

# Annual report 2010



## OUR ASSIGNMENT

Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management is the trade association for the waste management and recycling industry. Our members are municipalities and municipal corporations. Private companies are associated members. We have about 400 members in total. We represent and develop our members by creating networks, supplying knowledge and influencing decision makers. Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management is striving to promote the development of environmentally sound, sustainable waste management based on a clear social responsibility. We safeguard members' interests within waste management comprises sorting, collection, recycling and disposal of waste as well as issues relating to administration, finance, information, planning, training and development. We are Sweden's largest environmental movement. Everyone within Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management, together with every household and a great many companies, are Sweden's largest environmental movement. Together, we perform one of Sweden's most important jobs!

## OUR POLICY

Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management works towards achieving waste management that is environmentally sound by:

- handling waste and locating, designing and running facilities in a way that protects people's health and the environment, in both the short and long term.
- being environmentally, economically and socially sustainable. Environmentally sustainable in that each generation takes responsibility for the waste it creates in a way that ensures efficient use of resources and that the waste is collected, recycled and disposed of with regard for the properties of the waste. Economically sustainable through cost-effective use of technology and clear information relating to the cost of waste management. Socially sustainable through ongoing dialogue with various interested parties, taking into account the needs of different target groups, and through education and proactive staff recruitment to create a high level of competence and achieve a high status within waste management
- having a clear social responsibility in that it is clear who is responsible for the different elements of waste management and that it can be incorporated into society's infrastructure.

# KJELL-ARNE LANDGREN, CHAIRMAN

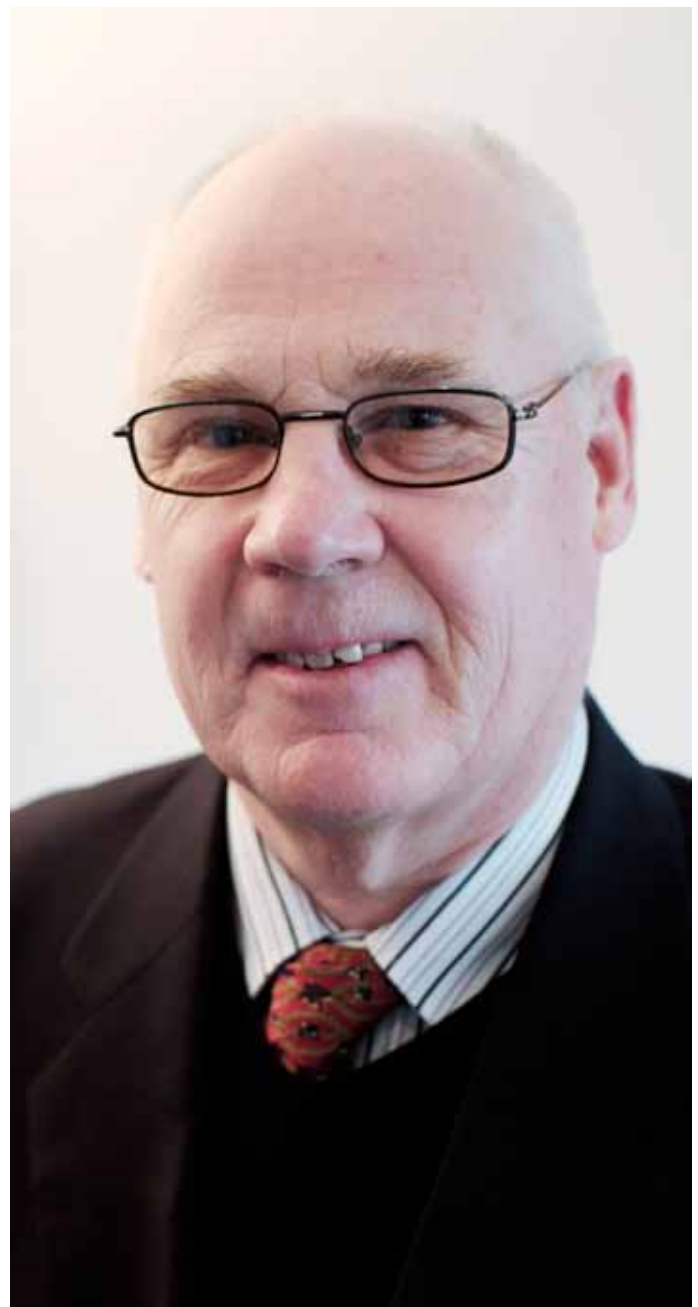
## AVFALL SVERIGE – SWEDISH WASTE MANAGEMENT

