

This is the first 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 WasteDataFlow Helpdesk
Email:WasteDataFlow@enviros.com

Contents:

Response Rates	1
England	1
Wales	1
Scotland	1
Northern Ireland	1
Best Value Performance Indicators in England:.....	2
National Assembly for Wales Performance:.....	2
Landfill Allowances Schemes	2
Wales	2
Scotland	3
Northern Ireland	3
Training Workshops (England)	3
System Developments.....	4
User Groups	4
England	4
Wales	4
Scotland	4
Northern Ireland	4

Response Rates

England

For 2005/06 returns were received from all Local Authorities in England and Defra released the National Statistics for 2005/06 on 16th November (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/waste/index.htm>)

For the first reporting quarter of 2006/07, 346 Local Authorities had submitted returns by the deadline of the 30th September (87%) and by the end of October, a total of 385 returns have been submitted. This represents a 98% submission rate.

Wales

Validation of 2006/07 quarter 1 data is now complete, for all but one of the Local Authorities and work is well underway for quarter 2.

Scotland

Scotland piloted the use of WDF between January and March 2006, with 16 Local Authorities submitting their data. Scottish Local Authorities started using WasteDataFlow officially from April 2006 with the first deadline for submission being the 11 August 2006. By the end of August, 19 local authorities (59%) submitted their data, increasing to 29 (91%) by the end of September 2006.

Northern Ireland

For 2005/06 returns were received for all District Councils in Northern Ireland.

For the first reporting quarter of 2006/07, 24 District Councils had submitted returns by the deadline of 31st August 2006 (92%).

Best Value Performance Indicators in England:

Consistent with the Government's overall aim to minimise the duplication of reporting Defra, the Audit Commission and DCLG have agreed that Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) will be calculated using the data reported in WasteDataFlow.

Guidance on how BVPIs are being calculated in WasteDataFlow along with an FAQ document can be accessed from the "Downloads" section under the "Datasets" menu of the WasteDataFlow website:

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

To support Local Authorities, an on-line report that calculates BVPI 82a-d, 84, 86, 87 and 91a,b is now available. This will allow Local Authorities to review their performance prior to submitting their quarterly returns.

Feedback from Local Authorities on the on-line BVPI reports are welcome to potentially allow further developments.

National Assembly for Wales Performance:

On the 25th October, the Welsh Assembly Government released the National Assembly for Wales Performance Indicators (NAWPI) based on the 2005/06 data supplied to WasteDataFlow.

CIPFA (England & Wales):

Defra, Welsh Assembly Government and CIPFA have worked together to remove duplication of reporting in the CIPFA survey and WasteDataFlow. For 2005/6, CIPFA have revised their questionnaire and operational data are being sourced from WasteDataFlow.

Landfill Allowances Schemes

England

Again to support Local Authorities, the Mass Balance calculation used for the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme is going to be provided on the On-line Summary sheet for both Waste Disposal Authorities and Unitary Authorities. The aim is to provide these authorities with an estimate of the biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill prior to the submission of their quarterly returns.

Due to the complexity of calculation mass balance in two-tier areas, Waste Disposal Authorities have been consulted on the layout of the mass balance information in the On-line Summary in order to provide the most useful option.

The Environment Agency have also published their report on the first year of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme, which can be found at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/444217/444663/landfill/986852/987368/1113678/1512729/>. All authorities were below their allowances for 2005/6 and collectively landfilled an estimated 12.4 million tonnes of biodegradable municipal waste, 82% of England's 2005/6 total allowance allocation.

Wales

The 2005/06 Landfill Allowances Scheme Report was released by the Environment Agency to the Welsh Assembly Government on the 1st September 2006. Many thanks to all the Local Authorities in Wales for their contributions during the consultation period and hard work throughout the year.

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/wales/816243/868002/>

Scotland

During summer 2006 Scotland updated the verification tool used to verify Landfill Allowance Scheme data to merge it with WasteDataFlow validation system. A Summary sheet in Excel including BMW calculation is sent back to Local Authorities in order for them to check their data during the verification of Q1 2006/07 data. The plan is to make this Summary available on-line through WasteDataFlow in place of the existing one currently on the system.

The Landfill Allowance Scheme final figures for Scotland (reported to SEPA with the Landfill Allowance Scheme Quarterly Monitoring Return, used before the introduction of WasteDataFlow in April 2006) were entered in the LATS Register at the end of August 2006 and accounts were "frozen" at the beginning of October. Data for the rolling year April 2005 to March 2006 can be viewed at http://www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/nws/data/quarterly/roll_apr05_mar06_oct06.pdf.

Northern Ireland

Environment & Heritage Service (EHS) utilised WasteDataFlow data from 2005/06 for input to Excel spreadsheets to determine the mass balance for biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill.

All District Councils and regional waste management groups in Northern Ireland were issued with draft NILAS (Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme) reconciliations on 31st August 2006 as required by NILAS.

Auditing of 6 District Councils, 2 from each regional waste management group, was conducted by EHS staff during August and September 2006, in its role as Monitoring Authority and in exercise of powers under Regulation 10. Enquiries have been on-going under Regulation 10 regarding the use of municipal derived compost within landfill sites for daily cover and restoration works. EHS are currently finalising the final NILAS reconciliation for 2005/06.

One district council exceeded their allocated allowances. A valid transfer request for 699 allowances was received on 27th September 2006 from Armagh City and District Council to Fermanagh District Council.

Training Workshops (England)

Training Workshops for Local Authority users are being held through the English regions during 2006/07. There are two different types of workshops:

- ◆ Basic; "Understanding and using WasteDataFlow"; and
- ◆ Advanced: "Uses of WasteDataFlow and Specific Data Issues Workshop"

Sessions have been held in the West Midlands, South West and North East during September and October. The demand for the workshops has been very high and as workshops are being provided for on a quarterly basis throughout 2006/07 (detailed can be found in the WasteDataFlow web-site), it is hoped to accommodate as many users as possible.

The feedback from all sessions has been logged, with a view to enhancing clarity of questions, guidance and therefore increasing "user friendliness" of the system.

System Developments

A number of new developments are currently being considered including queued processing of data rollups, updating destination lists, report review and automatic upload of data.

The next Newsletter will include a more detailed summary of the development programme.

User Groups

England

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

The Group has met three times in 2006. For more information and to read the full details of the meetings, including contact details for local authority representatives see: <http://www.wastedataflow.org/htm/partners.aspx>

Wales

For Wales, the User Group will be used as a means by which Welsh Local Authorities can have their views represented and taken forward to WDF Ops Group Meetings.

Role of the User Group Representatives

- To raise awareness of their role within the Welsh Authorities
- To communicate progress with WDF with Local Authority counterparts at meetings such as the Benchmarking Group.

Two meetings have been held to date and have highlighted operational issues and best practice within authorities. A Representative attended the last Ops Group meeting in September and shared feedback from our User Group, with England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The next meeting will be held two weeks before the next Ops Group meeting.

Scotland

The first Scottish WasteDataFlow User Group met on the 18th July 2006 and will meet again at the end of November. The User Group is going to have a key role in the implementation and development of WasteDataFlow in Scotland. As definitions and guidance are slightly different in Scotland than in England, Wales and Northern Ireland co-operation and feedback from Local Authorities are essential in order to build a consistent and robust data collection and verification system.

Northern Ireland

Training has been organised by EHS during November 2006 for each of the three regional waste management groups for senior council officers on the use of the advanced reports within WasteDataFlow