



LOCAL AUTHORITY RECYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2011





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CHAIR'S REPORT

After celebrating our 25th anniversary last year, LARAC has not rested on its laurels. The changes in local government continue to impact on our organisation and the services it provides. Fortunately membership numbers have held up much better than expected which we believe represents the excellent value for money that your £380 annual membership provides. However, we are not complacent and LARAC can see the potential threat to the organisation that severe cuts in local government finances could have.

Even before the last year's conference was held, new contracts were being drawn up to radically change the costs basis on which we do our main event. The conference providers have responded magnificently to the challenge and I hope that you agree that by offering such a premier event for £99 has made it easier for you to justify attending. Events in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland also continue providing members in our devolved administrations with an event that can focus on them.

LARAC's position as the key organisation representing local authority recycling has stood us in good stead for these

difficult times. Our sponsors for events, web pages, LARAC on Line and advertisers in the Loop have continued their essential support and we could not provide the range of services that we do without them.

We do not spend all our time worrying about the cuts! LARAC still has its main job to do of representing your views and providing the information that you find useful to do the day job. This report highlights the huge amount of work carried out on your behalf. There are a number of items on DEFRA's Action Plan that we need to get closely involved with. Despite all the difficulties facing our area of work, you have all played a part in reaching national recycling rates that were thought of as impossible when I first started working in waste. The coming year will see us putting together a new Development Plan and as it has been some time since we last carried out a membership survey we will be asking you all what you need from us.

It will be in maintaining a credible number of members LARAC's voice can be seen by both industry and government as truly representative. One member kindly sent these comments to the LARAC office "I can honestly say after twenty years in waste services, given the challenges all LAs are facing, LARAC membership, in my humble opinion is more

important than ever. We need to work together to share best practice and learn from each other (something LARAC members have been doing for years!) not shrink away into our own little worlds." I hope that you agree.

Any LARAC Chair will tell you that the role would be impossible without the support of the other members of the executive, particularly my vice chairs and the secondees. My thanks go to all of them for volunteering, turning up at meetings, responding to a hail of emails and representing LARAC so well within their devolved administrations and regions.

The day to day smooth running of the organisation is down to our Executive Officer Colin Kirkby, who with Jenny Perry at LARAC HQ keeps everything running so efficiently, helping make this volunteer led organisation deliver quality services to all our members. My grateful thanks go to them.

Joy Blizzard – Chair



TREASURER'S REPORT

Once again I am very grateful for the work done and assistance I have received from LARAC'S Executive Officer in bringing this report to you.

Our auditor, Thorne & Co, has independently prepared the 2010/11 accounts and a copy of their report follows. Following a number of amendments the Executive Committee set a deficit budget at its July 2010 meeting of -£32k which it was happy to do in order to reduce the accumulated surplus following a very successful year in 2009/10. The end of year position was a deficit of £8,964. The amended budget had expenditure at £204,900 and at the year-end this was £203,562. There were no significant variations in the main headings.

The amended budget forecast income was £172,500 and at year end the actual income was £22k higher at £194,598. Membership fee income was down £2k but conference profit was up by nearly £4k, sale of lists and Special LOLs up by £3k and web sales were also up by £2k. The sale of pages in The Loop contributed most to the increased income being up by £15k (we retained WRAP's paid-for pages in The Loop and increased our profit share from advertising).

The overall effect is to slightly reduce our healthy capital reserve balance to £151,625.

However, mindful of the economic pressures on the public sector, the membership fee for 2011/12 was held at the same level and we are proposing to do this again for the coming year 2012/13. We are extremely pleased that this year's conference rates have been drastically reduced to provide the best value conference in the country and we are very grateful to our conference sponsors who have made this possible. LARAC continues to work very hard to offer Members value for money. I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Colin and Jenny in the executive office for their sterling work selling advertising and generating new income streams and I'd like to say how grateful we are to you, LARAC's members, for your continued support.

Mark Foxall - Treasurer



ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

We have prepared the following accounts from the books, vouchers and information supplied to us and we certify that they are in accordance therewith. We have not carried out an audit.

Thorne and Co
1 St Mary's Street
Ross-on-Wye



LARAC Year ended 31 March 2011		
Income and Expenditure Account		
	2011	2010
Income		
Membership subscriptions	£136040	£141740
Sale of Loop & copies	£18981	£22882
Web sales	£15850	£16300
Conferences	£17736	£19164
Sale of lists/labels	£5700	£6725
Training	£0	£775
Grant	£0	£0
Interest	£291	£43
	£194598	£207629
Expenditure	2011	2010
LARAC administration	£82800	£83961
LARAC website	£1415	£1966
Honoraria	£7200	£6825
Seconded & Business Manager	£25,540	£4342
Training	£1184	£2581
Meetings:		
Executive	£5721	£7591
Regional	£1349	£1527
Other	£6719	£5502
Conferences:		
LARAC	£8035	£5092
Other	£2958	£165
Insurance	£1977	£2076
Subscriptions	£9592	£1120
Accountancy fees	£520	£500
Magazine publications	£34322	£32881
VAT	£13185	£9950
Depreciation	£1045	£1043
	£203562	£167122
Surplus for the year	-£8964	£40,507

LARAC Year ended 31 March 2011				
Balance sheet as at 31 March 2011				
	2011	2011	2010	2010
FIXED ASSETS				
		£2090		£3135
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	£0		£3660	
Community Account	£59272		£63571	
Deposit Account	£156448		£156157	
	£215720		£223388	
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
M'ship Subscriptions received in advance	£55860		£63080	
Accruals	£5876		£500	
VAT	£4449		£2354	
	£66185		£65934	
Total Net Assets		£151625		£160589
REPRESENTED BY				
CAPITAL ACCOUNT				
Opening Capital		£160589		£120082
Surplus for year		-£8964		£40507
Closing Capital		£151625		£160589

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

During the past year LARAC has continued to focus on the topics which matter most to its members and ensuring members have input into policy decisions. We have seen significant involvement from central government with the spending review, the Big Society agenda and Localism Bill as well as the much anticipated Review of Waste Policy in England. LARAC has played a key role in ensuring members' voices are heard as well as offering members insightful summaries of the main implications.

The services offered to members remain fundamental to LARAC's success and growing reputation within waste management. Now with a foot firmly in Europe, LARAC continues to be a strong force with regard to influencing decision making.

The LARAC website continues to grow and offers members the opportunity to exchange views, learn about recent consultations, find out about up and coming training events and read topical policy positions. As part of the discussion exchange, members can now get an automated email to let them know when someone posts a response. With the added benefit

of news from Europe as well as views from fellow officers throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the website is now a one stop shop for keeping up to date with the latest waste news. The website also still offers members free job advertising; although there are fewer vacancies than ever before due to the current financial climate, the website is still a great place to make sure your advert is seen by prospective candidates and that you get to see the best jobs first.

