



Midlands Region Newsletter

Issue 3: Winter 2009

Welcome!

Welcome to the third edition of the Midlands region newsletter. This quarter we include some really interesting reports of meetings we have hosted as well as profiling a Councillor, a new member and demystifying some of the Institution's systems.

Our Christmas lunch was again a great success, so thanks to our main sponsor Covanta Energy and to everyone who booked tables or came along to enjoy

the good food and company. Next year's lunch will be on Friday 4th December, so put it in your diary now.

It's your newsletter, so send us a review of any events you've attended in the region and think we should all know about, whether or not it is a CIWM event. Or if you have an event coming up in our region, let us know and we'll list it in our forthcoming events section. Simply send an email to the editor barbara.leach@wrap.org.uk.

Uncovering CIWM: Upgrading Your Membership

Every quarter we uncover some of the mysteries of the CIWM. This quarter we explain how to upgrade your membership (whether a graduate, affiliate or licentiate) to full corporate member so you can get the full benefits of CIWM membership. Corporate members of CIWM can use the title Chartered Waste Manager and the designatory letters MCIWM which demonstrates a commitment to professional standards in the industry and marks a standard for your professional capabilities both in the UK and across Europe.

To become a full corporate member you need to be at least 25 years of age, a graduate and/or hold a post-graduate qualification and have a minimum of four years relevant continuous experience in wastes management. Or you can be a Corporate Member of a relevant Chartered Institution and have a minimum of two years relevant continuous experience in wastes management. Or if you have few or no formal qualifications you'll need a minimum of five years relevant experience in the waste industry, be at least 35 years of age and include in your application an expanded supporting statement (details available on request for the Experienced Practitioner Route)

Candidates applying to become corporate members need to complete and submit an application form (downloadable from the CIWM website) and then attend a professional interview where you'll be assessed by three senior members of CIWM. Because some people are worried about the process, we regularly hold workshops for potential candidates. This is an opportunity to share your worries, get advice on your application form and how to prepare for the interview, and talk to others going who have recently gone through the process. The next workshop is on 11 March 2009 in Solihull where we'll

be discussing issues surrounding your training, demonstrating your professionalism and providing advice on the perfect application.

The next deadline for submitting an application in the Midlands region is 27 March 2009. Providing everything is satisfactory with your application and that you meet the minimum criteria for membership, you'll be invited to an interview. The next round of interviews in the Midlands region is scheduled for 20 May 2009.

There are plenty of myths around upgrading your membership. One common one is that you have to have a sponsor within your own organisation who is a CIWM member. This isn't the case. There are people in the region who are willing to act as mentors and sponsor your application. Just come along to one of the workshops to find out more.

If you are considering applying for corporate membership or if you have any questions, please contact Claire Nicoll at claire.nicoll@ciwm.co.uk or on 0161 366 1611 or check out www.ciwm.co.uk/membership for more information.

CIWM is also looking for new interviewers. Interviewers need to have been a corporate member for at least 5 years. If you would like to become a professional interviewer, we will invite you to a half day training workshop and ask that, if possible, you are available to be on an interview panel for the two dates in the Midlands region each year. The interviewer's contribution is vital to this process so if you would like to attend a training workshop or if you would like more information please email membership@ciwm.co.uk.



Open Meeting on Construction Waste: A Viable Resource?

The importance that the regeneration of challenging brownfield sites plays in delivering the public sector infrastructure and housing projects, expected by Government, has long been recognised by our industry, but how can this actually become a reality?

To answer this question, and pool the current thinking surrounding “When is Waste Not a Waste”, a lively and well attended evening symposium was hosted by the Institute at the Arup Campus, Solihull, on 25 November 2008, as Louise Stroud and Martin Fairlie of Arup report.

Over 90 delegates were welcomed to the meeting by Derek Greedy the Midlands Centre Chair, before Martin Fairlie, an Associate Director at Arup and leader of Environmental Geotechnics in Europe, presented a comprehensive overview of the relatively new document entitled *The Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice* published by CL:AIRE (Contaminated Land: Applications in Real Environments; www.claire.co.uk). Martin noted that the title is somewhat misleading, in that it relates to excavated soils, contaminated and uncontaminated, brownfield and greenfield, man made and natural, from all types of construction activity. It does not specifically relate to the commonly assumed types of “waste” such as; municipal waste, landfill waste or building site waste.



This Code of Practice will help people involved with the development of all land, not only brownfield and contaminated land, to make a far greater contribution to sustainable development. The

document will hopefully aid decision makers in identifying if they are dealing with a waste and when waste has been fully recovered and is therefore no longer considered to be waste, but a valuable resource. This will assist in reducing our dependence on landfills and decrease natural resource consumption. The Code is voluntary and offers an alternative approach to a complex regulatory regime.

