

Dear CIWM Member

One of my first tasks as your new President is to encourage you to attend our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 16 July and to read the 2024 Annual Review which outlines our achievements for 2024.

For the first time, this year the AGM will be preceded by a Member Forum. This important event offers a key opportunity to engage directly with CIWM's leadership including Dan Cooke, Director of Policy, Communications and External Affairs, gain critical insights into the latest sector developments from Libby Peake of Green Alliance, and actively contribute to shaping the future direction of CIWM and our wider community.

The AGM also has added importance this year as there are important changes to our constitution proposed by our volunteer strategy steering group as part of the work they have done to enhance the experience of our volunteers and the service we deliver to members.

Please make sure you register to attend the Members Forum and AGM by following this [link](#).

2024 was a great year for CIWM, not only did we deliver a strong financial performance, which provides a firm foundation for our future growth, we also made significant progress against our strategic aims. The Annual Review outlines these achievements, including the critical role our volunteers have played in this success, but I have also summarised some highlights below. I encourage you to take the time to read the review, including the annual financial statements, as you will be asked to approve these at the AGM.

We had fantastic member growth in 2024, adding 2,359 people to our community – I'd like to welcome each of you and commend you for deciding to become a member of a professional body. CIWM's strength comes from our members and through growth we can have even more impact. We also reached nearly 3,000 people through our events with many attendees also choosing to become members. Our members continued to connect in large numbers through CIWM Connect, starting 915 conversations where they shared and solved day to day challenges.

Solving day to day challenges is where CIWM began, back in 1898, and June 2024 marked the end of our celebrations of 125 years. Our '[story of CIWM](#)' video provides an interesting look back through what we've delivered and how the sector has changed over that time.

2024's CIWM Presidential Report certainly reflects the priorities of our time, with a focus on reducing consumption and designing out waste. Our Immediate Past President Tim Walker, who also provides the foreword in the Annual Review, is passionate about

changing the misconception of the resources and waste industry as 'end of pipe', recognising the sector as being ideally placed to accelerate the transition to a more circular economy. His Presidential Report – *Turning off the tap: why better design can increase resource resilience and reduce consumption* – tackles this head on. You can read more about Tim's report in the Annual Review.

By the time you receive this my Presidential Report will have been launched and so I'm pleased to be able to share some information with you on what it covers. As we plan for the future, a critical question for the UK is how we maximise the value of our resources. My Presidential Report focuses on the significant potential of materials often overlooked by our current economic model, to drive the circular economy and help move the world beyond waste. You can access the report at [this link](#).

Looking ahead to the sector leaders of tomorrow you can also read about the new CIWM Early Careers Team, and our first Early Careers President Charlotte Davies, in the review. This new group of volunteers both provides more diversity of voices in our membership and will link us to a new community of future CIWM members. We know this is essential to CIWM's continued impact and influence in the next 125 years!

2024 saw our influence and voice grow both within the sector and at the heart of government. An increase in staff in our Policy, Communications and External Affairs team allowed CIWM to deliver more policy advice, respond to more consultations and issue expert opinions in more forums than ever before. You can access links to our thought leadership pieces within the *Having influence* section of the Annual Review. The change of government in 2024 meant CIWM's expertise was in greater demand than ever and through both our staff team and our volunteer community we made the most of this opportunity.

As in previous years, we've showcased the work of our largest group of volunteers, those who deliver member services through our ten Centre Councils throughout the UK and Ireland, in the review. I'd like to echo the thanks extended by Sarah Poulter, CIWM CEO, in the Annual Review – thank all of you for the work you do.

In addition to the new volunteers highlighted in our Early Careers Team, CIWM also expanded our volunteers through the Sector Inclusion Forum, who are leading our work on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, and by the acquisition of the Circular Economy Institute and Club. As well as extending our thought leadership in Circular Economy, this landmark move also expands our volunteer base, through local clubs across the globe, and extends CIWM's reach into the 10,000 members of the club. You can read more about the Sector Inclusion Forum and the Circular Economy Institute and Club in the Annual Review.

Hopefully this round up of highlights provides enough 'trailers' for you to now open the Annual Review and take some time to celebrate the success of CIWM. By the time you receive this, my Presidential report will have been released. I'm looking forward to working with all of you over the coming year to maximise the impact of this work to ensure that it provides an additional platform for CIWM.

Kind regards

Dr. David Greenfield

CIWM President, 2025/2026