Four more editions of the LOOP have been published in the past year covering a range of very timely topics; "Feeling the squeeze" looked at the Government's Spending Review, "The Big Society" examined the new Government's agenda, "Return to Sender" was dedicated to producer responsibility and in the recent edition the LOOP looked at the Government's Review of Waste Policy. As always the pages dedicated to the devolved administrations ensure that there is something for everyone. The LOOP is always looking for new topics, case studies and news from members, so please let the LARAC office or your regional

representative know what you would like included in future issues.

The LARAC Exec has also been busy attending a variety of meetings over the past 12 months; from producer responsibility with large retailers to stakeholder groups with DEFRA. Information and reports from all of these meetings are available from the members' area of the website.

Remember the Exec is made up of your representatives and they are there to communicate your views. So please let them hear your thoughts and ideas. The discussion forum on the website is ideal if you have something specific to talk about or have a chat with your representative at your next regional meeting – thank you for your ongoing support.

Jennifer Gosling -
Communications Officer



POLICY REPORT

The Policy team has been well resourced during 2010-11, with our two policy secondees, Sally Sheward and Liz Drew working hard to deal with the issues that the new government and the devolved administrations have thrown up over the last year.

Both Wales and Scotland have proved determined to show the Westminster government a clean pair of heels with policy development with the Welsh Assembly setting challenging targets for resources management and the Scottish Assembly developing its “zero waste” strategy with innovative carbon metrics for monitoring. Northern Ireland has striven not only to catch up but also to respond to the European challenges of transposing the revised Waste Framework Directive (rWFD) and developing recycling in its own way. As most European policy is driven by the EU, transposition of the rWFD, our membership of Municipal Waste Europe (MWE) has proved to be beneficial, giving us insights into how policy is being developed upstream, taking into account the very different histories and cultures of member states. We were very pleased that we were able to renew the secondment arrangements of both Sally and Liz.

Budget reductions at member local authorities has also had an impact

on the policy team, with the retirement of Principal Policy Officer, Andrew Craig, from paid council employment came a change of status to (part-time, paid for by LARAC) Principal Policy Support Officer; and Policy Officer Ian MacKenzie also retiring from the “day job” and being taken on, part-time, by LARAC to link with Municipal Waste Europe (MWE) and attend its meetings.

Towards the end of the year we responded to the (Westminster) Government’s review of waste policy, as well as the government’s revision of the Controlled Waste Regulations and changes in the Environmental Permitting Regulations. We are revising LARAC’s “Policy String” – our statement of positions on a spectrum of issues related to waste and resources – in the light of these developments.

LARAC’s policy advisers continue to be available to make presentations and run policy workshops for regional fora - notwithstanding the current administration’s efforts to bring them to an end!

Although LARAC is in a strong position financially, paying for two secondees and two other support officers for policy is not likely to be financially sustainable in the long term, so there are bound to be some changes by the New Year.

Together with our membership of MWE, we will review how best to support LARAC’s membership and maintain advocacy at the highest levels with the resources available – and continue to work at collaborating more closely with NAWDO, CSS and, most importantly, the LGA at a time when it itself is coping with personnel changes. Members’ contributions, both directly to members of the policy team and through our on-line members’ forum are much appreciated – they help us to make sure we are delivering what you want and expect. Feedback is always welcome.

I’d like to pay tribute to the Policy team – as well as Sally, Liz and Ian; thanks are due to Mark Foxall, Gemma Clinton and Victoria Burrell. We are also indebted to Roger Mills (Wales), Stratton MacDonald (Scotland) and Mark McAdoo (Northern Ireland) whose enthusiasm and consistent engagement with Liz Drew have enabled LARAC to be very proactive in relation to policy in the devolved countries.

Andrew Craig -
Principal Policy Support Officer



Aug 2011 LARAC Response to Defra Review of Waste Strategy in England 2011

Jun 2011 LARAC Response to Welsh Government consultation on the Food Manufacture Service and Retail Sector Plan

Jun 2011 Response - Welsh Government Consultation on Collections, Infrastructure and Markets Sector Plan

Jun 2011 LARAC Response to Northern Ireland Department of the Environment (DOENI) consultation on New Recycling Policy

Apr 2011 LARAC Response to WAG Consultation - draft guidance on single-use carrier bags

Mar 2011 LARAC Response to DOENI consultation with Local Government on the framework for a fly-tipping protocol

Mar 2011 LARAC Response to DOENI Consultation on the Draft Site Waste Management Plans Regulations (NI)

Feb 2011 LARAC Response to DEFRA consultation: National Indicator 192 - A consultation on the classification of "Shred and Spread"

Feb 2011 LARAC Response to the Scottish Government Consultation on the Zero Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2011

Jan 2011 Welsh Assembly Government Consultation on The Recycling, Preparation for Re-use and Composting Targets (Definitions) (Wales) Order 2011, and The Recycling, Preparation for Re-use and Composting Targets (Monitoring and Penalties) (Wales) Regulations 2011

Jan 2011 Review of Schedule 2 of the Controlled Waste Regulations (1992) - Proposals for amending and updating the legislation

Nov 2010 LARAC Response to the DOENI consultation on the Transposition of the revised Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC)

Oct 2010 LARAC Response to Scottish Government consultation on the Animal By-products (Enforcement) (Scotland) Regulations 2011

Oct 2010 DEFRA Review of Waste Policies - Call for Evidence

Oct 2010 LARAC Response to DOENI Consultation on Introduction of Restrictions on Landfilling of Certain Wastes

Oct 2010 LARAC Response to DOENI Consultation on Meeting EU Landfill Diversion Targets

Sep 2010 LARAC Response to the DEFRA consultation: Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2011

Sep 2010 LARAC response to the DEFRA Consultation on the Transposition of the revised Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), Stage 2

Sep 2010 Welsh Assembly Government Consultation on the Draft Municipal Sector Plan

EVENTS

Julie Flynn, Waste Programme Officer, Manchester City Council receiving her award from Adam Billiald of Yell at the LARAC Celebration Awards with Joy Blizzard and our host for the evening, Dick Strawbridge, MBE.



