

What next for Zero Waste?

In his keynote speech to Zero Waste Alliance UK's AGM meeting held in Greenpeace's London offices on 23 January 2010 industrial economist **Robin Murray** spoke of the need to move from a supply led "push through" concentration on the collection of waste with its target driven command and control systems as operated by major waste companies to a user led "pull through" recycling system where the aim is to preserve the resource and energy content of used materials to their highest extent. He described the role of community groups and micro enterprises in such a system and cited examples such as Bio Regional's "closed loop" cycle for office paper in London and **organic waste closed vessel composters & AD systems** such as were to be described by Chris Reynell of Bioplex Technologies.

The meeting then heard from **Mr & Mrs Green** of **My Zero Waste website**, who explained how they had managed to reduce their waste to one bin per year and were committed to reducing it to zero. Presentations were then received from **Sue Riddlestone** of **Bio Regional** and from **Chris Reynell** of **Bioplex Technologies** with practical illustrations of such systems.

After **Ralph Barton** outlined the history of the foundation of Zero Waste Alliance UK as a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity, including the parameters of the role the charity could perform, **Jeni MacKay** introduced a group session with feedback providing ideas as to future activities which the Board could concentrate on for future activities.

The AGM itself then followed. Ralph Ryder stood down as Chairman for personal and family health reasons and the chair was taken for the meeting by Arnold Woolley. Ralph Ryder and Val Barton stood down as trustees, but both were re-appointed as were the other existing trustees, Arnold Woolley, Jeni MacKay and Nick Fray. New trustees were also nominated and appointed, namely Paula Woolley, Rick Anthony, Mal Williams, Maxine Narbrough and Jim Maclaughlin.

The meeting approved Zero Waste International Alliance's peer approved definition of Zero Waste.

My Zero Waste's website can be accessed through the Links section of this website. Robin Murray's full speech and the power point presentations used by Sue Riddlestone, Chris Reynell and Ralph Barton can be accessed below.

It was a good and lively meeting and served to illustrate that the organisation is going from strength to strength. Thanks to Greenpeace for the use of their premises, their helpful and friendly staff and for the lovely food provided!

JRB 14-02-10

Click on the links to see [Robin Murray's speech](#), and the presentations given by [Sue Riddlestone](#), [Chris Reynell](#), and [Ralph Barton](#).