

WasteDataFlow

WASTEDATAFLOW NORTHERN IRELAND USER GROUP MINUTES

MEETING HELD 2nd April 2009

Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Klondyke Building, Cromac Avenue, Gasworks Business Park, Belfast @11am.

Attendees:

Michael Lavery **ML** (Antrim BC)
Lynsey Daly **LDa** (arc21)
Liz Drew **LDr** (Armagh & City DC)
Gary McKnight **GMcK** (Ballymena BC)
Nigel McKeown **NMcK** (Ballymoney BC)
Brendan Murray **BM** (Belfast CC)
Jean Stewart **JS** (Carrickfergus BC)
Jonathan Wilson **JW** (Coleraine BC)
Mark McAdoo **MMcA** (Cookstown DC)
Paul Topley **PT** (Craigavon BC)
Caroline O'Donnell **CO'D** (Derry CC)
Noleen O'Malley **NO'M** (Lisburn CC)
John Murtagh **JM** (Magherafelt DC)
Janice Dunlop **JD** (Moyle DC)
Lisa Mayne **LM** (Newtownabbey BC)
Peter McCoy **PMcC** (North Down BC)
Keith Swedkick (**KS**) (NWRMG)
Yvonne Lecky **YL** (Strabane DC)
Jason Patterson **JP** (SWaMP2008)

Nicola Duffin **ND** (NIEA)
Adrian Fitzpatrick **AF** (NIEA)
Stephen Gracey **SG** (NIEA)
Claire O'Neill (**CO'N**) (NIEA)

Apologies:

Clive Catterson (Ards BC)
Maud Finney (Banbridge DC)
Tim Smith (Castlereagh BC)
Jill Eagleson (Dungannon & South Tyrone BC)
Tara Cunningham (Newry & Mourne DC)
Anthea Owens (Omagh DC)
Keith Patterson (WRAP)



1. Welcome and Introductions

CO'N welcomed everyone to the meeting and as there were new members everyone introduced themselves (at end of meeting).

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes from the previous User Group meeting held on 25th September in Klondyke Building were agreed by the Group.

3. Update from Operational Group to include WDF development.

Most of the planned development has now either been undertaken or will be done before June, as the current contract with Enviros for the project comes to an end. The contract for managing WasteDataFlow will be up for renewal. CO'N circulated a summary sheet from Enviros listing the current status of development work.

CO'N high-lighted a few development areas:

Selection lists have been updated to include all UK licensed sites, and improved search facilities such as ability to search by licence number.

Various parts of the site are now available without the need to log-in as a user E.g. guidance manual, newsletters etc.

Q19 and 35 have the option to enter by either material or facility. The user can switch between the options whilst inputting data. CO'N demonstrated this to ensure all users are aware of the option.

The materials list is being expanded to allow a more comprehensive list. The extra materials are not necessarily to increase the workload of inputting but to give the user the option to record more detail and therefore, create detailed reports to assist with planning and targeting materials. It will also eliminate the need to enter data into the comments for other materials. This will be effective for data from April 2009 onwards.

The group asked whether this would affect historical data.

Action: CO'N to check with Enviros the impact if any on historical data, expanded material list to be e-mailed to Group.

CO'N agreed to send the new materials list out for information – if anyone had anything to add they can let NIEA know ASAP?

Q70 was introduced in April 2008 to enable credit for alternative treatment methods. The question needs more development and currently only affects dirty MRF users (Q64). Q19 is for separately collected materials. The data

from Q70 is pulled into the recycling calculations but requires expansion of final destination reporting to ensure it is fully accounted for in the mass balance calculation. In NI only a few DCs use this question and the impact is minimal but as MBT etc come on line it will be more important. The operational group is currently reviewing the options which are available. These are 1) expand Q70; 2) Modify Q19 to include recovery from residual.

Reports:

CA site reports:

A 'Segregation Efficiency' report for CA sites has been requested and specification sent to Enviros. This will be the segregation efficiency of each site and the overall segregation efficiency for the district council CA sites. NI DCs will be able to benchmark against each other but not against other councils in UK as they do not report CA data in this format on WDF.

A report which collates CA site data together for each DC by material type. has also been requested. Currently DCs do not see the total of each material collected from all CA sites without adding them up outside of WDF. This will essentially be a view of the previous Q16.