LARAC EVENTS

Date	Event
27 October 2010	LARAC/CIWM/ESA Parliamentary Reception
2 November 2010	LARAC Members Day
2-3 November 2010	LARAC Conference & Awards 2010, Liverpool
2 December 2010	Northern Ireland WRAP/LARAC Waste Prevention Seminar
23-24 March 2011	CRNS Conference & Exhibition
13 May 2011	LARAC Scotland Conference 2011, Glasgow
6 July 2011	LARAC Wales Conference 2011, Caersws

This year started off with a very auspicious event – A Parliamentary reception organised jointly with CIWM and the ESA. Hosted by Barry Sheerman, MP with Lord Henley as the guest speaker and entitled ‘Green Economics: The Potential of Waste and Resource Management’; this was a well-attended event putting LARAC right at the heart of government.

Our Annual Conference was again held in Liverpool ACC; an excellent occasion which certainly earned its reputation as the major event for Local Authority waste and recycling officers.

Our 2nd LARAC Celebration Awards benefited from over 70 entries. Held in the magnificent

surroundings of the St George’s Hall, anyone who attended will remember the amazing organ voluntary that greeted us upon arrival in the grand dining room.

For the second year we assisted WRAP with the Northern Ireland Recycling Officer Seminar on waste prevention at which Joy made a presentation on how to run a Love Food, Hate Waste Campaign.

Also for the second year Stratton MacDonald put together an excellent Scotland Conference generously funded by Wastepack and Electrolink. Given the geography of Scotland they also provided funding for a networking dinner and accommodation for those who had to travel down the

previous evening. Following the success of the conference we’re pleased to announce that Wastepack and Electrolink have once again invited us to run another event in 2012.

Stratton also manned the LARAC exhibition stand at the CRNS Conference and Exhibition in Scotland.

The Welsh Government kindly funded the 8th annual conference in mid-Wales which this year focused on the Collaborative Change Programme. There were 62 delegates from 20 Welsh councils.

So we now have a regular programme of annual conferences in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales - truly serving the whole of the UK!

SCHOLARSHIP 2010



Scholarship 2010 winners with Gemma Coles, LARAC Vice-Chair and Melvyn Lilley, our Training Manager

THE LARAC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

SUPPORTED FINANCIALLY BY WASTEPACK

2010 WINNERS

Admin Region	Authority	Name
East Midlands*	Shropshire Council	Steven Branford
Eastern	Hertsmere Council	Gemma Godfrey
London	London Borough of Croydon	Joanna Dixon
North East	Gateshead Council	Mark Morley
North West	Preston City Council	Craig Baldwin
South East	Cherwell District Council	Sonja Norris
South West	Cornwall Council	Russell Flint
West Midlands	Warwickshire County Council	Tamalyn Goodwin
Yorkshire & Humber	North East Lincolnshire Council	Joanna Boardman
Northern Ireland*	Falkirk Council	Stuart Murray
Scotland	Aberdeenshire Council	Sheila Wiseman
Wales	Swansea City and County Council	Sophien Williams

*Where a region put forward no candidates – the highest scoring runner-up won the place

This excellent programme, so generously supported by Wastepack, is now in its 7th year. 12 lucky scholars attended the members' day and annual conference with no expense to their authority.

The scholars were required to keep diaries of their conference experiences which were edited into an article for issue 33 of the Loop (The Conference issue).

"I couldn't have hoped to get more from LARAC 2010 – the combination of engaging and highly relevant seminars and lectures with fantastic networking opportunities made for a packed couple of days."

The reflections of the 2009 scholars on how attendance has subsequently influenced their careers can also be found in Loop issue 33.

"One year on ...I find myself with a new job, with more confidence to voice my opinions to senior officers."

For the 4th year Wastepack also provided a free bursary for one of the scholars to attend the Middlesex Certificate in Recycling for Sustainability -and the bursary winner for 2010 was Joanna Dixon, Community Recycling Officer from the London Borough of Croydon.

TRAINING

It has been another busy year working with training providers. I sense that LARAC is seen as an important partner in the development of new recycling and waste management related training projects. As such it is good to be involved from the start to ensure relevant outcomes for you as front line practitioners.

Middlesex University/ Wastepack - Certificate in Recycling for Sustainability

We now have four successful scholars who are currently working through course. Thanks to the bursary once again made available by Wastepack we can look forward at this conference to the next successful scholar, who I hope will report back on the course at next year's conference. Information on the course can be obtained by visiting www.wastematters.uk.com

Energy and Utility Skills

A busy year for Energy and Utility Skills and LARAC has been fully involved. The projects and areas of work we are involved in are set out below:-

- The National Occupational Standards relating to NVQs Level 1 - 4 in Waste Management (these have been converted into the QCF Qualification system).
- Apprenticeship (Framework)

- Advanced Apprenticeship (Framework).
I will report back to you on the development of a LARAC branded course via the LARAC office.

WISH (Waste Industry Safety & Health Forum)

Mark Foxall is the LARAC representative.

WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme)

We continue to work closely together on a number of educational projects. Members are encouraged to fully complete them as it is extremely important for the completion figures to be as high as possible to enable WRAP to successfully bid for future funding in the present economic climate.

Huddersfield University

I have been working with Huddersfield University to assist in the development of some new courses which will range from NVQ Level 5 to BSc type qualifications. This work has currently been put on hold.

WAMITAB (Waste Management Industry Training and Advisory Board)

My contacts with WAMITAB continue as per our Memorandum of Understanding. We are currently discussing the changes in Scotland relating to the Certificate of Technical Competence relating to operating waste facilities and I will report back as soon as possible.

Wales

The Welsh Government has introduced a package of training funding. Contact me for information via the website contact details.

City and Guilds

Following a request from a C&G officer I am currently looking into working together re training for our colleagues in the future and I will report back on how the matter is progressing.

Conclusions

I hope you feel that LARAC is continuing to impact on both the type and content of training being made available to LA waste professionals. If you require further information relating to any of the areas raised in this report do not hesitate to contact either me direct or Colin at the LARAC office.

Melvyn Lilley -
Training Manager



MUNICIPAL WASTE EUROPE

Municipal Waste Europe (MWE) is an EU wide organisation representing Municipal Waste and Recycling Practitioners; only organisations representing Local Authorities can be considered for membership. Current countries represented are Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, and the UK (LARAC). This year it is hoped that France and other organisations representing Local Authorities in the Baltic Region may join.

The aim of the organisation is to lobby the European Commission and Parliament and represent the views of the members on commission consultations where they affect local authority waste activities. Members determine annually which up and coming EU legislation will impinge on the working practices of local authority officers and give a steer to the paid secretariat of MWE on which legislation requires an input.

Current EU Policy Issues being inputted by MWE to the Commission are:

Modernisation of EU Public Procurement Policy – issues around “local” and “private” operators needs amendment.

Product Producers Responsibility – does not go far enough in regard to product design and is weak on “polluter pays” principle and manufacturers picking up total environmental costs.

