

Together, we stand for  
a world beyond waste

## CIWM Centres Briefing Paper – S&T Reform

### Overview

CIWM had in place a Scientific and Technical Committee (S&T) that provided insight and advice on policy, scientific and technical matters relevant to the Institution and its members. The Committee supported the work of the CIWM Policy and Technical Team and assisted in policy development, research and consultation responses. The Committee was made up of CIWM members and an elected Chair and Vice Chair.

S&T were supported by a number of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) that considered specific topics and policy areas. SIGs were made up of CIWM members and, on occasions, drew on expertise from non-members.

Last year, a working group reviewed the current structure and made recommendations for changes that would better meet the needs of the Institution and reflect how the industry is evolving from waste management to resource management, with circular economy and net zero thinking.

The Trustee Board considered proposals for a new policy structure for the Institution and agreed changes in February 2022. These new arrangements for the future policy and technical bodies and support are outlined below and are structured in three tiers which you can find at the end of this briefing paper.

### Detailed

## 1. Policy & Innovation Forum

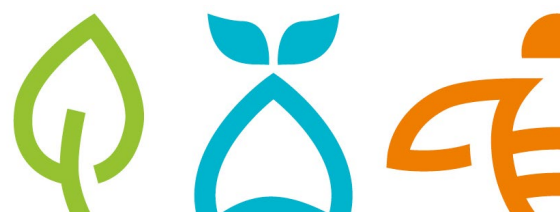
A new Policy & Innovation Forum will replace the S&T Committee.

### Role of the Policy & Innovation Forum:

The Policy & Innovation Forum will provide insight and advice to the Trustee Board and the Policy and Technical Team on the main policy issues affecting the Institution and its members. It will also be a champion for CIWM and the work that the industry and its members undertake.

It will:

- Develop a three-year Policy & Innovation Plan that sets out the key policy and technical priorities for CIWM,
- Develop budgeted proposals for supporting research and evidence,
- Support [CIWM's Five-Year Strategy](#) and help guide work under a number of pillars within the strategy,
- Oversee the establishment of Strategic Expert Groups (SEGs) to reflect the priorities in the plan,



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- Oversee the selection of appropriate chairs to lead these SEGs, and
- Steer/monitor the outcomes of the work undertaken by the SEGs, which will report into the Policy & Innovation Forum.

### **Membership of the Policy & Innovation Forum:**

The Policy & Innovation Forum will be comprised of the following:

- a) A Chair, who will be a member of CIWM
- b) Six appointed Forum Members.

The Chair will be independently selected, and the intention is to seek someone with proven chairing experience, an established profile, and a passion for the resources and waste agenda for this role. The Chair will be selected through an open advert and recruitment process.

There will be six Policy & Innovation Forum Members in addition to the Chair and they are to be sought and appointed based on the skills and experience they would bring to the group, much like the way in which non-executive Directors are appointed to limited companies.

The following sectors/backgrounds are proposed for the Forum:

- Academia/Research
- Innovation/Technology
- NGO/Charity/Think Tank/Regulation
- Product Design/Development
- Sustainability/Circular Economy
- Recycling & Waste Management

CIWM's Policy & External Affairs Director will also be a member of the Policy & Innovation Forum.

Secretariate support for the Forum will be provided by CIWM staff.

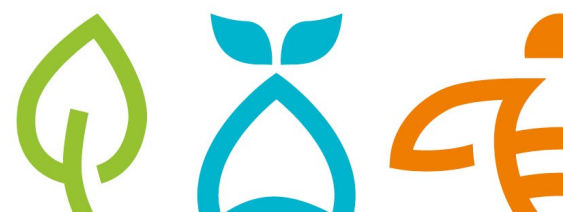
## **2. Strategic Expert Groups**

Creation of Strategic Expert Groups (SEGs) is at the discretion of the Policy & Innovation Forum to support the priorities laid out in the Policy & Innovation Plan. However, they do not need to be exclusively linked to the plan and could result from an additional need or priority identified by the Policy & Innovation Forum, Trustee Board or the Policy & Technical Team.

The SEGs are not a direct replacement for the SIGs, and are more an evolution of them that reflects the policy landscape the Institution is now operating in. They will also operate at a broader and more strategic level than the previous SIGs.

Initial ideas for SEGs include:

- Climate Change (to include industry leadership on Net Zero)
- Producer Responsibility



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- Circular Economy
- Recycling & Waste Operations (covers collections, treatment, recycling processes, cleansing, etc.)

The SEGs will be comprised of a minimum of 6 and maximum of 12 members to ensure they remain agile.

It is proposed that the number of SEGs is limited to six to maintain their strategic nature and to ensure the administration and support required is manageable. The SEGs will have the ability to establish Task and Finish/Project Groups to undertake discreet pieces of work on topics relating to their area of expertise and deliver the work programme of the SEG. They may also co-opt members for particular topics or pieces of work.

