Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum Keynote Seminar:

Next steps for UK food waste policy: challenges for industry and the future of anaerobic digestion

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 17th July 2014

Venue: Congress Centre, 28 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS

Agenda subject to change

9.30 - 9.40



Working together to reduce food waste: a case study

Sarah Ellis, Waste Minimisation Coordinator, West London Waste Authority

9.40 - 10.00 Question and comments from the floor

10.00 - 10.50 Challenges for industry - packaging, labelling and regulation

What progress has been made towards the Courtauld Commitment's target of a 3% reduction of food waste in the grocery supply chain by 2015, and what more should Government and industry be doing to reduce ingredient and product waste? What are the most promising innovative approaches to packaging that helps minimise both packaging and spoilage? How successful has the introduction of the Groceries Code of Practice been at reducing waste created by the misordering of food products by retailers, and what more needs to be done to improve forecasts and to protect suppliers from last minute changes to orders? To what extent would the introduction of binding EU-wide targets help the food industry achieve greater progress towards waste reduction? What more can be done to engage and inform consumers – through clearer labelling and public awareness campaigns – with food waste in light of recent research finding that British families currently throw away the equivalent of six meals a week?

Dr Julian Parfitt, Resource Policy Analyst, Anthesis Group

Simon Oxley, Food Packaging Technologist, Marks and Spencer

Jane Bickerstaffe, Director, Industry Council for Packaging and the Environment (INCPEN)

lan Booth, Technical Director, Reynolds Catering Supplies UK

Mary McGrath, Chief Executive Officer, FoodCycle

Questions and comments from the floor with Dr Richard Swannell, Director of Sustainable Food Systems, WRAP

10.50 - 10.55 Chairman's closing remarks

Baroness Scott of Needham Market, Chair, EU Sub Committee D - Agriculture, Fisheries, Environment and Energy

10.55 - 11.20 Coffee

11.20 - 11.25 Chairman's opening remarks

Mark Pawsey MP, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Packaging Manufacturing Industry

11.25 - 11.45 Food waste strategy: an international perspective

Dr Henk de Jong, Agricultural Counsellor, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, London

Dr Andy Rees, Head of Waste Strategy, Department for Natural Resources, Culture and Sport, Welsh Government

11.45 - 12.30 The future of anaerobic digestion and recycling of food waste as animal feed

In what further ways can the Government and industry work together to address the challenges for building a more resource-efficient circular economy in the UK – such as influencing consumer behaviour and supporting companies to develop new recycling processes? With the number of AD plants doubling over the past two years and with more than 200 AD projects recently receiving planning permission, what more should Government be doing to help support growth, and address concerns such as the lack of storage for digestate? Following criticism that AD funding has been too weighted towards large scale AD sites, what more does Government need to do to provide greater financial support to small-scale and on-site AD? With the feeding of food waste to animals currently restricted under EU regulation, what are the challenges for recycling more food waste as animal feed?

David Caffall, Chief Executive, Agricultural Industries Confederation

Anna Simpson, Environment Policy Advisor, NFU

Richard Gueterbock, Director, Clearfleau

Tristram Stuart, Commentator and Author, Waste: Uncovering the Global Food Scandal

Questions and comments from the floor with Dr Henk de Jong, Agricultural Counsellor, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, London and Dr Andy Rees, Head of Waste Strategy, Department for Natural Resources, Culture and Sport, Welsh Government

12.30 - 12.55 Next steps for food waste prevention policy

Jonathan Tillson, Head of Sustainable Business, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Questions and comments from the floor

12.55 - 13.00 Chairman's and Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum closing remarks

Mark Pawsey MP, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Packaging Manufacturing Industry Steve Moat, Senior Producer, Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum