**Waste 2017 Abstract Submission**

**Food waste reduction & management: experiences from the UK**

*My presentation is relevant to the following topic area(s).*

🞎 Circular economy ⌧Overseas experiences

🞎 Collection (inc MUD’s, transient population areas) 🞎 Problem/Hazardous waste (inc asbestos, clinical &

🞎 Container Deposit Schemes medical, ocean plastics, paint, tyres etc)

🞎 Economics (inc business cases, data gathering, 🞎 Product Stewardship

monitoring performance) 🞎 Regional issues

🞎 Education (inc community engagement) 🞎 Recycling (inc CRC’s, collection)

🞎 E-Waste 🞎 Regulations and levies

🞎 Grants (outcomes and processes) 🞎 Social enterprise

🞎 Infrastructure (inc major waste grants, EfW, organics) 🞎 State based issues (eg. Fit for the Future NSW)

🞎 Innovative projects (case studies preferred) 🞎 Technology

🞎 Landfill (inc operations, regulations) 🞎 Tenders and contracts

🞎 Litter and/or illegal dumping (inc litter initiatives) ⌧ Other ⌧Organics (inc collection, processing)

**Presenter information**

**Presenter name:** Richard Swannell

**Presenter position:** Development Director

**Presenter organisation:** WRAP UK

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**Biography**

Richard is committed to working on ways of reducing man’s impact on the environment. A biochemist by training, he has a Doctorate in Environmental Engineering and is a Fellow of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA). He has a strong expertise in delivering more resource efficient and sustainable practices within businesses, and on reducing food waste and increasing recycling. He is Development Director for WRAP- a UK charity, at the forefront of the circular economy - thought leaders, champions of action and catalysts for change.

Richard joined WRAP in 2004, leading the team that created and delivered the innovative ‘Courtauld Commitment’ - the first agreement of its kind between WRAP and UK supermarket retailers committed to an ambitious and collaborative approach to packaging and food waste reduction. Between 2007 and 2012 this voluntary agreement, together with WRAP’s internationally-renowned Love Food Hate Waste campaign, helped reduce packaging and food waste by more than 3 million tonnes, reducing carbon emissions by over 8 million tonnes.

As Development Director, Richard leads on developing and delivering WRAP’s international and new product development strategies. This includes WRAP’s new work on helping people eat more healthily and sustainably and on seeking new partnerships to achieve impact internationally. A particular focus is on delivering the relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals e.g 12.3 on halving food waste reduction. Richard also leads WRAP’s research, evaluation and economics teams.

**Abstract Summary**

Over a third of all food produced around the globe is wasted, a staggering 1.3 billion tonnes/ year and contributing 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions, 6 times more than is produced by the global aviation industry. This presentation, will discuss the case for tackling food waste, what has been done in the UK in both prevention and collection and recycling over the last 10 years and the lessons learned from this. It will also look at the challenges that lie ahead and the role of municipalities and the waste management industry might have in delivering a more sustainable future.

**Abstract**

Over a third of all food produced around the globe is wasted, a staggering 1.3 billion tonnes per year and contributing 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions, 6 times more than is produced by the global aviation industry. This costs around $960 billion US dollars, more than twice the turnover of the world’s biggest retailer Walmart, and still nearly 1 in 9 people go to bed every night hungry. There are therefore compelling social, environmental and economic reasons for change.

In this presentation, the case for tackling food waste, what has been done in the UK in both prevention and collection and the lessons learned from this will be outlined. This will draw on the 10 years’ experience of tackling food waste and relate recent research conducted by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and WRAP on the business case for companies, Governments and municipalities for change. This studied the costs of food waste reduction activities in companies, at city and country level and the financial benefits that were delivered. Data were found for 1200 sites in more than 700 companies from 17 countries. It also evaluated the impact of city and national campaigns such as Love Food Hate Waste. The data showed that 99% of projects yielded a positive return on investment and half achieved at least a 14 fold return or greater. As such the financial case for action on waste prevention is particularly strong.

Recycling food waste also brings many benefits, although much less than prevention in terms of the financial and environmental impact. The progress that has been made in the UK and particularly Wales in terms of collection and recycling of food will be outlined, and I will explain how Wales has attained one of the highest recycling levels in the European Union. Specifically the role of weekly food waste collections in helping Welsh recycling rates increase from 17.7% in 2003-4 to 60.2% in 2015-16 will be explained. I will also describe the benefits that can be obtained from recycling food waste by composting and anaerobic digestion and using the outputs of these processes in agriculture. This will include the results of a 5 year research programme that investigated the agronomic benefits of using compost and digestate.

The presentation will conclude by examining the challenges ahead for the global food system, the short and medium term priorities for change, and the role municipalities and the waste management industry might play in this.