

# THE LANDFILL ALLOWANCE TRADING SCHEME (LATS)

## The Landfill Directive

1. What are the Landfill Directive targets?
2. Why is it important to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste going to landfill?
3. What do you mean by biodegradable?

## THE LANDFILL DIRECTIVE

### 1. What are the Landfill Directive targets?

The reduction targets set by the Landfill Directive are:

- By 2006 to reduce the amount of BMW going to landfill to 75% of that produced in 1995;
- By 2009 to reduce the amount of BMW going to landfill to 50% of that produced in 1995; and
- By 2016 to reduce the amount of BMW going to landfill to 35% of that produced in 1995.

The Directive allows member states that sent over 80% of their municipal waste to landfill in 1995 to postpone the targets by up to four years. The Government has made use of this four year derogation and so the target years for the UK are 2010, 2013 and 2020.

### 2. Why is it important to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste going to landfill?

As well as being the least sustainable waste disposal option available, biodegradable waste that decomposes in the absence of oxygen (as happens in a landfill site) produces the greenhouse gas methane, which is over 21 times more damaging than carbon dioxide. A quarter of all UK emissions of methane come from landfill. The UK's

Landfill sites produce 0.25% of world greenhouse gas emissions.

Therefore, a

reduction in the amount of BMW sent to landfill which result in a reduction in the rate of global warming.

### 3. What do you mean by biodegradable?

Biodegradable waste is defined by the Directive as “any waste that is capable of undergoing anaerobic or aerobic decomposition, such as food and garden waste, and paper and paperboard.”