

# Waste Stakeholder Group (WSG)

## Meeting 6 Minutes

Tuesday 3 February 2009, Goodenough College, London 10.30am – 3.30pm

### Present

Daniel Instone	Chair (Defra)
Jiggy Lloyd	Non-executive Waste Strategy Board
Bob Gordon	BRC
Lindsay Millington	British Metals Recycling Association
Mercia Gick	British Plastics Federation
David Fell	BrookLyndhurst
Jayne Cox	BrookLyndhurst
Sara Giorgi	BrookLyndhurst
Anne-Gaelle Collot	Chemical Industries Association
Steve Lee	CIWM
Jeremy Jacobs	Community Composting Network/Community Recycling Network/Furniture Recycling Network
Matthew Farrow	Confederation of British Industry
Julia Barrett	County Surveyors Society
Nina Cunningham	EEDA
Vanessa Fandrich	EEF
Liz Parkes	Environment Agency
Chris Radway	Environmental Industries Commission
Justin French-Brooks	Environmental Services Association
Michael Warhurst	Friends of the Earth
Ian Heasman	House Builders Federation
Joy Blizzard	LARAC
Tony Ripley	LGA
Steve Burdis	NAWDO
Paul Borrett	NAWDO
Graham Beazley-Long	PPP Forum
Veronica Sharp	Social Marketing Practice
Matthew Thomson	Third Sector Networks
Stewart Crocker	Waste Watch
Patrick Mahon	WRAP
David Wilson	WRRAG

### Defra

Trudie Mansfield	Sustainable Consumption and Production & Waste
Roy Hathaway	Head of Waste Regulation & Business Waste
Ingrid Doves	Secretariat
Sandy Shattock	Secretariat
Amy Pitch	Secretariat

## 1.0 Introductions and Overview of the Meeting

### 1.1 Welcome to participants, apologies for absence

1. Caroline Arnold was unable to attend this meeting, due to the adverse weather conditions, and Daniel Instone chaired the meeting in her absence.
2. Daniel welcomed the group to the sixth Waste Stakeholder Group meeting and despite the poor weather and transport issues a substantial number of the group were able to attend the meeting.
3. The meeting was split into two parts, the first part of the meeting covered the work carried out on the Defra Waste Prevention Evidence Review (WREP) on waste prevention and the second part of the meeting provided the group with an update on the work carried out on Commercial and Industrial (C&I) waste following the feedback received from the May WSG meeting.

## **Part 1 – Waste Prevention**

### 2.0 **Scene setting:** Presentations, background and commentary to stimulate debate

#### 2.1 **Presentation 1** – Introduction to the Waste and Resource Evidence Programme (WREP)

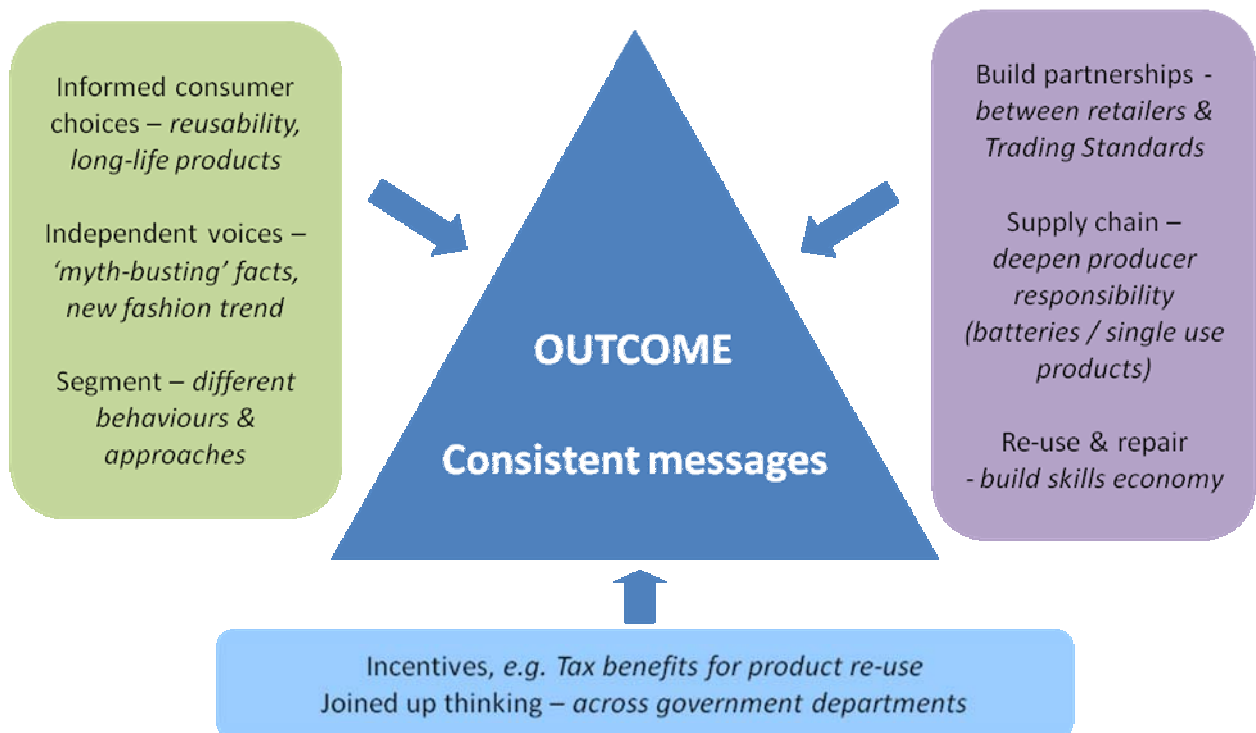
4. Nick Blakey (Defra) gave a brief background to WREP. The main points presented were;
  - a. WREP was set up in 2003, from funding diverted from Landfill Tax Credit Scheme, as the Waste and Resources Research Programme in response to the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit Report *Waste Not, Want Not*.
  - b. A 3-year strategy was published in September 2004, with a follow on strategy in September 2007. WREP's current focus is on delivering the evidence required for the implementation of WS2007. Since the programme started in 2004, more than 100 projects have been funded.
  - c. The aims of WREP can be summarised as
    - i. Delivering a robust waste and resources evidence base,
    - ii. Facilitating its use for policy purposes, and
    - iii. Ensuring effective communication with all stakeholders
  - d. Household waste prevention was highlighted as a priority in WS2007 and was one of the areas that WREP chose to focus on. This included work on future changes in waste quantities and composition; on household behaviour change; and on the role of the Third Sector.
  - e. In all, 19 projects were commissioned up to 2006 relating in some way to household waste prevention, with timeframes of up to 3 years.
  - f. WREP's portfolio on household waste prevention projects are now nearing completion, so the time is ripe to pull all this work together