Paul Mathers from WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) then gave some insightful and imaginative examples of how compost material mixed with sub soil can form an alternative “topsoil” material be reused and designed into projects. To

add a third dimension, Jon Conway from Biffa examined the role that soil treatment hubs can play in the quest to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

With construction waste currently constituting one quarter of all material that is sent to landfill, the industry certainly needs an array of techniques and some joined up policy, if the UK is to realise anything near a target of zero waste to landfill in this sector. The CL:AIRE Code of Practice is simply that: it has no legislative backing at present. Soil treatment hubs and on site reuse of materials are good initiatives, which together with Site Waste Management Plans will have some impact. What may be required, however, is perhaps a more fundamental approach involving a paradigm shift in how we implement waste reduction on real projects at a practical level. Remember “One person’s waste, or should we say “by-product” is another person’s raw material”.



The open meeting closed with refreshments and a buffet, and CIWM would like to express gratitude to Arup for hosting the event.



Nothing in Life is Free. Or Is It?

There are now websites available allow us to donate unwanted items to people who want them. David Reynolds, Business Support Manager at Veolia and co-optee to the CIWM Midlands Centre Council, is a convert to one of these and wants everyone to know about it!

Freecycle is all about reuse and keeping material out of landfill. The Freecycle Network is made up of local groups of people who give unwanted items away to others, in their local community, who have a use for them. As the name suggests, items are freely given as gifts.

After being started in Tucson, Arizona in 2003, Freecycle now spreads across 85 countries, with over 6 million members in 4665 local groups. In the UK, there are 1.5 million members in 593 local groups. Local groups are organised through the internet. They have moderators who volunteer their time to ensure that the rules of posting "offers" and "wants" are observed and the groups run smoothly.

I have been a member of Freecycle for over two years now and have gifted and received many items. Many of the plants in my garden have been given to me by members who are either thinning out or changing the

layout of their own gardens. TVs, computers, and Hi-fis are the three most popular items given away. I have also seen offers for plenty of pianos, cars, motorbikes, boats and caravans as well as smaller items.



Not only is there the warm satisfaction of avoiding landfill and helping others, but Freecycle is also a great way to meet local people with the same kind of community spirit. If you are unaware of Freecycle, please check out their website below to see if your area already has a local group. If not, consider starting one! Please also mention Freecycle to all those you meet - it is not meant to be a secret; the more people involved, the more waste can be diverted from landfill.

Freecycle is not the only service like this available. Community Freebay, operating in Coventry and Warwickshire, is another example, and no doubt there are others too. Whichever site you use, there's no argument that giving stuff away to a good home is a much better option than sending it to landfill.

www.freecycle.org
www.action21.co.uk/community_freebay.html

New member profile

Each quarter we feature someone from our region who has recently attained corporate membership. This quarter we feature Jon Pickering.



Where do you work and what does your role involve?

I work for an environmental consultancy firm called the Organic Resource Agency Ltd (ORA). We specialise in sustainable waste management and recycling with a specific focus on organic waste streams and their treatment and end uses. I am a senior consultant and have been with the firm for eight years. I am responsible both for delivering projects and developing new work and I also form part of the management team with responsibilities for developing and maintaining the systems we use to help the firm run smoothly. I am ORA's health and safety officer and I also have a mentoring role, assisting junior members of staff.

Describe a typical day

There is no such thing as a typical day, which is why my job is never boring! On average I spend roughly one third of the week out of the office visiting clients, or attending other meetings and two thirds of the week at my desk. To give a flavour for my activities this week I attended a conference on composting and AD one day and spent another day meeting with a client to discuss the development of a new waste treatment facility. On the other days I was working on an odour modelling project for a client who is seeking to develop an anaerobic digestion plant, liaising with the Environment Agency over their guidance on monitoring MBT facilities for another client, completing a tender for a framework contract with another established client and working on a bioaerosol risk assessment for an on-farm composting operation.



The Chartered Institution of Wastes Management

What did you want to be when you were growing up?

I enjoyed biology at school and wanted to do something related to that area. Because of this I did a degree in horticulture and had a number of jobs in the horticultural industry before being offered the opportunity to do a PhD.

So how did you get involved in the waste industry?

My PhD concerned the use of green waste composts in landscape horticulture and land reclamation. I suppose this was the first time I became aware of, and got interested in the waste industry and, what was at the time the beginnings of the current UK composting industry.

Why did you become a corporate member of the CIWM?

I had been aware of the option of becoming a corporate member of CIWM for a while but simply hadn't got round to applying. What tipped the balance was encouragement from my employer and the availability of sponsors which made the application process easier.

What benefits do you gain from being a corporate member of CIWM?

The things I find most useful are the emailed newsletters which keep me up to date with what is going on in the industry and the opportunity to participate in the Special Interest Groups. I am a member of the Biological Treatment Special Interest Group which has been very useful for the area in which I work.

What tips do you have for anyone about to attend their professional interview?

Be aware of current events in all areas of the industry - not just your own.

And what one improvement would you make to the world of waste and resources management?

I would like to see things built to last, rather than being made to throw away after only a short time. I just had to throw away a DVD player which could probably have been fixed if I or someone locally had the knowledge/spare parts and incentive to do so. This would reduce waste and potentially create jobs. I'd also like supermarkets to start labelling fruit with biodegradable labels so they didn't end up on my garden via my compost heap.