Recast of WEEE Directive – full cost recovery by operators of public collection points not addressed.

End of Waste Criteria – Bio-degradable Waste – MWE through an Expert Group has sent answers/comments to the first draft technical report. *(LARAC contributed to the expert group.)*

Service of General Interest – This piece of EU legislation, giving local authorities the right to determine those services which must be provided for the public good is being eroded by other legislation proposed for 2012.

This is of more concern to those authorities that operate total in-house facilities, than those that have contracted out. The main issue is that the specification of how services are provided remains with the local authority.

Consultation on the limiting of Plastic Bags across the EU – concentrates on issues around degradability and labeling and whether a total EU ban should be imposed. Comments from consultation period now awaited.

As UK waste legislation follows on from EU legislation it is important that as an organisation representing local authorities LARAC has a voice on those issues being considered by the EU and can influence the final version of relevant legislation.

Ian MacKenzie-
Policy Support Officer for MWE



LIAISING WITH KEY ORGANISATIONS

A List of organizations with whom the LARAC Exec Liaise regularly

Organisation	Exec Member
AfOR - Association for Organics Recycling	MF
Ass. Parliamentary Sustainable Resources Group	JH
Campaign for Real Recycling	JBz/CK
CIWM - Chartered Institution of Wastes Management	JBz
COSLA - Convention of Scottish Local Authorities	SMacD
Energy and Utility Skills	ML
LGA - Local Government Association	JBz/AC
LGA Network Chairs	JBz
NAWDO - National Ass. of Waste Disposal Officers	SS
NI TAG - Technical Advisors Group	MMcA
REalliance	JBz
Recoup Board Member	AC
RRF - Resource Recovery Forum	AC
WG- Welsh Government	RM
WISH - Waste Industry Safety & Health Forum	MF
WRAP Liaison Meetings	JBz/CK
- Waste and Resources Action Programme	CT/GC
Task and Finish Stakeholder Groups	
AD - Anaerobic Digestion - Shared Goals Stakeholder Group	MF
Conference Liaison with EMG	JBz/AB/CT
- Environment Media Group	MF/PD/CK
DEFRA Portable Batteries Stakeholder Group	RM
DEFRA WDF -Waste Data Flow - User Group	MMcA
DEFRA Sustainable Clothing Roadmap	DMC
DEFRA Waste Stakeholder Group	JBz
DEFRA WFD - Waste Framework Directive - End of Waste Criteria: Technical Working Group	GC
DEFRA WFD Implementation Group	GC
DEFRA WFD Stakeholder Group	AC
DOENI Waste Programme Board: Commercial and Industrial Sector TG	MMcA
ERM Consortium Research Proposal - Waste Prevention & Carbon	Tony Hammond
Huddersfield University Training Courses	ML
Middlesex University	ML
MWE - Municipal Waste Europe	IMacK
PRAG - Packaging Recycling Action Group	AC
Recycling on the Go	GC
Wales WDF - Waste Data Flow - User Group	RM
WAMITAB – Waste Management Industry Training & Advisory Board/CIWM Training	ML
WAW - Waste Awareness Wales	RM
WEEECAF - WEEE Civic Amenity Forum	LM
WLGA - Welsh Local Government Association	RM
WRAP - Waste & Resources Action Programme Glass Recycling	IMacK
WRAP NCAP – National Communications Advisory Panel	JBz
WRAP Plastic Forum	DR
WRAP WEEE Collection & Treatment Good Practice Guide	LM

LARAC maintains contact with a great many organizations on our members' behalf. Some represent local government – LGA, COSLA, WLGA, NILGA. We link with other representative organizations such as NAWDO, I&ESE and CSS to ensure that local government speaks, as far as possible, with one voice in relation to resources management. Some are cross-sectoral organizations with similar aims to LARAC's whose information resources and expertise add value to LARAC for our members – WRAP, CIWM, the RRF, AfOR and Recoup come into this category. LARAC works with DEFRA and BIS and the Welsh, Scottish and Northern Irish administrations to ensure that our views, our knowledge and our concerns are recognized as new legislation is developed. The Associate Parliamentary Sustainable Resources Group is another influential meeting we support. As members of Municipal Waste Europe we work to influence European Policy. We are represented on the Advisory Committee for Packaging (ACP). We also provide a local government voice on groups that the private sector has established to help them meet their needs, for example the PRAG, WEEECAF and British Retail Consortium (BRC). We try to engage with the major retailers (Tesco, Sainsbury etc.) as much as possible through these groups, but sometimes we need to liaise with them individually on specific issues, for example Tesco's decisions to take control of recycling facilities on their sites and ask local authorities for payments for them.

This adds up to a heavy programme of meetings attended by members of the Exec. and support officers on LARAC's members' behalf. Although our priorities are continually under review in the light of current and recent developments in resources management, we will continue to ensure that the voice of the local authority waste & resources professional is heard.

Andrew Craig -
Principal Policy Support Officer

AB	Andrew Bird
AC	Andrew Craig
CK	Colin Kirkby
CT	Carole Taylor
DMC	Dawn Murton-Cadby
DR	Durk Reyner
GC	Gemma Clinton/ Coles
IMacK	Ian MacKenzie
JBz	Joy Blizzard
JH	Jon Hastings
LM	Lee Marshall
MF	Mark Foxall
ML	Melvyn Lilley
MMcA	Mark McAdoo
PD	Paul Deakin
RM	Roger Mills
SMacD	Stratton MacDonald
SS	Sally Sheward

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

ENGLAND REGION ACTIVITIES

(75% membership)

East Midlands

Having recently taken over as the elected, representative for the East Midlands, unopposed but chosen from a cast of thousands in July 2011, I have been frantically playing catch up on what has occurred during the last year. My predecessor Nicole Garrett has taken the leap from the uncertain world of Local Authority into the busy and challenging private sector. I'm sure everyone at LARAC and in the East Midlands wishes her well and thanks her for the work she has done on our behalf.

I know Joy has formally introduced me to members via a letter this will be followed up shortly by an informal email to introduce myself as the East Midlands representative. In the meantime if there is anything which you would like me to raise to the executive please feel to contact me.



Dave Thomas -
Rushcliffe Borough Council

Eastern

What a year it has been; what with the long awaited waste review and budget cuts happening everywhere it hasn't been an easy year for many. In the East we have been trying to do more with less and facing difficult decisions such as closing household waste sites, evaluating front line services, identifying budget savings; dwindling teams mean fewer resources. Despite this there has been some great work going on in the region to maximise recycling and waste prevention.

