

Working Groups



Jonathon Davies

Group Chair
Group Chairman,
Commercial Director,
Resource Management,
Enviro Consulting Ltd



Chris Hoggart

Group Chair
Business Unit
Director, Natural and
Environment, MWH

Waste Resources Management

EIC's Waste Resources Management Working Group represents Members' interests across the whole waste and resource sequence, from generation, minimisation and recycling, to treatment for re-use or disposal. Achievement of the far-reaching changes in the Government's Waste Implementation Programme (WIP) requires the integration of all available waste management techniques.

The Group has submitted reports and representations to Defra, HM Treasury, DTI, and the Hazardous Waste Forum, and representatives have in the last year met John Healey MP, Ben Bradshaw MP, Sir John Harman, and Neil Thornton, Defra's Director of Sustainable Production Consumption and Waste. Following submission of detailed comments on the Waste Strategy Review 2006, the Group will be actively reviewing the enhanced recommendations of the 2007 Waste Strategy when published in the summer.

The recommendations of the Group for a significant increase in Landfill Tax have been taken up in the budget announcement on an increase of £8 per tonne per year. This will ensure that by 2011 the cost of landfill will be comparable to that of resource treatment technologies, enabling their delivery and the realistic recovery of much greater tonnages of materials, especially from commercial and industrial wastes.

The Group is also significantly represented in discussions on proposals for revisions to the Waste Framework Directive, and the associated Waste Protocols Project for priority waste streams and on proposals for greater coordination between resource efficiency organisations. Representatives of the Group continue to be active members of the Hazardous Waste Forum. The Group's current campaigns are focused on:

- Definitions of end-of-waste and of recovery, via the Waste Protocols Project
- Planning for facilities for secondary raw material production
- Waste minimisation and resource efficiency
- Lobbying for appropriate co-ordination of the initiatives required to achieve the objectives of the 2007 Waste Strategy.

The Group's Members supply technology and services to the waste minimisation, recycling, treatment and landfill industries, and include representatives from waste generators, waste management and recycling contractors, NGOs, consultants, geosynthetics manufacturers, water and air technology companies, local government and solicitors practices.

Water Pollution Control

The Water Pollution Control Working Group is working towards ensuring the sustainable development of the UK and water environment, through tackling the barriers to UK companies that can provide water pollution prevention and control technologies and services. Its Members consist of representatives from consultancies, technology providers, contractors, pollution monitoring organisations, laboratories, academic institutions, and associated industries.

The Group's objective is to identify key regulatory barriers to growth facing the industry. We are working to overcome them by lobbying for relevant legislation, standards, regulations and economic instruments, as well as effective and consistent enforcement.

The Water Framework Directive forms the context for most of the Group's work. Defra and the Environment Agency will be grappling with its implementation for years to come. However there is great pressure to implement the Directive in the minimum way possible. The Group is engaging closely in the implementation process to argue for a proactive approach based on the case that high standards of water quality have economic benefits for the UK.

Following closely from the main Directive is the daughter Priority Substances Directive, which is key in setting chemical quality standards for the future. The Group is represented on the main EU expert Working Group supporting its development as well as influencing the UK negotiating position. Much of the implementation of these Directives - as well investment in the broader water environment - comes through the five yearly periodic review of water prices. This process has tended to lead to a short term and conservative approach in the water sector and has created a boom and bust cycle for the supply chain to the water industry. The Group has been pressing Ofwat and Defra for measures to tackle this cycle and promote long-term thinking. Linked to this lack of innovation is the urgent need for the water sector to tackle the challenge of climate change - particularly by greater efficiency in its water treatment works. The Group is, therefore, working on a paper on its experience of the barriers to energy efficiency.

The pace of change in the policy and regulatory framework governing the water environment continues unabated. The coming year will see the Group continuing to provide an active voice for the sector providing the technologies and expertise to enable the challenges ahead to be met.