



Delivering Sustainable Resource Management

Conference Report Executive Summary

Background

'Delivering Sustainable Resource Management', which took place on February 4th 2010 at the Marriott Cardiff, was an all-Wales conference that sought to stimulate productive joined-up thinking and cross-sectoral working. The event was jointly hosted by Cylch and CIWM Cymru and was the first of a planned series of events under the 'Joined-up thinking' banner.

'Delivering Sustainable Resource Management' attracted 107 bookings, with even representation from the public, private and third sectors. The event was sponsored by the Welsh Assembly Government, May Gurney and the WLGA.

Programme

The event was linked with the Welsh Assembly Government's emerging waste strategy 'Towards Zero Waste' and aimed to attract delegates from the public, private and third sectors to share their points of view and give feedback on the strategy itself.

The programme included:

- Andy Rees, Welsh Assembly Government:
Towards Zero Waste: The New Wales Waste Strategy
- Peter Webster, WRAP Cymru:
Promoting Sustainability in Business– The Stick or the Carrot?
- Mathew Prosser, Severnside Recycling:
Sustainability in the Private Sector – A View from the Waste Management Industry
- Penelope Goodwin, Wastesavers Charitable Trust:
Opportunities for All: Working with the Third Sector for Sustainable Solutions
- Owain Griffiths, WLGA
Future plans for the Waste Improvement Programme
- Workshop sessions facilitated by Steve Evison of Resources for Change

Outputs

Workshop outcomes

The purpose of the discussion was to understand the participants' views on 'Towards Zero Waste' and how it can be delivered. Delegates indicated that they largely understood the aims of the waste strategy, but suggested that more clarity is required. It was also suggested that there may be confusion over the appropriateness of the strategy. Most respondents seemed unclear about their role or their organisation's role in delivering the strategy.

Structured workshops themed around Sustainable Procurement, Behaviour Change, Performance Measurement and Sustainable Service Delivery highlighted delegates' priorities in delivering the waste strategy. Top-rated priorities included the incorporation of social and environmental outcomes as drivers and measures of success, a levelling of the playing field to enable social enterprises to compete for contracts, an understanding of measurements such as SROI and EC CF, and minimising the amount of waste that is created.

Delegate feedback

'Delivering Sustainable Resource Management' was overwhelmingly well received, scoring mostly 'Excellent' or 'Good' for all categories. The organisers received numerous emails expressing support and thanks. The majority of respondents indicated interest in future 'Joined-up thinking' events.

Plans for future events

Cylch and CIWM Cymru plan to repeat this event in 2011. The aim is to continue to link the event to the development of the new waste strategy to ensure that it remains topical and relevant . Opportunities for linked events and activities will also be considered.

The full report and presentations from the event can be downloaded from www.cylch.org.uk .