

THE LANDFILL ALLOWANCE TRADING SCHEME (LATS)

Support for local authorities

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A number of measures were put in place to ensure that officers from Waste Disposal Authorities understand how the trading mechanism works. Before the scheme began Defra held regionally based workshops to take local authority officers through the trading process and alert them to the wide range of ways the system can be used to help them get the most cost effective solution to BMW diversion.

Since the scheme was launched, WDAs have been able to call on Defra to deal with technical difficulties, the Environment Agency on data entry issues and the environment consultants Enviros, who verify the data submitted, for clarification on how data should be presented. The Waste Implementation programme (WIP) provides a local authority support unit (LASU) to advise on all aspects of BMW diversion planning and PFIs.

The LATS Stakeholder Group, LARAC and advising consultants agree with Defra that an electronic trading platform is required if waste officers are to have access to sufficient market information to make their LATS trading decisions cost effective and as efficiently as possible. Such a trading platform is currently under construction and expected to go live in the near future.