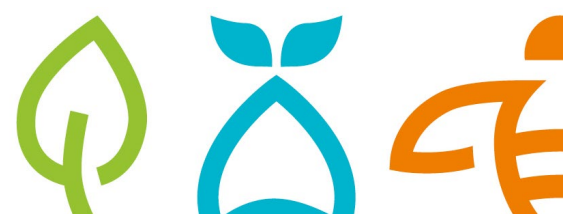
### **Role of SEGs:**

- Prepare and deliver a work programme that is aligned to and supports the priorities outlined in the Policy & Innovation Plan,
- Work with the Policy & Technical Team to respond to key developments across the sector, as relevant (e.g. major research/report published, significant consultations, emerging trends e.g. waste crime spike),
- Recommend the setup of Task & Finish/Project Groups to the Policy & Innovation Forum to carry out specific areas of work, and oversee the outputs,
- To promote, support and engage with relevant CIWM Technical Communities,
- Work with the Policy & Technical Team to ensure two-way feedback of knowledge and intelligence related to developments in the sector between the CIWM Technical Communities and the Policy & Innovation Forum,
- Act as Knowledge Ambassadors for CIWM, developing opportunities for collaborative working and research, and raising CIWM's profile, and
- To work with the Policy & Technical Team to communicate the work of the SEGs to CIWM members.

The Policy and Technical Team will support the work of the SEGs and be aware of their work and progress through this support.

## **3. CIWM Members (Technical Communities)**

CIWM members already come together informally to discuss issues related to particular technical topics and form technical communities. They cover a range of subject areas, mostly but not exclusively 'technical' in nature. Some technical communities already exist on [CIWM Connect](#) and more will be facilitated once the replacement structure for the S&T Committee is in place.



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The Technical Communities will be actively encouraged and promoted, as they are a means to engage with CIWM members and add value to their membership. It is envisaged that the communities will be largely hosted online and driven through [CIWM Connect](#) where possible. There is a real opportunity to grow these technical communities and get CIWM members involved in them. They should be seen as the first step in getting involved in Task and Finish Groups and then SEGs.

Technical Communities are supported by the Policy & Technical Team.

The need/requirement for a new Technical Community may emerge through a number of routes, including:

- To fulfil a CIWM HQ need,
- To meet a gap identified by a SEG,
- In response to a request from members interested in/involvement in a particular area, or
- As an offshoot of another Technical Community.

Members of a Technical Community may be asked to assist governments and regulators with official and sensitive discussions and fact-finding, such as pre-consultation engagement.

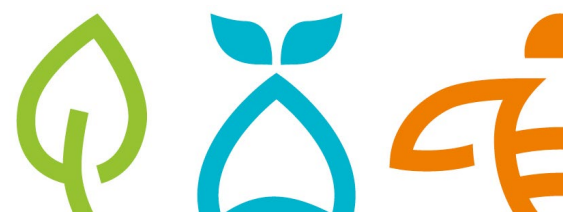
### **Membership:**

Technical Communities are open to CIWM members and key non-member representatives from governments and regulators. All members will be expected to act in accordance with CIWM's values and professional codes.

### **Role:**

Technical Communities represent the 'body of knowledge' that resides in CIWM's membership, and they have a multi-functional role:

- Act as a valuable community and network for CIWM members with a specialism or interest in particular technical and policy areas,
- Feed knowledge into CIWM on key developments and trends across the sector, particularly to the SEGs and the Policy & Innovation Forum,
- Act as a source of expertise and insight for UK government and regulators,
- Provide a pool of relevant experts for any Task & Finish Groups convened by the Policy & Innovation Forum, the SEGs, or the Policy & Technical Team, and
- Develop outputs that raise CIWM's profile and influence, and which can contribute to the technical and policy content on the CIWM Knowledge Centre, such as, but not limited to:
  - technical briefings, information notes and best practice briefings,
  - guidance documents,
  - consultation responses, and
  - workshops and events.



#### 4. Next Steps

Work is currently being undertaken to draft terms of reference for the Policy & Innovation Forum and the Climate Change SEG, as well as job descriptions for Forum and SEG members.

The intention is to publicise these forthcoming changes in June with a view to starting recruitment to the Policy & Innovation Forum in late June/early July. Formation of the SEGs will then take place once the Forum is in place and recruitment to them will happen in the Autumn.

In the meantime, Technical Communities will be opened up on CIWM Connect and members encouraged to join those they have an interest in. Views will also be sought from members as to what other Technical Communities they would like to see developed and which topics should be covered.

If you have any questions about the S&T Reform, please contact the CIWM Policy & Technical Team at [technical@ciwm.co.uk](mailto:technical@ciwm.co.uk).

