

Dear CIWM Member

In my role as CIWM President, I am delighted to invite you to join us for the **CIWM Members' Forum and Annual General Meeting (AGM)** on **Friday 11 September 2026**.

To secure your place please register at ciwm.co.uk/event-directory/ciwm-members-forum-agm/.

The Members' Forum, starting at 11am, will provide an opportunity to hear about CIWM's latest campaigns, research and policy activity, and we're pleased to welcome external speakers from WRAP and Resource Futures. The session will also include an interactive discussion seeking your views on the development of CIWM's next five-year strategy, ensuring that members remain at the heart of our future direction. Before looking ahead, however, it is important to recognise just how much CIWM achieved during 2025. The formal CIWM AGM, which will start from 12.30, and the [CIWM Annual Review](#) provides an opportunity to do this.

The 2025 Annual Review demonstrates that the Institution continued to strengthen its role as the leading professional body for the resources and waste sector, delivering against its strategic objectives while maintaining a strong foundation for future growth. It highlights the collective impact of our members, volunteers, trustees and staff in advancing professionalism, influencing policy and supporting the transition to a more circular economy.

The past year also saw CIWM continue to expand its influence across the UK, Ireland and beyond. Through thought leadership, consultation responses, policy engagement and collaboration with stakeholders, the Institution has continued to provide independent expertise on the key issues affecting the resources and waste profession.

Our members remain at the heart of everything we do. Whether through professional development, qualifications, networking opportunities, technical knowledge, events or volunteering, CIWM continued to support professionals at every stage of their careers. As our sector grows in importance and complexity, the value of belonging to a strong professional community becomes ever more significant.

One of the aspects of CIWM that has impressed me most throughout my involvement with the Institution is the commitment of our volunteers. Across our Regional Committees (previously called Centre Councils), technical communities, governance

groups, the Policy & Innovation Forum and Early Careers Team, volunteers contribute countless hours to support fellow professionals and strengthen CIWM's work. Their expertise, passion and generosity enable us to achieve far more than would otherwise be possible, and I would like to thank every one of them for their contribution.

I have also been inspired by the continued development of our Early Careers President and Ambassadors, who all have under ten years' work experience. Their energy, creativity and enthusiasm demonstrate the strength of the profession's future. Supporting the next generation is essential, not only for CIWM but for the sector as a whole, and I am delighted to see more opportunities being created for emerging professionals to contribute and lead.

As I look ahead to my Presidential year, I believe our greatest opportunity lies in helping others to think again about who we are and what we do. Our sector needs diverse perspectives, new ideas and talented people from every background. By changing perceptions and showcasing the breadth of careers available, we can help develop and build the workforce that will deliver the circular economy of the future. Through the [Think Again campaign](#), I hope to encourage employers, educators and industry leaders to work together to raise awareness of the rewarding and impactful careers our sector offers.

The continued growth of CIWM's circular economy activities and international reach is another significant achievement. The integration of the Circular Economy Institute and Circular Economy Club communities has created new opportunities for collaboration, knowledge sharing and professional engagement, extending CIWM's influence and strengthening our collective ability to drive positive change.

I hope this overview encourages you to read the Annual Review in full and join us at the Members' Forum and AGM. To secure your place please register at ciwm.co.uk/event-directory/ciwm-members-forum-agm/.

Thank you for your continued support of CIWM and for the contribution you make to our profession. I look forward to working with you over the coming year as we continue to strengthen our Institution and demonstrate the vital role our sector plays in creating a more sustainable future. Please do get in touch with any thoughts or feedback via president@ciwm.co.uk.

Kind regards

Vicki Hughes

CIWM President, 2026/27