



CIWM London & Southern Counties Centre

in association with CIWM Professional Development Network (PDN)
and ISWA Young Professionals Group (YPG)

Tackling the global waste emergency: *How to extend services to the billions worldwide without access to waste collection?*

Dual event - Thursday 24 October 2024

In-person seminar in London: 0915-1400

Panel discussion / Live webinar: 1200-1300

Everyone has a right to basic services (SDG 1.4), one of which is regular and reliable solid waste collection. Yet despite much progress, according to the latest UNEP estimates (GWMO2024), some 2.7 billion people worldwide still lack access to collection services; in addition, of municipal solid waste that is collected, a significant proportion is open dumped or burned. This constitutes an on-going global waste emergency that has severe impacts, locally on public health and environmental pollution, and globally on climate heating and plastics pollution.

This meeting explores both the problem and potential solutions and the benefits in terms of reducing plastics pollution. The conventional top-down development approach of driving change through regulatory standards and infrastructure investment is making steady progress in much of the Global South but has had little success in extending services to underserved communities in lower income countries. So how to refocus development efforts, AND implement a parallel, bottom-up community-led approach? How can the services that people need be provided, while at the same time creating sustainable livelihoods? What should sustainable waste and resource management look like for the world's poorest communities who are currently unserved or underserved, and how that can be achieved?

The speaker panel brings together leading waste practitioners, international development NGOs and researchers. The in-person event will comprise conventional presentations, followed by a panel discussion which will also be broadcast as a standalone webinar. Comments and questions will be taken from all participants.



In-person seminar programme

- Venue *The Foundry, 17 Oval Way, London, SE11 5RR. www.aplaceforchange.co.uk*
- 0915 Registration / Refreshments
- 0945 *Chair's Introduction. Sarahjane Widdowson, Chair of CIWM London & Southern Counties, Trustee of WasteAid*
- 0955 *The global waste emergency and how to tackle it.*
Professor David C Wilson, Imperial College London.
- 1015 *The neglected necessity: Uncollected waste the biggest source of plastic pollution.* Dr Joshua Cottom, University of Leeds.
- 1035 *A People-centred approach to waste management in low-income contexts: what it means and what difference it makes.* Dr Lucy Stevens, Practical Action.
- 1055 *Extending waste services to underserved communities – a young professional's reflections from the field*
Maya Zaatar, Resources and Waste Advisory Group (RWA).
- 1115 *Delivering an inclusive circular economy so that people and planet can thrive*
Michelle Wilson, WasteAid.
- 1135 Break / refreshments
- 1200 ***Panel discussion / Standalone Webinar*** with all the speakers
What could/should sustainable waste and resource management look like for the world's poorest communities who are currently unserved or underserved, and how that can be achieved?
- 1300-1400 Lunch

Cost details for in person event

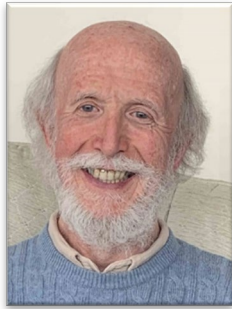
£31.20 (incl. VAT) Members

£12 (incl. VAT) Student Members

£55.20 (incl. VAT) Non-members



Speaker Biographies



Professor David C. Wilson has been an international waste and resource management consultant since the 1970s, a Visiting Professor at Imperial College London since 2000 and CIWM President in 2017-18. He has worked extensively on waste and resource policy, strategy and evidence around the World. He is a prolific author, including UN Habitat's Solid Waste Management in the World's Cities (2010) and UNEP's inaugural Global Waste Management Outlook, which first identified the on-going global waste emergency (2015). He has won six ISWA Publication Awards, most recently in 2024 for his personal perspective on the evolution of waste and resource management since 1970 and his reflections on current and future priorities (<https://doi.org/10.1177/0734242X231178025>). He was awarded the MBE in 2006 for services to waste management in the UK and internationally, and is an Honorary Life Member of ISWA.



Dr Joshua Cottom is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the University of Leeds specialising in solid waste management systems and plastic pollution. Josh has led the technical development of several influential plastic pollution quantification models. This includes the [SPOT model](#) as recently published in *Nature* ([A local-to-global emissions inventory of macroplastic pollution](#)), which highlighted uncollected waste as the largest contributor to plastic pollution globally. Other toolkits Josh has developed are the [Waste Flow Diagram](#) and the [ISWA Plastic Pollution Calculator](#). Through his research, Josh advocates for the improvement of solid waste management to prevent plastic pollution, particular throughout the Global South where challenges are most acute.



Dr Lucy Stevens, Head of Cities programme, Practical Action. Lucy leads Practical Action's global programme on Cities Fit for People which includes the organisation's portfolio of work on urban water and sanitation, and solid waste management. She has worked in various roles for Practical Action since 2002, but always with a core focus on tackling poverty in urban low-income communities. She supports programme teams on project design, high quality implementation, and with Practical Action's advocacy work on these issues, for example in 2021 leading the production and engagement strategy for our flagship 'Managing our Waste' report. She is a social scientist by training with a BA and DPhil in Geography (Oxford), and an MPhil in Development Studies (Sussex).



Maya Zataar, Consultant, [Resources and Waste Advisory Group \(RWA\)](#). Maya specialises in integrated sustainable waste management in the Global South, with extensive field experience across more than a dozen countries. Maya ensures that baseline data collection and analysis of waste and resource management systems leads to designing and implementing locally tailored solutions, building sustainable practices and capabilities amongst local stakeholders, and driving evidence-based policies. In 2021, Maya and her team established Lebanon's first marine litter baseline, mapping sources, hotspots, and pathways of marine plastic pollution, which directly influenced the Action Plan for Marine Litter developed for the Lebanese Ministry of Environment. Since then, she has continued to focus on plastic pollution and leakage from solid waste management systems, contributing to several international publications and leading training sessions for diverse audiences. Originally from France, Maya earned her Master's degree in Environmental Engineering from Imperial College London in 2020.



Michelle Wilson, Director of Programmes, [WasteAid](#) Michelle is the Director of Programmes for WasteAid and oversees the [Circular Economy Network](#) and a portfolio of work across Africa, India and Indonesia. Michelle is a development specialist with over 15 years of experience living and working in developing countries (Chad, DRC, Ethiopia, Uganda, Sierra Leone and Tanzania). Prior to joining WasteAid Michelle was working as a freelance consultant developing an Impact Management Framework for a clothing Social Enterprise Arakele and a Life Skills Curriculum as part of a World Bank funded Livelihoods Project for adolescent girls in Tigray, Ethiopia. Prior to this she was Director of Programmes for Farm Africa with oversight of a £12m portfolio of development projects in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. She has on the ground experience in community resilience, value chain analysis, market development, climate change, environment, agriculture, education and particular expertise in gender analysis. Michelle has a Masters in Conflict Violence and Development from School of African and Oriental Studies and a Masters in French and Business Studies from St Andrews University.

[ISWA YPG](#) - The ISWA Young Professionals Group is made up of ISWA members below 35 years old with a shared passion for Solid Waste Management, knowledge sharing, collaboration and innovation.

[CIWM PDN](#) – The CIWM Professional Development Network is for CIWM members that are early in their career. The network allows members to build skills for the future and develop their network of contacts