In 2010 we decided to, once again, take a serious look at the future ahead. The members of Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management had the opportunity to formulate possible scenarios regarding the municipalities' role in waste management ten years from now, and perhaps more important – to think of how they want the future to look. This process of vision and scenario planning was initiated by the participants of the annual meeting in Piteå and continued at the autumn meeting in Stockholm. This work has also engaged several groups in the organization during the year, for example the development committee and the Board. The members have also discussed the issues of the future at the local level. The results of this interesting work will be presented at the annual meeting in Lund in 2011.

We have already seen examples of several trends that will be affecting us in the future. One of these is the so called juridification, a term which signifies increased legal intervention rather than political. A significant part of the legal power of decision has been assumed by the EU - not least in the environmental field where a majority of the parliamentary resolutions are based on resolutions at the EU level. Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management is making great efforts to influence the resolutions at an early stage in order to achieve the best possible conditions for the municipal waste management.

Other trends are waste prevention and increased recycling. One example were the projects during the “European Week for Waste Reduction”, EWWR, in November, and another is reuse collection, which is becoming increasingly common at recycling centers all over Sweden. The municipalities might not have a formal responsibility for recycling, but there is nothing in the law that constitutes an obstacle either. Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management has in an official letter urgently requested the Ministry of Environment to revise the rules and regulations governing the municipalities' responsibility and role regarding reuse and the ability to finance such work.

Increased recycling could possibly also be called a trend, not least due to the increased number of visits to the Swedish recycling centers. Material recycling is also the theme of the latest of Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management's highly publicized campaigns, where the office and members interact for joint communication – nationwide, simultaneous and with one common message for better impact. The joint efforts have been subject to some international attention too, and won the second prize for best waste campaign in the ISWA Communication



Awards in 2010. The communication work continues now with an overall campaign where the environmental and social benefits that the members of Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management have contributed to are emphasized.

The municipalities and their corporations offer an important public service that benefits the public as well as the environment to internationally low costs. For 0.55 € a day, Swedish households can contribute to a better environment and better resource management just through wise and responsible waste management – and at the same time be part of the largest environmental movement in Sweden.

# WEINE WIQVIST, MANAGING DIRECTOR

## AVFALL SVERIGE – SWEDISH WASTE MANAGEMENT

**You are travelling quite a lot, both in Sweden and abroad. You have been on visits, meetings, exhibitions and asked to hold lectures. Does this influencing work represent a large part of Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management’s work?**

The influencing work is one of the two “cornerstones” that our work rests on. The second one is the member service, such as courses, development projects, knowledge transfer, exchange of experience etc. These cornerstones are interdependent. The practical implementation of our work gives us unique competence.

We get experience from courses, projects, working groups etc. when we do influencing work and the influence, in its turn, leads to better conditions for the municipal waste management. Our target groups are first and foremost the parliament, the government and public authorities, but also other interested parties such as various organizations, media, etc. I take part in this work together with advisers within Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management.