I have been representing both regional and national councils at various meetings throughout the year; mainly textiles, WEEE and waste communications and sending updates

and news to the region whenever I get any. I would urge the region to get in touch if there is anything you think LARAC should raise on your behalf no matter how big or small.

I am off on maternity leave from the end of the year and will be temporarily handing over my role as Eastern Region Representative to Hilary Palmer at Suffolk County Council. Hilary has until recently been Policy Officer at SCC and has responded to a number of consultations over the last couple of years so I'm sure she will do a grand job. I hope to return later next year, until then best wishes to everyone.



Dawn Murton-Cadby -
Suffolk County Council

London

Having only very recently taken over as the London LARAC representative, all credit for last year's activities must go to my predecessors Natasha Epstein, who went on maternity leave earlier in the year and Jon Hastings, who recently had to step down from the role due to a change in work circumstances. My thanks go to Jon for his considerable help in making the transition a smooth one and I look forward to building on his and Natasha's excellent work with the other Boroughs and waste organisations in London.

Local authorities in London have been amongst the hardest hit by the cuts in public spending. From a waste perspective, two large-scale procurement partnerships in North and South London saw their PFI credits withdrawn by the government, and all of the boroughs have been looking for ways to make their waste collection services more efficient, minimize waste and reduce disposal costs. Some

have achieved significant spending cuts through effective and timely procurement of services from the private sector, and IESE is now leading on the setting up of a framework of collection contracts that may help other boroughs to achieve similar savings. Joint procurement of bins, boxes and vehicles is also underway, and many London Boroughs have been looking to set up partnerships to deliver local communications more efficiently.

There have been a number of other initiatives in the recycling industry in London this year, many funded through the London Waste & Recycling Board (LWARB). Over a dozen of the boroughs have received grants and loans to expand or enhance their recycling services for flats, and many more are participating in the LWARB-funded Recycle for London campaign. Reuse has climbed the agenda with the setting up of the community-run London Reuse Network, and in many boroughs the countdown is now firmly on for the 2012 Olympic Games.

LARAC reps have been hard at work in London, attending the many national events that take place in the capital. Engagement with the boroughs has been undertaken through both the London Recycling Officers Group and the Association of London Cleansing Officers, which together represent officers at all levels within the boroughs' waste management departments, and ensure that the work being done by LARAC gets out to a wide regional audience.



Tom Lawrence -
London Borough of Redbridge

ENGLAND REGION ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

North East

The North East Recycling Forum is the cross sectoral arena which is sponsored by LARAC and meets 4 times per year with an annual conference held around the end of November. Over the past year NERF has grown in support and the "Friends of NERF" scheme is well established.

Presentations from guest speakers have included themes such as waste wood markets, food waste collections, route optimisation, harmonising waste services - and my favourite and entertaining being life cycle and resource management where alternative solutions were given for using materials rather than creating waste e.g. hair dye and mascara were used to make tyre black! You can never say the world of waste/ resource management is uninteresting can you?

In times of austerity, partnership working is ever more important and within the North East I am pleased to say that that the regions Waste Aware NE initiative (WANE) has been working hard to establish partnerships and maximise funding opportunities under the reign of a temporary project co-ordinator and the work of the North East Sustainable Resources Board is thriving with a growing number of private sector partners.

The year ahead for LARAC will be very exciting with new opportunities from Government being created, as a LARAC policy team member I'm looking forward to seeing the developments.



Victoria Burrell -
Durham County Council

North West

The North West Recycling Forum (NWRF) has met on 4 occasions in the last year and included a site visit to the Farington Waste Technology Park in Leyland, Lancashire. The PFI funded facility is one of 2 waste parks in Lancashire being operated by Global

Renewables Ltd. The Farington facility has an education centre and an indoor walkway around the waste treatment site. It is the UK's first fully enclosed waste treatment facility which made for a very informative tour. At our last meeting in June we started a new format of themed meetings, with Health and Safety being the topic at that particular one. Presentations were given by Trudi Sully of the HSE giving an overview of the Dorset Health and Safety DVD and Mark Jenkins from Taylors, talking about EN640 standards and WISH guidelines.

The Chair of the NWRF is Phil Tomlin from Wigan MBC and Secretary is Debbie Derbyshire from Preston CC. Our future meetings will have the following themes: policy/enforcement, operational issues and low performing areas. We have regular attendance from the EA, WRAP and the community sector.



Carole Taylor-
Pendle Borough Council

South East

So that he can enjoy his much-earned retirement, the South East has seen Ian Mackenzie, previously of Canterbury DC, hand over the reins of the rep job to Steve Baker of Medway Council. Steve took over during the summer and all SE contacts should be receiving his emails regarding meetings and ad hoc information requests.

LARAC has been lucky enough to retain Ian's vast experience by keeping him on as our European Policy Support Officer. He continues to liaise with our colleagues at Municipal Waste Europe.

Two regional meetings have been held with a fair attendance at both. The region's collective critiques of the Waste Review and proposals for Deposit Return Schemes have been passed up for inclusion into national responses. Meetings have also proved useful and productive in the sharing of

knowledge, which has and will continue to be, disseminated to the wider audience via the minutes. The year ahead will hopefully see more officers bringing their views and experience to regional meetings. To help facilitate this, the aim is to build a greater portfolio of meeting venues across the length and breadth of the region. Any offers, gratefully accepted.



Stephen Baker-
Medway Council

South West

The South West Waste Recycling Forum (SWWRF) have been busy again over the last year, hosting fantastic regional meetings covering a range of topics that are relevant for both the council membership and also the private sector members. LARAC's chair, Joy, attended our September meeting to give everyone a LARAC vision and update, together with other speakers from WISH, May Gurney, and Novelis. At our Christmas meeting, held at Exeter Chiefs, we saw presentations from Aylesford, Green Cone and East Dorset, all of which generated good discussions and debate. The Spring meeting was held at Wilshire Wildlife Centre and included the AGM.

The highlight of the year was the June conference, which again coincided with the PAWRS exhibition in sunny Paignton, Devon. The guest chair for the day, Ray Georgeson MBE, seamlessly led us through a packed agenda ensuring there was plenty of time for valuable question and answer sessions. As always a large emphasis of the conference is placed on networking, and the quote of the conference for me came from the Mayor of Paignton, who said, 'there's a fine art to networking and you can't underestimate its importance, after all networking is only one letter different to 'not working''.

The SWWRF continues to be an

ENGLAND REGION ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

excellent forum for all members in the South West and is run by a dedicated executive who tirelessly search for good speakers and ensure the membership is kept up to date with best practice, industry news and topical issues.