Forthcoming events in the Midlands region

4 March 2009

CIWM Midlands Evening Open Meeting, Taylor's, Worcestershire

Subject to be confirmed, but likely to focus on current market conditions for recycle. Keep an eye out for more information!
Organiser: CIWM Midlands region. More info to follow.



2 April 2009

CIWM Open Meeting and Annual General Meeting: The Year of the LAT

Speakers to be confirmed, but the meeting will focus on the achievements of Midlands local authorities in meeting Landfill Directive targets, issues still to be tackled as targets get harder to meet, and lessons to take forward into the future.
Organiser: CIWM Midlands region. More info to follow.



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May 2009 (date to be confirmed)

CIWM Open Meeting on Contracts

Details to be confirmed in the next newsletter.
Organiser: CIWM Midlands region. More info to follow.



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Get to know your Councillors

Each quarter we profile one of the regional Councillors, so you can get to know the people that represent you at CIWM. This time it's the turn of Judith Harper.



What's your current role in CIWM and what does it involve?

I am secretary for the Midlands Centre, which I took over about two years ago when I stepped down from being Chairman.

Following the loss of our Regional Development Officer the post was unfilled for some time. Generally this job involves arranging and managing the Centre Council (committee) meetings, the AGM, elections and some of the open meetings; we generally share duties on the latter. I am also an elected General Councillor and therefore a Trustee of the CIWM (equivalent to a Director as CIWM is a charity) and through this I was elected onto Executive Committee, which meets monthly and oversees the day-to day management of the CIWM by its officers. In addition I chair the Communications Committee, in which I have a particular interest.

And what's your day job?

I am one of four Senior Development Managers at Covanta Energy, an American company new to the UK 2½ years ago. We have 37 Waste to Energy plant in the USA, China and Italy and are looking to establish a similar network in the UK and Europe. Effectively I am a project manager responsible for bidding for and implementing, including planning, local authority contracts for treatment of waste through energy recovery and also developing potential sites for merchant facilities (i.e. treatment of commercial and industrial waste. The bidding process covers a huge range of disciplines and can be very intensive, sometimes conflicting with CIWM roles, but it is a 'whole picture' process and also very satisfying.

How did you first get involved in the waste industry?

I left university with a degree in geology which I wanted to practice rather than being stuck in an office all the time. Initially I joined a local authority to develop new landfill sites and carry out monitoring of existing ones so I spent a lot of time on site. Having gained experience in the private sector, consultancy and central government my role gradually shifted to contract management and

eventually my current job. Although I am no longer a practising (hydro)geologist, after 25 years in the industry I can honestly say I never really wanted to do anything else.

What has been the most rewarding thing about being a Centre Councillor?

Getting involved and feeling that I am contributing something to the industry. I initially joined the Institution in order that I could help to influence the industry with regard to issues about which I felt strongly. Being a Centre Councillor has not only done that but also brings me into contact with Members working in very diverse areas of the industry which has contributed to my knowledge and influenced my opinions. It is very easy to become blinkered and focus on the areas within which you work. Also, arranging events can be quite challenging and it is very satisfying when they are successful and people thank you.

Is there anything about the industry that drives you crazy?

Media communications! Although we are getting slightly better at it whenever you see a story in the press or on the radio/television it is almost always bad news and the public lap it up and believe it all. Whilst I know that good news is not a story, the industry is not good at getting the message across and promoting itself. I think that it needs to spend far more on communications, including organisations such as CIWM and ESA, which I'm sure would show benefits. Look how many 'ordinary' people know about climate change and also recycling. Why can't we do the same for landfill and EfW?

And related to this, how do you think the industry needs to change to meet current challenges?

The industry needs to promote itself much more. This should not be just for planning applications or changes in e.g. collection arrangements, and encouraging recycling, but a much bigger advertising campaign covering all aspects of the industry and focusing on the benefits such as low costs (for household waste), reducing carbon footprints and provision of energy (power and heat), and things achieved like reduction in pollution. The government should be instrumental in driving this, supported and followed by the industry leaders.



The Chartered Institution of Wastes Management

Get involved!

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, or get involved in the CIWM Midlands region, please email Derek Greedy on derekgreedy@warwickshire.gov.uk or Judith Harper on jharper@covantaenergy.co.uk.

If you are considering applying for membership, or upgrading your membership, and want to speak to someone informally, email Claire Nicoll on claire.nicoll@ciwm.co.uk.

If you are new to the industry, you might consider joining the Midlands New Generation Group (NGG). For more information about NGG see www.ciwm.co.uk/pm/15 or email NGG Midlands Co-ordinator Kate Heath on kate.heath@arup.com.

Alternatively, just let us know what drives YOU crazy about the industry and we will publish the best in the next issue.

NEXT ISSUE: SPRING 2009

Normal copy deadlines: Summer 31 July | Autumn 31 October | Winter 31 January | Spring 30 April