

Environment Agency exemptions or permits

To ensure that your community composting scheme satisfies the Environment Agency's requirements under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) 2010, you will need to apply for a permit or an exemption to operate your scheme. Whether you need to apply for a permit or register an exemption depends on several factors, for example:

- The quantity of material stored on site at any one time.
 - The type of material accepted.
- The time the material is stored on site until it is 'treated', ie composted.

You can contact the Environment Agency in various ways through this link:
<http://apps.environment-agency.gov.uk/contact/default.aspx>

The Environment Agency is concerned about managing risk, and the composting process is the most risky element of a community composting scheme.

Community composting is most straightforward for schemes that collect garden waste only, where households in the community use the resultant compost on their own land, and where treatment at the 'hub' composting site involves less than 60 tonnes of waste at any one time.

To access the full guidance document and application form online, groups should go to the www.gov.uk web page and enter 'T23' into the Search box. You can then click on **'T23 – Aerobic composting and associated prior treatment'** and follow the instructions.

Groups should also obtain a **Waste Carriers Lower Tier** exemption. Again, from the www.gov.uk web page, type 'waste carriers licence' into the search box. Click on **'Register as a waste carrier, broker or dealer (England)'** and follow the instructions for registering. Community groups are 'lower tier' carriers, but must be registered with the Environment Agency. It would be advisable for collecting volunteers to have the scheme's waste carrier exemption certificate with them when they are collecting, in case the police should stop and question them, which is something they are more likely to do now.

There is no charge for any of the above exemption registrations.