Gemma Clinton-
East Dorset District Council

West Midlands

The West Midlands has had busy year and there have been very healthy attendances at all our meetings. However it has also been a very challenging year for the following two reasons:-

Firstly - Julia Bridgett from Sandwell retired as the regional representative and after an election Nicola Kemp was elected and took up the post with great vigour. Sadly Nicola had to resign because of a reorganisation in her authority and pressures of work. This required a further election and Andrew Bird was duly elected from Newcastle Staffs Council.

Secondly - Also came the demise of the West Midlands Government Office which had given us tremendous support with both administrative and secretariat matters. We truly valued their help and wish them the very best as individuals for the future. Therefore it was required of us to stand on our own feet to which end we have agreed our new plan to move forward with Andrew Bird being the regional representative, Tamalyn Goodwin from Warwickshire C.C., our administrative support (Recent Scholar), Sally Sheward (LARAC) Staffordshire C.C. and Melvyn Lilley permanent chair of the group - with everyone's support.

We have since had a number of meetings which have been reasonably well attended and we now have a forward plan for meetings and subjects well into the New Year. We have also kept our links and partnerships with the Environment Agency, Planners (RTAB) and other statutory bodies and organisations and we believe this has made it a very progressive group and has furnished us with a good list of people who wish to sponsor our meetings.

Again I would like to give special thanks to the staff of Government Office for the West Midlands and also our sponsors and everyone who has come forward to keep the group both intact and on course for the future - well done to you all.



Andrew Bird-
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

Yorkshire and the Humber

Since taking on the role in the beginning of this year I have been beginning to develop an understanding of what it means to be a regional rep and thanks to Sue Daynes for all the hard work during her period as the LARAC rep. It has been a difficult transition for the region due to the changes affecting the Waste Regional Advisory Group (WRAG), which has been the principal forum for waste managers in Yorkshire and the Humber. With the removal of the Local Government for the Yorkshire and Humberside region, who had supported WRAG by providing a guiding chair and facilitating all meetings previously, WRAG has since met to re-evaluate its

position and decide on how best to continue for the future. It was agreed to continue as WRAG and has had support from Co2 SENSE in providing a meeting location. The group has agreed to set up a sharing of the secretariat required along with rotating the chair. The group will meet on a quarterly basis and are determined to carry forward the positive work undertaken jointly as the Yorkshire and the Humber Waste Prevention Programme. Last year it successfully applied for Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership funding in January 2010 for two elements of the waste prevention programme. This delivered two separate projects with the overall aim of reducing waste to landfill.

The group is now looking at other funding to support future regional projects through the YHWPP and to develop the group as a continued way of sharing information across the region and as a conduit to improve communication with the DEFRA and the Environment Agency on behalf of the 22 LAs within the region. Hopefully as the LARAC rep I will be able to support my fellow waste colleagues across the region through providing information and feedback on waste issues dealt with by LARAC.



Adam Lech -
North East Lincolnshire Council

NORTHERN IRELAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES ACTIVITIES

NORTHERN IRELAND (62% membership)

My role as regional representative for Northern Ireland has been quite a busy one over the past year.

I continue to provide feedback on LARAC work/activities via bi-monthly meetings of the local authority Technical Advisors Group (TAG) and through ongoing liaison with the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA). I have represented LARAC at a number of events such as the stakeholder meeting on the revised Waste Framework Directive last October where I acted as facilitator for the Public Sector workshop. I also served as the local authority representative on the NI Waste Programme Board Commercial and Industrial Waste Task Group during the year.

At a regional level LARAC responded to a number of key consultations issued by the Department of the Environment (DoE) including: Meeting EU Landfill Diversion Targets; Restrictions on the Landfilling of Certain Wastes and a New Recycling Policy for Northern Ireland and I am indebted to the work of Liz Drew, Policy Support Officer in this regard. I am pleased to report that DoE now recognizes LARAC as an official consultee!

Finally I was delighted LARAC again supported the Northern Ireland Recycling Conference in Cookstown last December and that this has now become established as an annual event in the local calendar.



Mark McAdoo -
Cookstown District Council

SCOTLAND (88% membership)

I have had another enjoyable and busy year representing LARAC in Scotland. There are many important changes to waste policy planned for Scotland through the much awaited Zero Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2011 and these changes have the potential to increase the already significant workloads of local authority waste and recycling officers in Scotland. I believe it is important therefore that LARAC continues to be available to help and support these local authority officers through lobbying on their behalf, responding to consultations and providing information and advice through networking opportunities.

I attended a number of meetings throughout the year on behalf of LARAC, most notably the CRNS conference and exhibition in Cumbernauld on 24 March, the Scottish Waste and Resources Conference (SWRC) steering group meetings, Cosla waste managers' network meetings and Zero Waste Scotland's kerbside recycling best practice review meetings. On 11th-12th May I also helped organise the LARAC Scotland conference and dinner held once again in the Radisson hotel and the Corinthian Club, Glasgow, a very worthwhile event, especially as it is free to LARAC members! I was also invited to speak at the PAWRS event in Torbay in June on behalf of LARAC Scotland, and it was good to see the effort that was being put in to retain a recycling and waste industry event in Torbay, albeit somewhat smaller than the CIWM event that was held there for many years.

LARAC responded to a number of consultations in Scotland over the past year, most notably, in October 2010 a Scottish Government consultation on the Animal By-products (Enforcement) (Scotland) Regulations 2011, in February 2011 a Scottish Government Consultation on the Zero Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2011 and in May 2011, SEPA's Draft Waste Data

Strategy. We are also shortly going to be responding to SEPA's consultation on Technical Competence for Waste Facilities.

So, another busy year in the Scottish waste and recycling service for Scottish local authorities, and with no doubt additional pressures to increase recycling rates and achieve Zero Waste targets to come, I hope that LARAC can continue to provide support and assistance to our Scottish members.



Stratton MacDonald -
South Ayrshire Council

WALES (95% membership)

The Municipal Sector Plan and the Collections Blueprint published in March 2011 highlighted Welsh Government's preference for kerbside sort, and the Collaborative Change Programme (CCP), discussed at length at the LARAC Wales Conference, will give support for any authorities who wish to make the transition back to kerbside SORT. The CCP isn't just for this however and will be useful for any authority wishing to improve their performance in other ways (so that's all of us then). For further details of the CCP please get in touch – or visit the LARAC website where you can download the presentations from the Wales Conference.

The WYG report published in May 2011 was singing the praises of commingled collections, so the debate rages on - many authorities who have made the change to commingled collections have spent vast sums doing so, and have no plans to change back. So this issue will be with us for quite a while yet.

