

**NAWDO  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. 21 June 2006  
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

This year's statement is my last as Chairman of NAWDO. My two year term has passed in the blink of an eye, and has been one of the busiest and most enjoyable times I have experienced. I am grateful to NAWDO to have allowed me to be chairman in what has been a critical period of change and development for the waste management industry, and local government in particular.

My first reflection on the last year is one of wanting to have done more. It is all too easy to focus on the current things that still require attention, or are awaiting resolution. However, a second more detailed look at the year clearly shows how much has been achieved by NAWDO acting together, and by individual Members.

The last year saw implementation or consolidation of a number of new initiatives. We have all had to come to terms with being accountable for LATS performance, and have grappled with Waste DataFlow. For those of us in two tier areas we have had the added enjoyment of being accountable for waste collection authorities' submissions. WDF has been a regular item on NAWDO agendas, and Members have now had the benefit of two detailed question and answer sessions with the Environment Agency. NAWDO members play a central role in the WDF user group and helping WDF to improve. However, WDF must now address the fact that it was promised to replace the need for other waste management data returns, not to duplicate. It must also become mandatory for both tiers.

Last year also finally saw the beginnings of a control on the financial haemorrhage that has been recycling credits. NAWDO have been raising the fact that recycling credits were inequitable and potentially frustrated partnership working in two tier areas for some time. NAWDO was central to the stakeholder discussions with DEFRA and are pleased that a common sense solution has prevailed with a cap on future credit values. The increasing differential between credit value and the cost of disposal (including tax and LATS) will now encourage greater partnership working and drive improved performance.

Another area where NAWDO has been involved with Government and stakeholders is in developing a protocol for operation of CA sites as designated collection facilities (DCFs) for WEEE. We are pleased to be part of this process, and are working hard to ensure the proposals are workable and generally acceptable to Members. We have taken every opportunity to comment on Government consultations on WEEE but remain extremely disappointed that implementation of the WEEE Directive continues to be delayed. In the mean time, the cost continues to be born by the public sector.

The implementation of the new Hazardous Waste Regulations during the last year led to some degree of confusion, especially when complicated by WEEE. We have had to understand and then explain to the public that a TV in the bin is not hazardous, but it is when it is brought to a CA site. NAWDO helped to raise issues and resolve confusion, at least in part through a dedicated workshop in Northallerton in December. The event was well received and will hopefully go on to be the basis for further events in future.

Further issues came to a head during the year in relation to the export of green list materials. Prime time television coverage highlighted the sensitivity of the issue for us all. NAWDO continues to be involved in seeking clarity on what can be exported, and under what scenarios. It will continue to be an important issue for the future.

Perhaps most significantly, the last year has seen consultation on a revision to the national waste strategy. NAWDO has commented on the proposals and is generally supportive and particularly supports Government's proposals to move to a resource management agenda. NAWDO pointed out in its response that it would have been helpful if it had included further detail on issues of

particular concern to NAWDO members and focussed around the European Landfill Directive and Landfill Allowance Trading scheme. NAWDO also highlighted

- The need to coordinate the performance framework across commercial and municipal sectors and prohibit competition between the sectors for 'profitable' waste
- The need to ensure revised targets reflect the sphere of influence and responsibilities of the bodies, to ensure waste is managed efficiently by those best placed to do so
- The need to move from end of pipe solutions for waste to ones which focus more attention on resource efficiency across the life cycle of a product
- A desire for early engagement by Government with local authorities in the decision making and policy formation process
- A need to ensure local authorities are adequately funded in order to respond to the new responsibilities and expectations

I make no apologies for repeating these issue in this statement as they remain critically important to effective delivery of a revised strategy

For those Members involved in, or about to become involved in procurement, the last year has seen some significant developments. There has been revised criteria for PFI projects, and publication of the second Kelly Market report, together with the outcomes from an OFT study. The outcomes are a recognition that the market is severely limited, and that the challenges we face are significant. There is now an urgent need to resolve the residual confusion and allow local authorities to get on and deliver. Central to this is the need for clarity on funding.

Internally, NAWDO is beginning to change the way we do things. We are currently surveying members and non members to get a better understanding of what works, and doesn't work, and how we can improve in future. NAWDO is nothing if it doesn't meet the needs of the Members. I believe we do, but also believe we could do more. I am very pleased that we will shortly have a web site that will improve communications hugely, and help present a professional face to the public about who we are, and what we do. It is a small but significant step forward for NAWDO.

In summary, it is clear that NAWDO's opinions continue to be respected as the principle voice of local authority waste management practitioners. I have tried in my time as Chairman to ensure NAWDO continues to represent the views of members through multi sector forums, stakeholder groups, and in responses to formal consultations. Hopefully, I have succeeded.

In closing, I would like to offer my thanks and appreciation to the Members of the Policy and Advisory Committee for their hard work and support to me as Chairman, especially Ken Pearson, Andrew Craig, Martyn Hands. I am grateful to NAWDO for allowing me to lead the organisation for the last two years, and offer my support and best wishes to the new Chairman for his term of office.

Ian Fielding.