

Made today, gone tomorrow?

Symposium series on future trends in resource use and management

Session 1: Future Strategic Direction for Resource Management

Tuesday 7th September 2010

Conference Hall, Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3RBLondon

Programme

0915 – 1000 **Registration and coffee**

1000 – 1010 **Introduction and setting the context**

Peter Jones OBE, Chair of Envirolink Northwest and independent sector commentator

1010 – 1035 **Slow down, you move too fast: the potential for ending Britain's throwaway culture**

Prof Tim Cooper, Centre for Sustainable Consumption, Nottingham Trent University

Although waste is often a result of consumer products that have broken or are in a state of disrepair, it also arises because owners no longer want them. The current throughput of energy and materials in affluent nations is excessively fast and consequently unsustainable. This process of consumption could be slowed down if such products were longer lasting, but is this a realistic option? This presentation considers the potential for ending Britain's throwaway culture.

1035 – 1100 **Resources and Society**

Dr Angela Druckman, Centre for Environmental Strategy, University of Surrey

Why is waste such a problem? This presentation will take a look at the way that resource use is deeply entwined into Western lifestyles. It will take the consumption perspective and address questions such as: what role do the material goods we buy play in our lives? Are there ways in which we might be able to reduce our resource use without jeopardizing quality of life? If so, how might this be achieved?

1100 – 1115 **Q&A Session**

11.15 – 1130 Refreshment break



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1130 – 1230 **Roundtable discussions**

In small groups delegates will be invited to consider the implications of the morning presentations from a resource management perspective. Specifically delegates will be asked to consider the plausibility of a more resource efficient future, identifying the key drivers for change, barriers to progress and opportunities that may be presented. The implications of a more sustainable future on the composition of our waste streams will be discussed and the need for appropriate infrastructure for reclamation and recovery of resources, energy and materials will be considered. In addition the role of the consumer in responding to the challenge of sustainable resource management and potential policy interventions and measurement tools required to establish progress will be discussed.

1230 – 1250 **Feedback – headline points from each roundtable**

1250 – 1305 **Panel response and questions**

1305 – 1310 **Chair's summing up of the morning**

1310 – 1400 **Lunch and networking**

1400 – 1425 **Scrapheap challenge – future materials, scarcity and the future for manufacturing**

Joy Boyce, Head of Corporate Environmental Affairs, Fujitsu

There is increasing concern and debate about the use and rapid discard of products that rely on increasingly inaccessible precious metals and rare earth minerals, not just about the availability of supply but the control of access to diminishing supplies to feed our demand for electronic and digital products. In addition the waste materials generated by the ongoing demand of these products, particularly plastic materials, require management solutions which are resource efficient and which minimise adverse impacts on the environment. This presentation will review the situation and examine the reality and perception around resource scarcity, and identify future thinking and action by manufacturers to design for reclamation and the move towards de-manufacturing. It will advocate the role of individual producer responsibility as the way to achieve a link between waste, de-manufacturing and the concept of 'cradle-to-cradle'. It will ask whether present legislation is fit for purpose in a world where waste should be seen as a resource and where a mass balance approach may be missing. The potential impact on collection systems of the increasing value to be realised from reclamation of metals and other materials already embedded in 'waste' products will be examined with a look towards how they might change in the future.

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1425 – 1450 **Food: supply, consumption and waste – future trends and potential for driving up resource efficiency**

Dr Julian Parfitt, Research and Technical Director, Resource Futures

Whilst food consumption and food waste have recently been the focus of significant attention through national campaigns there remains much to be done to increase resource efficiency across food supply chains. This presentation focuses on the key challenges ahead considering the significant issue of food security and examining the environmental impacts associated with the food supply chain on a global scale. Current & future drivers of food waste, including technological, demographic, cultural, and economic factors are identified and trends across the food supply chain are presented. The potential increased environmental burdens of changing diets are considered and the impacts on post consumer waste generation are identified. In addition where the greatest efficiency gains are likely to be both now and in the future are considered.

1450 – 1500 Q&A Session

1500 – 1600 **Roundtable discussions**

In small groups delegates will be invited to consider the implications of the afternoon presentations from a resource management perspective. Specifically, delegates will be asked identify other key product and materials streams (other than electronics and food already spotlighted) where the greatest potential for improvements in resource efficiency may lie, and also where most potential change in material use might be. Looking specifically at the food and electronics sectors, delegates will be asked to consider the dynamics between the roles of consumers, producers and sellers, and policy makers in establishing resource efficient practices in the future.

1600 – 1615 Feedback – headline points from each roundtable

1615 – 1625 **Panel response and questions**

1625 – 1630 Chair's final summing up

1630 Event closes

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Speakers Biographies

Peter Jones OBE, Chair of Envirolink Northwest

Peter T Jones was until May 2008 a Director of Biffa Waste Services Limited with specific responsibilities in external affairs and strategy development. He now operates as a freelance Advisor in matters strategic relating to the waste, carbon and materials efficiency Agenda. He is a member of the Chartered Institutes of Marketing, Transport, and Wastes Management, and operates in roles demanding specific skills in the development and management of change processes in sectors undergoing substantial upheaval due to competitive, regulatory, or other pressures. He qualified as an Industrial Economist and in July 2007 received an Honorary Degree from the University of Southampton as a Doctor of the University for work associated with Environmental technologies.