Other parts of the Waste Strategy in various stages of consultation are as follows:

- October 2011 – Construction & Demolition Sector Plan consultation starts.
- November 2011 – Collections, Infrastructure and Markets Sector Plan consultation analysis and finalised.
- December 2011 – Commercial & Industrial Sector Plan consultation starts.

- Spring 2012 – Food Manufacture, Service & Retail Sector Plan consultation analysis and finalised.

That just leaves the Public and Agricultural Sector Plans, which have no dates set as yet.

This year will have seen my first visit to the main LARAC Conference in October – hopefully this will have given me the opportunity to meet my contemporaries across the border to discuss the finer points of the Waste

Review (or just to have a few pints) and will see a fresh wave of enthusiasm for all things recycling wash across us. See you there next year!



Roger Mills -
Torfaen County Borough Council

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Executive Meetings Attendance from Sept 10 to Aug 11

NATIONALLY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES			Attended
National Rep 1/Chair	Joy Blizzard	Shropshire Council	4/4
National Rep 2/Past Chair	Lee Marshall	Powys County council	3/4
National Rep	Durk Reyner	Welwyn Hatfield District Council	3/4
National Rep/Principal Policy Officer until May 2011	Andrew Craig	Tees Valley JSU	3/3
National Rep 5/Policy Team/Treasurer	Mark Foxall	Shropshire Council	4/4
National Rep 6 until January 2011	Sarah Dagwell	Medway Council	0/2
REGIONALLY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES			
Eastern Rep	Dawn Murton-Cadby	Suffolk County Council	4/4
East Midlands Rep until June 2011	Nicole Garrett	Daventry District Council	3/3
East Midlands Rep from June 2011	Dave Thomas	Rushcliffe Borough Council	1/1
London Rep until March 2011	Natasha Epstein	London Borough of Hounslow	2/2
London Rep from March 2011	Jon Hastings	Haringey Council	2/2
London Rep from August 2011	Tom Lawrence	London Borough of Redbridge	0/0
Northern Ireland Rep	Mark McAdoo	Cookstown District Council	2/4
North East Rep/Policy Officer	Victoria Burrell	Durham County Council	3/4
North West Rep/Vice Chair	Carole Taylor	Pendle Borough Council	4/4
Scotland Rep	Stratton MacDonald	South Ayrshire Council	1/4
South East Rep/Policy Officer until Mar 2011	Ian MacKenzie	Canterbury City Council	2/2
South East Rep/from Apr 2011	Stephen Baker	Medway Council	1/2
South West Rep/Vice Chair/Policy Officer	Gemma Clinton	East Dorset District Council	3/4
Wales Rep/Policy Officer	Roger Mills	Torfaen County Borough Council	4/4
West Midlands Rep until April 2011	Nicola Kemp	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	1/2
West Midlands from April 2011	Andrew Bird	Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council	2/2
Yorkshire & The Humber Rep until Mar 2011	Sue Daynes	North Lincolnshire Council	0/2
Yorkshire & The Humber Rep from Mar 2011	Adam Lech	North East Lincolnshire Council	2/2
CO-OPTees			
Recycling Officer of the Year 2010	Julie Flynn	Manchester City Council	2/3
Recycling Officer of the Year 2009/Comms Officer	Jennifer Gosling	Maidstone Borough Council	1/4

THE HONORARIA PAID TO EXECUTIVE MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR 2010

Chair	Joy Blizzard	£4,500.00
Vice Chair	Gemma Coles	£500.00
Vice Chair	Carole Taylor	£500.00
Communications	Jennifer Gosling	£600.00
Principal Policy Officer	Andrew Craig	£820.00
Policy Officer	Roger Mills	£280.00
Finance/Policy Officer	Mark Foxall	£290.00
Policy Officer	Mark Parkinson	£120.00
		£7,610.00
Monies retained by LARAC		£410.00
Honoraria Paid		£7,200.00

Note:

Andrew Craig requested that his honoraria payment be shared between the policy team in proportion to the work they have done, and then he donated half of his payment back to LARAC. Ian MacKenzie & Sarah Dagwell also donated their payments, £160 & £80, respectively to LARAC.

LARAC EXECUTIVE ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

MEMBERS DURING THE YEAR

AB	Andrew Bird	ML	Melvyn Lilley
AC	Andrew Craig	MMcA	Mark McAdoo
AL	Adam Lech	NE	Natasha Epstein
DMC	Dawn Murton-Cadby	NG	Nicole Garrett
DR	Durk Reyner	NK	Nicola Kemp
DT	Dave Thomas	RM	Roger Mills
GC	Gemma Coles/Clinton	SB	Stephen Baker
IMacK	Ian MacKenzie	SD	Sarah Dagwell
JBz	Joy Blizzard	SDay	Sue Daynes
JF	Julie Flynn	SMacD	Stratton MacDonald
JH	Jon Hastings	SS	Sally Sheward
JG	Jennifer Gosling	TL	Tom Lawrence
LD	Liz Drew	VB	Victoria Burrell
LM	Lee Marshall		

2010	Exec Member	Meeting Attended
03-Sep	NE	NHHWF
03-Sep	MMcA	NILGA Waste Working Group Meeting
06-Sep	AC	PRAG Steering Group
08-Sep	MMcA	NI TAG Meeting
13-Sep	AC	MWE Policy Meeting
22-Sep	SS	NAWDO General Meeting
28-Sep	IMacK	DEFRA - LATS Diversion Targets Steering Group
29-Sep	VB	WeeeCAF
30-Sep	NE	Fresh Horizons for Packaging Waste
4-Oct	JBz	Tory Party Conference Dinner
05-Oct	MF	WISH Forum
18-Oct	JBz	WRAP Liaison Meeting
19-Oct	VB	H&S Management of W & R/C Services
19-Oct	IMacK	Realliance House of Commons Meeting
20-Oct	LD/MMcA	DOE NI Stakeholder Consultation on rWFD
21-Oct	IMacK	WRAP Plastics Meeting
26-Oct	RM	AfOR SIG - Composting Feedstock contamination
27-Oct	AC	DEFRA's rWFD Stakeholder Group meeting
28-Oct	MMcA	NI fWFD Stakeholders Meeting
09-Nov	AC	EA Waste Infrastructure Consultation Workshop
09-Nov	ML	WAMITAB
10-Nov	GC	WRAP Glass Forum
17-Nov	MMcA	There is no such thing as waste - NISP/CIWM
22-Nov	IMacK	Site Waste Management Plans
23-Nov	IMacK	MWE
23-Nov	JBz	Waste Network Chairs Meeting
24-Nov	Jennifer Watson	WEEE Working Group

