Editorial

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Welcome to the February 2013 issue of *Waste and Resource Management*. This issue has four papers which although in unrelated topics, have sustainability as a link. Two of these papers deal with energy from waste. The first of these is an insightful paper into lessons that the UK, as a growth market in energy from waste (EfW), can learn from the very mature German market. The second is a review of alternative options for sewage sludge to avoid its disposal to land or in landfill, suggesting that energy production is a more sustainable output. In the first of these papers on energy from waste Roll and Streisselberger (2013) discuss the differences between UK and German operations in terms of waste arisings, national legislation, planning frameworks, support instruments, number and size of market participants and existing EFW plant structure and technology, and propose changes to the UK approach. They emphasise the importance of energy efficiency as a driver for sustainability and the advantages of combined heat and power in achieving maximum benefit. The review paper by Jorge and Dinis (2013) covers the use of thermal processes and anaerobic digestion as suitable methods for an integrated approach to the problem of sewage sludge treatment and disposal.

The third paper (Ward *et al.*, 2013) is an interesting approach to the problems associated with management of donated post-consumer clothing and the recycling of fibre. The authors highlight the fact that the way in which garments are constructed and the lack of cost-effective disassembly tools and recycling processes means that recycling from these sources is challenging. The fourth paper (Tudor, 2013) in this issue explores some of the areas associated with sustainability in the UK National Health Service and suggests strategies to overcome the challenges of concepts such as zero wastes, 'low carbon' economy and sustainability within the organisation.

During my term as Honorary Editor and Chair of the editorial advisory panel, the journal published a special issue in August 2011 on Defra's new technologies demonstrator programme. This was followed in May 2012 with an evening event on 'New technologies for the treatment of biodegradable municipal waste', which was held at the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE, 2012). The meeting, chaired by John Burns (formerly Director of Defra's Waste Implementation Programme), was well attended. The speakers were Professor William Powrie (Southampton), Professor Ed Stentiford (Leeds), Professor

Charles Banks and Dr Anne Stringfellow (Southampton) and Mike Pugh (independent consultant), all of whom presented their considered view of the programme and its outputs under the headings: anaerobic digestion, composting, mechanical heat treatment and gasification. This lecture, linked to the August 2011 issue of *Waste and Resource Management*, presented and discussed the results of Defra's monitoring programme and the lessons learned for the treatment of biodegradable municipal waste.

During my term the journal has continued to encourage the publication of themed issues. Two themed issues – one on the challenges of waste electrical and electronic equipment and the other on materials security, appearing in February and November 2012 respectively are indicative of two topics of emerging interest, reflecting the challenges for the waste and resource industry. Two further themed issues planned for forthcoming issues are: Sustainable Waste Management in Developing Countries and Advanced Thermal Treatment of Waste.

This issue is the start of the eighth year of publication of *Waste and Resource Management* which continues to publish original research and practice papers on all civil engineering and construction-related aspects of the resource management cycle: from minimisation of waste, through the reuse and processing of waste materials to the management and disposal of residual wastes. The journal has also now expanded its scope to include topics in: recycle, remanufacture and reuse; materials and energy recovery from waste and secondary sources; circular economy towards resource efficiency; design for the environment; materials and energy security; behaviour change; waste management infrastructure and planning; and sustainable waste management best practice.

Over the past three years we have published some very good papers and I am indebted to all of the authors for their efforts. Three papers over the term have received awards from the Institution of Civil Engineers including the Baker Medal awarded to Alexander *et al.* (2009) for their paper which was the subject of an evening event at the ICE in June 2011, and two Telford Premium Medals awarded to Fannin *et al.* (2009) and Rosqvist *et al.* (2011).

The continued success of the journal has to be attributed to the hard work of the editorial advisory panel and the publishing

team. I personally wish to thank Ben Ramster and Jo Squires for their efficient support and dedication to the journal over the past three years. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the panel members, including the members who, like me, have come to the end of their term of office in 2012 (Marion Huber-Humer, Nick Morley and David Richards), or left earlier in my term as Chair (Nick Blakey, Raimund Bleischwitz, David Boardman, Jonathan Davies, Gev Eduljee, Mike Falconer Hall, Jerry Leonard, Muhd Noor Muhd Yunus, Marcilio Nunes Freire, Eva Pongracz, Keith Riley, Ed Stentiford and Jim Swithenbank), and those who will remain on the panel (Jim Baird, Margaret Bates, Jeff Cooper, Philip Cozens, David Gardner, David Greenfield, Tony Griffiths, Keith James, Chris Mannell, Devin Sapsford, Nick Voulvoulis, Paul Williams, and from overseas, Zainudin Arifin, Jutta Gutberlet, Roland Linzner, Suneel Pandey, Henning Wilts and Fu-Shen Zhang). It is with great sadness however that I record the recent passing of Arnold Black whose support as a panel member was much appreciated.

I have served on the editorial panel for 6 years, and as Chairperson for 3 years and am delighted to be handing over to Jeff Cooper who brings a wealth of experience in the waste and resource management sector to the role, having spent many years in UK waste regulation and having served as President of the Chartered Institution of Waste Management and most recently President of the International Solid Waste Management (ISWA) where he has developed strong links with waste practitioners, academic and non-academic, worldwide. Under Jeff's leadership I have every confidence the journal will build in strength and stature. I wish him every success.

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