



# Landfills

**CHEATSHEET**



**Friends of  
the Earth  
Scotland**

**Fed up being dumped on?  
Hold your nose and  
turn the page...**

# Are you living with a dump?

And we don't mean the mess in the living room! If you live close to a landfill you might be experiencing a few problems. Whatever it is we hope the answer is below.

## Litter, Dust and Mud

Do windy days mean litter or dust in the garden? The landfill company has agreed a plan of action with SEPA to reduce these issues. You can see this plan at SEPA's offices. If it's not being followed, tell the company and SEPA.

## Flies, Seagulls and Vermin

Landfills could be one big dinner plate for the local pest population. Each day's rubbish is covered with a layer of soil to stop this. If there's a plague of animals, complain to the landfill operator or ask SEPA to check enough soil is used.

## Water Pollution

Dead fish, bad smells any other pollution should be quickly reported to SEPA's 24-hour pollution hotline – 0800 80 70 60.

## Smells

Does it stink? The smell could be from newly dumped waste or gas from old decomposing rubbish. New waste should be covered with soil each day and gas should be collected with buried pipes. Maybe the soil is not thick enough or the pipes are broken. Write to the company and to SEPA.

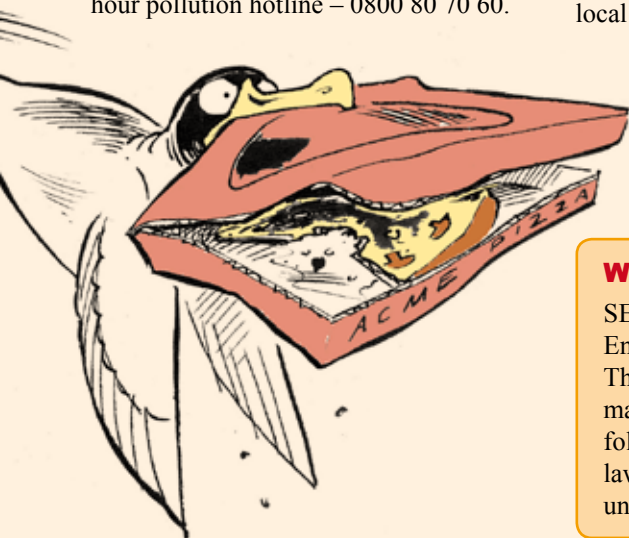


## Noise and Vibration

The landfill's 'planning consent' allows trucks to work between certain times of the day. Check the consent at the local planning office and complain there if it's not being followed. The landfill company agrees a plan of action to reduce noise with SEPA. See this plan at SEPA's offices and talk to the company and SEPA if it's not being followed.

## Illness

Illness is serious but first speak to your local GP and ask his or her opinion.



## Who's SEPA?

SEPA means the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. They're the government body that makes sure industry and landfills follow Scotland's environmental laws. Your local office address is under SEPA in the phone book.



# Communities get cleaner!

Communities working together can make a dirty landfill clean up its act.

## Gathering and Recording Evidence

To add weight to any complaint you need evidence. Here are some examples:

- Written record of when, where and for how long the problem or nuisance continued, include the effects on you and your family or community.
- Photographs or videos.
- Community interviews or questionnaires.
- Sound level recordings.
- Contamination tests for soil and water.

## Finding Out More

In your local SEPA library, called a Public Registry, you can see your local landfill's Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) files. These files tell you how the landfill company has agreed to reduce its impacts on the local community and environment. If you think the landfill is not following these agreements you can ask SEPA to investigate.

## From Complaints to Campaigning

Get your community involved; the more voices the better. Talk to the right people and ask what's going to be done about it. Use phone calls and written letters. Be polite, but forceful when appropriate. Build up a dialogue and expect to be kept informed. Date and record the letters you send and phone calls you make. Listen carefully to any reply. Be visible with public meetings, newspaper articles and community action.



## Good Neighbour Agreements

Maybe the landfill is working within the law but still affecting the community. If so, try a Good Neighbour Agreement. First, the affected community must decide what changes they want. Then approach the company and find an agreement for improvements that both parties can sign.

## Reduce that Waste!

If you don't want rubbish in your community, start at home, with your friends and at work. Reducing, reusing and increased recycling of waste is the only way to stop our need to dump. Good luck!



## Communities Reducing Excess Waste (CREW)

Join the CREW and become a Waste Prevention Champion!

[www.foe-scotland.org.uk/crew](http://www.foe-scotland.org.uk/crew)

## Waste Aware Scotland

For more information on how you can Reduce, Reuse and Recycle your waste visit:

[www.sort-it.org.uk](http://www.sort-it.org.uk)

# Planning More Landfills?

## Finding out about the future

Before landfills are built they must have 'planning permission' from the local authority. When a company applies for this permission there will be a small advert in the local paper, your community council will be told and houses next to the site will get a letter.

## Do I have a say in the plans?

Yes, individually your voice is not big but if the whole community is involved you get louder. Write to the planning office soon, the deadlines for letters are normally about two or three weeks after the advert or letter.

## What should I write?

If you wish to argue against the landfill you must use 'material' reasons. There's more on this in 'Landfill FAQs'. See below.

## What's next?

A letter of objection is unlikely to be enough to stop a landfill proposal. You can learn about how to influence the next steps in the planning process through Planning Aid for Scotland. They provide free leaflets, advice and training for communities and individuals involved in planning issues.

### Planning Aid Scotland

11a South Charlotte Street

Edinburgh EH2 4AS

Phone: 0845 603 7602

Fax: (0131) 220 9735

[www.planningaidscotland.org.uk](http://www.planningaidscotland.org.uk)

[office@planningaidscotland.org.uk](mailto:office@planningaidscotland.org.uk)



## Landfill FAQs

You've just read a CheatSheet, a quick guide to landfills. It's a summary of a bigger guide called 'Landfill FAQs'. If you've got more questions or need more details on health, landfill design, Scotland's landfill laws and actions you

can take 'Landfill FAQs' is for you – FAQ stands for Frequently Asked Questions!

**FREE from:** [www.foe-scotland.org.uk](http://www.foe-scotland.org.uk)

**£3 in print from:** 0131 554 9977