2010	Exec Member	Meeting Attended (Continued)
01-Dec	SD	Defra Data Workshop - preparing for CLG Single test
02-Dec	AC	RRF AdCo
03-Dec	DMC	Investing in Waste and Resource Recovery
07-Dec	MF	APSRG - EfW - Realising the Potential
2011		
11-Jan	MMcA	TAG/WRAP Waste Collection Commitment Meeting
12-Jan	<i>Tony Hammond</i>	ERM Waste Prevention and Carbon Kick Off Meeting
25-Jan	MF	WISH
26-Jan	SS	NAWDO P&A
28-Jan	MMcA	NI Waste Programme Board (NIWPB) C&I Waste Sub Group Meeting
04-Feb	NG	Market Failure- Recycling Services for SMEs workshop
08-Feb	JBz	WRAP Liaison Meeting
10-Feb	MF/RM	AFOR Conference
15-Feb	AC	RRF Advisory Committee
16-Feb	IMack	APSRG - Sustainable Supermarkets
18-Feb	MMcA	NI TAG Meeting
01-Mar	SS	WRAP Climate Change Adaptation Master Class
01-Mar	NG	WDF User Group
03-Mar	IMack	PRAG
7/8-Mar	IMack	MWE - Policy committee meeting
15-Mar	RM	AFOR SIG on Composting Feedstock Contamination
22-Mar	AC	Recoup Board Meeting
23/24-Mar	SMacD	CRNS Conference and Exhibition
24-Mar	JBz	The Big Green Society
28-Mar	JBz	Meeting with Shadow Secretary for the Environment, Jamie Reed MP
6-Apr	JBz	PRAG Communications Meeting
08-Apr	AC	RRF Advisory Committee
18-Apr	ML	Letsrecycle.com re Conference
20-Apr	JBz	Meeting with Jules Kirby, FOE
03-May	JH	APSRG Infrastructure 2020: Incentivizing community buy-in
04-May	AB	WEEECAP
20-May	JBz	Letsrecycle awards - speech
16-May	SB	Sainsbury's - Growing without Carbon
17-May	IMack	MWE - Policy committee meeting
17-May	IMack	MWE AGM
05-Jun	ML	EU Skills
07-Jun	AC	RRF Advisory Committee
08-Jun	CT	Guardian Waste/Recycling on-line discussion
09-Jun	SS	NAWDO AGM
13-Jun	DMC	WWG5 Direct Cast
20-Jun	AC	BIS RoHS & WEEE Stakeholder Meeting
23-Jun	RM	AFOR SIG on Composting Feedstock Contamination
24-Jun	MMcA	NI TAG Meeting
29-Jun	IMack/AC	APSRG Zero Waste Can We Achieve it?
06-Jul	IMack	TUC-Zero Waste/Launch-CPRE Report: Container Deposit Scheme
07-Jul	DMC	SCAP Reuse and Recycling Group
08-Jul	JBz	UPM MRF opening
13-Jul	VB	Energy & Environmental Industries Forum: Waste Policy Review
22-Jul	IMack	NAWDO P&A

LARAC OFFICE ACTIVITIES

Another very busy year for the LARAC office with both Jenny Perry, Support Services Officer, and I working full-time to cope with an every-increasing workload in the LARAC office.

Jenny spends a large part of her time editing and updating the website, we're trying constantly to improve the range of information available to you. We've added an auto-notify facility to the Discussion Exchange page in the members' area so you'll know when someone replies to your query. You all have a wealth of knowledge to share so do please use the Discussion Exchange. We've also updated the links page to be a Waste Industry Directory. We have added a new page in the members' area to bring you the weekly updates we get from our membership of Municipal Waste Europe (MWE) to keep you abreast of development in the EU. The final new page we've added into the members' area is called 'The Useful Information page' where we add various reports that we hope you will find of use. The regional pages reflect what is happening within your region so let us have details and press releases of what you're up to.

This year we've developed a LARAC Supporters Scheme to sell more advertising on the web with three levels of supporters – Gold Silver and Bronze. We managed to earn nearly £17k this way and through special LARAC OnLines which helps to keep membership fees down. We hope the new scheme will further increase this advertising revenue.

Our free-to-members LA Vacancy service for Recycling and Waste Management jobs continues to provide the most comprehensive listing of local authority vacancies anywhere. However only 90 jobs were put on the web, which is well down on previous years reflecting the increasingly difficult times.

We were delighted once again to take the lead role in organising a successful Wales conference with Welsh Government. For the second year we received funding from Wastepack and Electrolink to organise our own Scotland conference. We again worked very closely with Stratton who put together an excellent programme. Also for the second year running we were invited to help with the WRAP conference in Northern Ireland and Joy and I both attended this meeting in the snow!

New this year we helped with the organisation of a successful Parliamentary reception which was organised jointly with CIWM and the ESA.

Again we had a good response for the Wastepack Scholarship Programme for conference. Paul continues his successful work as our Conference Liaison Officer. During this year he led a soft market testing exercise which was followed by the re-appointment of EMG as our conference provider for 2011 at a bargain price for members. Melvyn Lilley continues part time work for LARAC as Training Manager.

Sally Sheward and Liz Drew, our two part-time policy support officers, have both done sterling work this year. They have introduced a new 6-weekly Policy Briefing to help the work of the Regional Reps. Our role is to provide them with admin support. We also look after the part-time secondment arrangement we have with Shropshire Council for the Chair which has continued this year. Also in April we added Andrew Craig and Ian MacKenzie as policy support; Ian looking after our work with MWE and Andrew continuing to guide the policy work as Principal Policy Support Officer.

There were 10 regional elections to arrange this year as well as the national elections. We organise the AGM and getting this Annual Report to you, which this year we have produced in-house. I hope you find it useful and informative.

Once again I have to say a big thank you to Joy on behalf of you all for the excellent way she has conducted the business of LARAC as Chair over the last year. There is an enormous amount of work done behind the scenes by the Chair and Joy gives her own time unstintingly and always with good humour which makes my job here so much more enjoyable.

Colin Kirkby - Executive Officer



LARAC SUPPORT SERVICES STAFF



Executive Officer
(Full time)
Colin Kirkby



Support Services Officer
(Full time)
Jennifer Perry



Conference Liaison Officer
(Part time – 8 days)
Paul Deakin



Training Manager
(Part time – 13 days)
Melvyn Lilley



Principal Policy Support Officer
(Part time – 30 days)
Andrew Craig



Policy Support Officer
(Part time – 0.2fte)
Sally Sheward



Policy Support Officer for
Devolved Governments
(Part time – 0.2fte)
Liz Drew



Policy Support Officer for MWE
(Part time – 10 days)
Ian MacKenzie



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