- g. The Household waste evidence review project was commissioned last October with the aim of providing an accurate and up-to-date picture of existing policy-relevant evidence on household waste prevention in the UK. The project is being carried out by a consortium led by Brook Lyndhurst, including also the Social Marketing Practice and the Resource Recovery Forum.

## 2.2 **Presentation 2** – Household Waste Prevention Evidence Review– *the story so far*

5. Jayne Cox (Brook Lyndhurst) and Veronica Sharp (The Social Marketing Practice) provided “the story so far” on the household waste prevention review. The review will provide an accurate and up-to-date picture of existing **policy-relevant evidence** on household waste prevention in the UK by undertaking knowledge brokering with stakeholders via expert panels, stakeholder surveys, **stakeholder workshops** and policy workshops.
6. The previous WSG discussion had been followed a series of regional workshops held in Leeds, Bridgwater and London. The regional workshops were attended by over 100 stakeholders representing a diverse mix of interests from local authorities, the waste management industry, government, academia, consultancies, the third sector, and the supply chain. It was held at an important stage in the research process and it provided an opportunity for members to feed into the last stages of the evidence review on the key research questions, relating to household waste prevention, and input to the analysis of gaps in the evidence base.
7. At the meeting the research team shared the early insights from the evidence review and, in particular, those drawn from the three regional workshops. *One of the issues identified in the regional workshops was a greater need for stakeholders to work collaboratively so that they can better enable households to reduce waste at source. A further theme from the regional workshops was a desire for more joined-up thinking and action on household waste prevention, with further support and guidance from policy.*
8. With this in mind, the group was asked to reflect on the emerging themes from the regional workshops, discuss and comment on the following:
  - a. The influences and impacts on household waste prevention – the role of stakeholders working together;
  - b. The support needed by stakeholders so that they can contribute effectively to help consumers / households prevent waste.
9. Some of the points raised by the group:
  - a. ***Influences and impacts on household waste prevention – stakeholders working together*** - Who should be working together? Doing what and how?
    - Third Sector – work together, e.g. second-hand shop network, mattress collection
    - Retailers – improve consumer understanding, self regulation of ‘good’ packaging
    - Central and local government – coordinate consumer communication via all points of contact e.g. point of sale, share findings from other initiatives e.g. sustainable transport, energy efficiency

- b. **What support do stakeholders need so that they can contribute effectively to households waste prevention?** Gaps and opportunities raised by the WSG are highlighted below in the diagram.