**Do members take an active part in this work?**

Most important is that we have a close communication with our members, and hence with the Board, when it comes to which issues to focus on. The best way to influence national politicians is through and together with our members, out in the real life where the national politicians also get to meet with their local fellow party members. It gives extra weight to the point at issue and promotes the representation of Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management. One good example is when we organized a meeting with a member, a study visit for politicians out in the real world. Politicians and civil servants in the Government Offices were invited through the members’ political contacts at the local level, and the local situation became an example that was applied also at the national level. In this way, the politicians can get a partly different perspective. These types of elements are important and have long-term effect. When we have the possibility, we do influencing work in collaboration with the members, but it is not always an option. Sometimes we, the civil servants, have to work by ourselves or together with other actors. All influencing work benefits from strong and credible collaboration partners.

Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management also has a

board of directors with a broad contact network, which is important.

Influencing work is a long process, where everything is not visible, and which requires many contacts. We have to be aware of the expectations and have an understanding of other actors’ situation, just like we want them to understand ours.

**In what way has the influencing work become easier?**

The elections and the new government have generated a lot of new contact opportunities among politicians, civil servants and experts. A lot of work is spent identifying these. We have more contacts now than a few years ago. Partly because we more actively seek contact, partly because our issues are more complex and concern more departments than before. Most decision-makers that we speak to already know who we are and that Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management is an important actor. Sometimes the decision-makers come to us before we contact them, as was the case with the preparatory committee of the Ministry of the Environment. It is also often the case in our contacts with media.

**Does Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management do influencing work in the EU as well?**

We must not forget that a significant number of decisions today are made in Brussels. EU decisions have great impact of the Swedish legislation. It is therefore important to, early on, be part of and influence the decisions taken in the EU.

Sweden has a strong municipal self-government which they are not always aware of in the EU. Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management took the initiative to start Municipal Waste Europe, where I am now the vice-chairman, so that we would be able to plead the public organizations cause. We also have close contact with the Government Offices and authorities to make sure that they are knowledgeable about our standpoints when they in turn negotiate and make decisions on Sweden’s account.

**Has the communication work been useful in this perspective?**

Definitely! All influencing work, our credibility and our visibility have benefited from our campaigns. The campaign that was the most successful in reaching out to the public



was the energy campaign in 2008. Many were surprised to see us stick out as we did, which was a bit bold. Energy from waste is an important part of Sweden's energy supply. We have also gained a hearing and engagement for issues regarding waste reduction.

**Can you give some examples of concrete results of the influencing work?**

The removal of the combustion tax and introduction of temporary exemptions from the public procurement law are both examples of successful influencing work. In this context I can mention that it was Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management that broached the issue of the great importance that the Supreme Administrative Court's ruling in the SYSAV case had to all the Swedish municipal corporations. The issue of deregulation of all equivalent household waste, the so called "system of free choice", is currently put on ice after a strong and well-supported argumentation. This shows that it is possible to exert influence on proposals even in advanced stages of the process. One must never give up, but wait for the right moment to act.

We have understood that several of our members have

the opinion that we should have put our foot down earlier on, in the matter of the producer's responsibility for packaging and newspapers. This is a good example of the importance of choosing the right time to act. This is why we chose to increase the pressure in this matter after the elections when a new parliament and a new government were appointed. If we would have raised the question at the end of the last period of mandate it is not at all sure that we would have got the kind of open discussion that we hoped for.

**You have been abroad many times during the past year, in Brussels but also in, for example, Shanghai and Moscow, to promote the export of Swedish environmental engineering. Does this mean that our expertise is internationally requested?**

When requests come from the Swedish Trade Council, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and such, it shows of confidence in us. If they have credibility in us in Shanghai and Moscow, they have it in Stockholm too. I think it is a matter of course to, as far as it is possible, try to help Swedish companies and sometimes also municipalities/municipal corporations to sell their expertise and facilities.

# CURRENT SITUATION

On the 12th of December 2010 the EU Frame Directive was supposed to be implemented in the Swedish legislation and the Government bill containing the new rules to be announced in the spring. But the year went by and no new waste rules were introduced. However, a few amendments of laws, in which Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management has had an active role with influencing work, were welcomed during the year.