The Group asked if they could see the collated materials list from all CA sites before they roll up. **CO'N** explained that this collated data can only be when data was rolled up to level 10. All reports could be run when data was rolled up to level 10.

The Group discussed roll up times and felt that the roll-up times could be quite lengthy.

Action: **CO'N** to investigate with Enviros roll-up times for Northern Ireland district councils and inform group what the expected time for roll up is, taking account of how many DCs are in the queue.

New reports:

CO'N demonstrated the destination and reprocessor, kpi and analytical reports through the WDF website.

Action: **CO'N** to draft explanatory guidance on new reports.

The group asked if the reports could be broken down by material as well? **CO'N** said that this information should be on a separate line. Some filtering will be required to obtain the relevant information.

Basic reports will be no longer available in pdf format; all reporting will now be done via "Summary Report" menu. Basic reports on questions can be run from the 'Summary Report' menu.

CSV downloads are available on the “Summary Report” menu, or on the “Report Menu”. CSV is raw data which needs to be filtered to obtain information.

CO’N asked the Group if any new reports were required?

The Group asked if a report could be produced giving tonnages of materials by year? Currently NIEA obtain this information via CSV download.

Action: **CO’N** will request this be put on development plan.

Group requested that NILAS allocations be included in NILAS reports so that DCs can easily see how they are progressing.

CO’N explained that this had been requested at the Operational Group during her absence but had been rejected. However, **CO’N** agreed that it would be useful and agreed to raise the issue again.

Action **CO’N** to propose introducing allocations for measuring progress in WDF at next OG.

4. Capture rate guidance and spreadsheet [e-mailed] for discussion.

CO’N opened discussion on the documents issued on capture rates. She explained that this is an attempt to simplify the process as much as possible with minimal calculations required by DCs. NIEA proposed to use this guidance for the next reporting period and determine how effective / useful it is for users. If successful then NIEA will develop a request and specify a report on WDF that will allow capture rate benchmarking.

The Group asked if the spreadsheet took account of what schemes were in place for what households. **CO’N** said it didn’t as we don’t currently have enough information to go to this level of detail. It is designed to be as simple as possible for user input and to give us a starting point for developing the use of capture rates for focusing resources.

The spreadsheet has been designed to marry the list in WasteDataFlow with the categories in the compositional study.

The Group asked if the green waste could be modified to take account of seasonality? **CO’N** undertook to investigate this by looking at historical data, but outlined that the compositional study calculated the overall composition of waste in NI with seasonality built in but didn’t provide different compositions for different times of the year.

The Group asked how different schemes were accounted for in Q9. **AF** explained that it was a measure of the efficiency of the targeting of all materials at kerbside, not on specific schemes.

The Group asked if something similar could be done for CA sites? **CO’N** explained that as the compositional study covered 4 CA sites additional compositional studies would be desirable to develop the measuring of capture rates. If councils had undertaken studies, or plan to, NIEA would discuss taking CA site capture rate analysis forward through WDF reporting.

The Group asked if there was any scope for credit for diversion of BMW via home composters? **CO’N** explained that DEFRA and WRAP had undertaken a lengthy study/ consultation and it had been decided that the model developed was not sufficiently robust enough to demonstrate diversion to EU Commission.

5. Update on NILAS to include WasteDataFlow issues

AF gave a presentation on observations from the most recently validated data (October to December 2008). **AF** followed with a brief presentation on the 6 month NILAS progress report issued to all district councils in January 2009.

6. AOB

CO’N asked if the Group were satisfied with the current arrangements for the Northern Ireland local authority representative, and deputy, on the Operational Group? The Group unanimously agreed, and some suggestions were made that the role could be restricted to a certain time period. NIEA undertook to review the term of office of local authority representatives.

CO’N asked for a show of hands as to who would be interested in monthly reporting. Very few were keen on monthly reporting, but some felt it might be useful for CA site reporting. **CO’N** explained that DCs can pick and choose which questions to input monthly – it is not a case of all or nothing.

CO’N informed the Group that Statistics Branch would be undertaking the validation in the near future, and queries would be generated faster by NIEA to district councils if data was submitted prior to deadline. The earlier the data comes in the easier it is to facilitate the validation process.

The reduction to 64% BMW came into effect on 1st April.

Date of Next Meeting:

The date of the next meeting was arranged for September 2009. (specific date TBD)