

Working Groups



Chris Stubbs

Group Chair
Divisional
Managing Director
WSP Energy



Alistair Kean

Group Chair
Environmental Director,
IKM Consulting

Climate Change

Climate change is widely accepted as one of the greatest threats we face, and as we have seen over the last year, the political establishment has finally started to take this threat seriously. There is a broad consensus that energy efficiency is a key tool and the Government has rightly identified demand reduction as the most effective approach to tackling climate change. Despite the introduction of a wide range of measures to encourage energy efficiency it is clear, however, that a step change is urgently needed to reduce energy demand in homes and all commercial and public buildings.

EIC's Climate Change Working Group, which represents over 80 companies involved in providing advice and technology in the field of energy efficiency, has been engaged in high-level lobbying in recent years on how to achieve this much needed step change. Recently the Group launched a Joint Statement on Energy Efficiency bringing together some of the country's leading energy experts and business leaders to set out 11 clear and achievable steps that will help achieve the Government's 'ultimate ambition' of using every unit of energy as efficiently as possible. The Group has met with Ian Pearson MP, Minister of State for Climate Change, to discuss the increasing gap between policy and reality in respect of procurement of large public sector building projects - encouraging the Government to 'lead by example' by ensuring that the inclusion of climate beneficial technologies and services are considered fully, on a lifecycle cost basis instead of just a capital cost basis, for inclusion in the large number of public-funded buildings erected every year.

Linked to this, the Group will continue lobbying to increase the capital incentive for the most efficient and innovative technologies to 150 per cent - this would provide sufficient incentive to ensure building owners specify qualifying technologies on the energy technology list. The Group will also lobby to speed up the process for including new technology categories on the Energy Technology List, which is currently an average of three years and a clear barrier to innovation.

The Group will also be lobbying over the next year on improving energy efficiency in existing buildings and extending the requirement to display an energy performance certificate - currently required in buildings greater than 1,000sq m occupied by public authorities and by institutions providing public services - to all commercial buildings. For domestic buildings the Group will lobby for greater incentives for achieving absolute emission reductions in existing homes as well as ensuring that the Government fulfils its commitment for all new homes to be zero carbon within 10 years. Energy efficiency is a key tool in the battle against climate change and using every unit of energy as efficiently as possible has to be our ultimate ambition.

Contaminated Land

The EIC Contaminated Land Working Group has had another extremely busy year. Although some agenda items may seem very familiar to the 180 member companies in the group, real progress has been made in a number of areas.

Soil Gas Standard

One real success emanating from the Group has been the preparation of a new British Standard for the characterisation and remediation of ground gas in Brownfield developments. This was lobbied for by the Group and led to the persuasion of the British Standard Institute to introduce a new Standard. Group members drafted the text and it is now out for consultation prior to the forthcoming publication.

Part 2A / CLEA

Following the highly successful Remediation Licensing Task Force, there was a high degree of hope that the very well supported Soil Guideline Task Force would also find a solution to the very slow introduction of the Soil Guideline Values and an improved version of the CLEA risk assessment programme. However, since the publication of the Defra Way Forward Paper (CLAN6/06) on Soil Guideline Values, progress has been extremely slow.

Mobile Treatment Licensing

The introduction of Mobile Treatment Licensing system in 2005 gave the remediation industry a well-needed boost with an enormous simplification of the remediation licensing system. However a number of contractors are now reporting considerable delays in gaining approval from the Environment Agency for Deployment Forms, which are required prior to mobilisation to site. The Group is lobbying for a centralised Deployment Form assessment team at the Environment Agency, and it is hoped that the current slow rate of progress can be accelerated.

Environmental Permitting Review

A number of Group members have been following developments in the Environmental Permitting Review, which is a new concept in combining Pollution Prevention and Control legislation with the Waste Management Regulations, into a common permitting and compliance system, known as the Environmental Permitting Programme.

Review of Waste Exemptions

The brownfield redevelopment industry relies heavily on the use of a number of exemptions from the Waste Management Licensing Regulations for the re-use of inert or contaminated soil on sites. Defra has announced a review of the exemptions to Waste Licensing. The Group have asked Defra for an update on progress on this review and will aim to ensure the current system is improved for the benefit of the entire remediation industry.

Brownfield Tax Incentives

The Group is also extremely concerned at present moves by the Treasury to review the various tax incentives available for the development of Brownfield land. These range from the landfill tax exemption to the land remediation relief currently available to developers.