on.

Knowing where data is up to is something you have asked for help with. We are just finalising the specification for an email notification system. This system will let a WDA know when WCAs have entered data and will let all authorities know when their data is approved to level 35.

Other developments are planned and you will be kept up to date as they progress.

HANDY HINTS

- When adding destination facilities to your selection lists you can search on permit numbers using the address field.
- On the authorising data screen remember you can see the history of returns for a local authority if you select it in the drop down on the top right of the screen.

NEWS

- Green waste: Please be aware that there has been a change made to the composting protocol to accept animal by products.

Please go to: www.letsrecycle.com for more information

Landfill Allowances Schemes

England

The Environment Agency will be visiting 24 local authorities during March and April as part of their on going commitment to improve data consistency and accuracy for LATS. Please see the attached LATS flyer for more information.

Wales

To enable ongoing data consistency and transparency for both the EA and Local Authorities, a tool that performs the mass balance calculation on a quarterly, authority-by-authority basis is under development. This will be incorporated into the on-line Summary Sheet, already in WDF and will allow authorities to review their bio-degradable diversion throughout the year.

Two WDF Review workshops are planned for March 2007. These annual workshops run are usually very well attended and provide the perfect opportunity for WDF discussion between Local Authorities, the EA and WAG.

Scotland

During the winter period SEPA mainly focused on the verification of Q1 data for Scotland. As local authorities get used to the new system it is getting easier to achieve good results in data submission. Unfortunately the on-line Summary report available in WDF does not give the right results for Scotland due to difference in definitions with the rest of the UK however a Summary Spreadsheet specific for Scotland will be available on the WDF site soon.

However a Summary specific for Scotland will be available on the WDF site soon. Scottish local authorities have shown a great deal of patience during the verification of the first quarter whilst SEPA had to deal with the challenges of changes to the verification tool and the interpretation of definitions. The use of the Helpdesk has proven effective for technical issues, however enquiries about definitions and data inputting have still to be addressed to the Waste Data Team at SEPA.

A general review of the reports was carried out in December 2006 highlighting that due to the different definitions in Scotland, WDF reports for Municipal Waste may not always bring up correct results for Municipal Waste data for Scotland according to the Landfill Allowance Scheme. This is due to industrial waste being included in those reports.

The Landfill Allowance Scheme Implementation Group (LASIG) met on the 5th February 2007 to clarify issues and finalise the Landfill Allowance Scheme (Scotland) Regulation 2005: Final Draft Guidance, which will be issued very soon by the Scottish Executive.

Northern Ireland

Environment & Heritage Service (EHS) issued the final NILAS (Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme) reconciliation for the 1st scheme year (05/06) to the 26 district councils and three regional waste management group reports on 22nd November 2006. The mass balance calculation for 05/06 utilised data submitted via WasteDataFlow.

All district councils and regional waste management groups received the six month progress report, for the second scheme year 2006/07, on 26th January 2007.

In the first 6 months of the 2nd scheme year Northern Ireland has sent 40.07% of the total permitted BMW to landfill. Therefore indications are that Northern Ireland' district councils will meet their landfill allowances target for the second scheme year.

Response Rates

England

For the second quarter of 2006/07 (July-Sept), 358 Local Authorities had submitted returns by the deadline of the 31st December (90%). By the end of January 376 (95%) returns had been received and validated to level 35. Provisional penalty letters for non-reporting of data under LATS were issued but it was not necessary to impose final penalties in this quarter. Guidance on the penalties process for not meeting data reporting requirements is available on the Datasets section of the WDF website.

Wales

All data were received from the 22 Authorities for Quarter 2 but not all to time. 73% submitted data by 31st October, with the remaining authorities completing their returns by November 24th. Several authorities experienced difficulty authorising their data to Level 30, due to resource issues and holiday leave.

Scotland

19% of local authorities submitted the data by the due date for Quarter 2 (Q2). However, the deadline for submission of Q2 data was extended by two weeks in November 2006 to compensate for delays in updating the verification tool for Scotland. Some local authorities preferred to wait before submitting Q2 data until the verification of Quarter 1 (Q1) was finalised. Considering the steep learning curve in using the new system (2006/7 reporting is the first year of Scotland using WDF), delays in submission have not been chased at this stage.

Northern Ireland

For the second reporting quarter of 2006/07, 25 out of 26 district councils had submitted returns via WasteDataFlow by the deadline of 30th November 2006 (96%). All returns were submitted by 15th December.

HOW TO CONTACT US

WasteDataFlow Helpdesk	0161 874 3602
Email	Helpdesk@wastedataflow.org
Web	www.wastedataflow.org