Peter is a Board member of the reformed Resource Efficiency KTN and a member of the DEFRA New Technologies Demonstrator Programme, their Data Advisory Panel, and the Sustainable Consumption and Production Taskforce (for which he Chaired a subcommittee looking at the issues around distributed energy systems in the UK which reported in 2008).

Peter is a member of the Zero Waste Scotland Think-tank and the Mayor of London's Special Advisor on waste on the London Waste Advisory Board he continues to play a role in delivering new capacity as Landfills close. Additionally he is a strategic advisor for a variety of UK Blue Chips examining the issues around Distributed Energy and the impact of low carbon policies. In Summer 2009 he became a non Executive Director of the NNFCC (National Non –Food Crop Centre), a think tank specializing in biogenic material use for fossil carbon displacement and the Combined Heat and Power Association.

Peter is Chairman of Waste2Tricity, a company facilitating the development of merchant plant Canadian plasma gasification linked to hydrogen capture and regeneration in wet electrical fuel cells. He is a Director (non Exec) of Carbon8, a spin out from Greenwich University, focused on CO2 capture in EFW fly ash for reuse in the construction sector. He is a non Exec Director of Keld Energy, a company specializing in advanced gasification of poultry sector residues for the production of CHP at poultry rearing farms. He is on the waste and Resources Advisory Panel of Climate Change Capital –one of the largest Venture Capital funds in the Sector with over £1 billion of funding. He also assists other VCs with specific waste related investments.

In the charitable sector, Peter is a Trustee of Waste Watch, a Trustee of Education for All, an Ambassador for both Global Action Plan and Fare Share, as well as being on the Advisory Committee of the Resource Recovery Forum and a member of the WWF-UK Council of Ambassadors.

Peter was appointed OBE in the Birthday Honours list of 2007 for Services to the environment.



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Prof Tim Cooper, Centre for Sustainable Consumption, Nottingham Trent University

Tim Cooper is Professor of Sustainable Design and Consumption at Nottingham Trent University. After graduating from the University of Bath, he worked as an economist in the construction industry for over a decade before taking up a post at the New Economics Foundation, where he developed his research interest in product life-spans, and later at Sheffield Hallam University, where he worked from 1995 until earlier this year. Dr Cooper's current research interests are multidisciplinary, embracing design, consumer behaviour, public policy and environmental ethics. He has advised the Research Council of Norway, Irish Environmental Protection Agency and Belgium Federal Science Policy Office, and is a former Specialist Adviser to the House of Commons Environment Committee.

Dr Angela Druckman, Centre for Environmental Strategy, University of Surrey

Angela Druckman is Senior Lecturer in Sustainable Energy & Climate Change Mitigation at the Centre for Environmental Strategy, University of Surrey. Angela read Engineering at Cambridge University and has a PhD from the University of Surrey (Environmental Strategy). She achieved Chartered Engineer status through working in research and development in the field of electronics, during which time she was awarded two patents for her innovations. She subsequently had a wide variety of experience, including lecturing in electronics at Kingston University, commercial sector management for a thriving IT company, and non-governmental advocacy on climate change for Friends of the Earth. Angela's research interest is in exploring the linkages between lifestyles and carbon emissions in order to inform policies aimed at moving towards a low carbon society.

Joy Boyce, Head of Corporate Environmental Affairs, Fujitsu

Joy Boyce was appointed ICL's first corporate environmental affairs manager in 1993 and was made responsible for ICL's environmental programme worldwide. With 20 years experience in the IT industry, she has held positions in marketing, public relations and strategic development functions and spent several years as a director in consultancy practice. She is Chairman on ICER and Chair of Intellect UK's Environmental Policy Committee. She also sits on the environmental policy committee of EICTA (The European Electronics Information and Communications Technology Association).

Dr Julian Parfitt, Research and Technical Director, Resource Futures

Dr Julian Parfitt was appointed Research and Technical Director at Resource Futures in 2008. He has considerable experience in the waste and resource management field and has held a number of senior strategic positions. Julian has worked in university, consultancy and market research industry posts and has conducted waste management research for over 25 years across a broad range of topics: waste statistics and trends, waste strategy, analysis of collection system performance, behavioural/ attitudinal surveys and market development issues.



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At WRAP he worked on monitoring and evaluation issues and contributed technical and statistical advice in the development of Defra's 2007 Waste Strategy. Key achievements at WRAP included the development of home composting diversion models, management and interpretation of WRAP's original international review of the environmental benefits of recycling and the development of key monitoring metrics, such as the 'committed recycler' indicator for the Recycle Now campaign.