10. Annex 1 provides an overview of the initial insights derived from the regional workshops and the WSG meeting and will be undergoing further analysis alongside the evidence review.
11. In addition to the workshops, stakeholders have been invited to contribute at key points in the research. The first electronic survey was launched in October 2008 and a second survey is currently underway to obtain feedback on the emerging issues. The questions in the survey provide feedback on some of the collated responses. WSG members can access this survey at the following link: [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=s2oKclaqyV\\_2bGbr9O6dtRww\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=s2oKclaqyV_2bGbr9O6dtRww_3d_3d)
12. The consolidated findings from the literature review and the engagement process are currently being subjected to detailed analysis upon which a series of policy-relevant reports and briefings will be produced that synthesise the existing evidence, lessons learnt, evidence gaps and priorities for other research.
13. The work is scheduled to be completed in late Spring 2009. The outcomes will help to provide an accurate and up-to-date picture of existing policy-relevant evidence and inform the direction of policy development on household waste prevention - both in terms of taking forward the England Waste Strategy 2007, and associated pro-environmental behaviour policies in the UK.
14. For background on the evidence review, WSG members may wish to refer to the Briefing Note which was provided earlier [WSG03Feb09].

## 2.3 **Presentation 3** – Household Waste Prevention – *A practitioner’s perspective*

15. Claudia Kuss-Tenzer from Waste Watch was unable to attend the meeting and the presentation was cancelled.

## **Part 2 – Commercial and Industrial Waste**

### **3.0 Scene setting:** Presentation and commentary to stimulate debate

#### **3.1 Presentation 1** – Commercial and Industrial Waste – an update

16. Following the feedback received at the May WSG meeting, and input from a wide range of other interested parties, Defra produced a paper on commercial and industrial waste policy [WSG04Feb09]. The paper explains that the overall aim of C&I waste policy is to improve resource efficiency in the economy and minimise the impact of climate change and other environmental impacts by promoting sustainable products and materials, and so to maximise waste prevention, reuse, recycling and composting and phase out residual waste. The paper and actions proposed are just the start of the process of tackling C&I waste.

17. Trudie Mansfield (Defra) and Roy Hathaway (Defra) presented the paper and proposed actions. The main points presented were;

- a. Key current policies on C&I waste are:
  - i. The Landfill Tax
  - ii. Revised Waste Framework Directive (notably the “Waste Hierarchy”)
  - iii. Producer Responsibility Directives (packaging, vehicles, waste electronics)
  - iv. Directives on hazardous waste, landfill, and waste incineration
  - v. Voluntary agreements (“Courtauld Commitment”, paper sectors)
  - vi. Advice to business on resource efficiency (WRAP, NISP, others)
- b. There are 4 sections and 19 actions identified
  - i. Working with business – 11 actions
  - ii. Working with Local Authorities – 1 action
  - iii. Working with waste management companies – 1 action
  - iv. Other Government actions - 6 actions

18. It is important that collection, treatment and reprocessing capacity is retained and developed further. The current economic problems should not result in a return to landfill and a reversal of the trend for households and businesses to recycle more of their waste.

19. Defra is working with its Delivery Bodies, Other Government Departments, TSB and key stakeholders to develop new domestic markets for recyclates. BERR and UK T&I are also looking at other overseas markets which might also be able to use UK

recyclates given that the markets for such materials in China and India have recently decreased as their own manufacturing requirements are reduced.

20. The group were asked for their input on how Defra should implement next steps and which action points were considered high priority, lower priority and anything that was missing from the list.

21. **Action 10** (duty of care to encourage information about pre-treatment to be recorded on waste transfer notes) and **Action 11** (improving business awareness of their duty of care obligations by advertising/publicity campaign and enforcement by EA and Local Authorities) were considered, by the group, to be the highest priority. Actions 3, 8, 9 13 and 17 were also considered to be high priority.

22. The group discussed what actions that they felt that were missing from the list of 19 actions but should be considered

- a. Integration of C&I with MSW,
- b. Reform of LATS so it does not create a barrier
- c. Waste carrier licensing
- d. In action 8 the word "government" can replace "businesses"
- e. Understanding the value of C&I waste materials?
- f. Lack of data is a major issue and it is very difficult to have a discussion on what is needed when we do not have a complete picture of how much C&I waste there is.

23. The group felt that action 1, 4, 5 and 14 were lower priority in comparison to others listed. However, the majority of the group felt that none of the actions should be considered as a low priority. One group identified low priorities as those that are pending, have not been initiated, and are not on the same timescale

24. Each group provided a detailed feedback sheet for Trudie to analyse and following the meeting she will be providing the group with an update at a future date.

25. During the plenary and feedback some of the group called again for better data that will show what infrastructure is required and where it is needed for the fulfilment of policy. Some members of the group felt that targets were also required to make it easier to measure the success of policies and more needs to be done to improve understanding of reuses of C&I waste.

### 3.0 Next steps and round up

26. Daniel Instone rounded up the days discussion and again thanked those that were able to attend. The next meeting is planned for early summer and discussion topics requested by the group were on lessons from the economic downturn, the issue of public confidence and the outcome of the delivery body review were mooted as agenda points.

27. The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday **8<sup>th</sup> July 2009**. You will be informed of the discussion topics in advance of the meeting.