## PROCUREMENT ISSUES IN FOCUS

The 2nd of June 2010, the Parliament decided to adopt temporary exemptions from the public procurement law. The exemptions will be applicable when the state and a municipality buy goods or services from for instance a joint-stock company corporation that they wholly or partly own. One condition for applying the exemption is that the so called Teckal criteria must be fulfilled. The amendment of law came into force on July 15th 2010, and will apply until January 1st 2013. The government has appointed the so called OFUKI investigation to investigate the need for a permanent exemption from the public procurement law, which there will be. The results of the investigation was presented on the 28th of April 2011. The government responded to the EU Commission with reference to the complaints that were lodged by the Commission regarding the procurement in certain municipalities in the south of Sweden. The matter was about how the municipalities will go about delegation of information to one's own corporation or corporations that are jointly owned with other municipalities. The government supports the Swedish waste model where the municipalities' infrastructure has been formed to enable treatment of waste also from other businesses. The government also argues that older agreements that were made prior to Sweden's membership in the EES/EU should be excluded from Sweden's obligations according to the procurement directive. The government's clear response is an indicator for the future, especially as regards the so called operational criteria.

## NEW WASTE PLAN

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency is working

on a new national waste plan, which is to be finished in 2011. The plan is based on the standards in the new Frame Directive for waste, and the purpose is to reduce the environmental impact from waste management. The waste plan will be indicating the aim and direction of the waste management work the years ahead. The waste plan is brought forward in dialogue with different actors, Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management among

others, in order to be established and accepted.

## GENERAL EXEMPTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

The government appointed an investigation in 2010 to decide whether a general exemption from the prime cost principle was needed. The prime cost principle stops municipal business activity from reaching the same profit margin as private enterprises. Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management's point of view is that if the municipality engages business activity it should be done on business-like grounds, and is therefore welcoming the investigation.

## THE COMBUSTION TAX REMOVED

The combustion tax on household waste was repealed on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2010. The combustion tax was implemented on July 1st 2006, but quite fast turned out to have an insignificant effect on the different waste, energy and climate political objectives that had justified the tax.

## PROPOSALS ON BIOGAS STRATEGY

The report "Proposals on sector-comprehensive biogas strategy" was presented in the end of last summer. It was the result of a government commission that aimed at increasing the use of biogas. The Swedish Energy Agency, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the Swedish Board of Agriculture were behind the report, in which it was established that the socio-economic benefits of biogas depend more on how it is produced than for what it is used. Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management thinks that the collection of food waste and the use of biogas as vehicle fuel are among the most important issues in the report. Food waste and biogas are issues that

all the Swedish municipalities prioritize. The biogas strategy clearly shows the great influence of the municipalities when bringing about a functioning biogas production.

### **THE “SYSTEM OF FREE CHOICE” PUT ON ICE**

Last year the government decided to put the issue of the so called “system of free choice” to the side. It has been under discussion for a longer period if industries producing household waste, what is also called equivalent household waste, should be given the option to hire someone other than the municipality for the management of the waste. The waste would then fall beyond the municipalities’ responsibility. Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions have criticized the proposal since it lacked environmental ambition and could be a risk to the environmental performance.

### **NEW ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES ON THE WAY**

The Government founded a preparatory committee for environmental objectives on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2010. The committee’s task is to find broad political consensus and solutions for how to achieve the environmental objectives. It will also suggest environmental strategies to help reach the generation objective and the environmental quality objective. Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management participates in the committee together with other concerned organizations and authorities. The committee’s commission ends in 2020 and an evaluation of the work will be made in 2015.

### **SUGGESTS OVERHAUL**

In an official letter to the Ministry of the Environment Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management suggested an overhaul of the producer responsibility for packaging and waste paper. This was done on behalf of the members, who in this context represent, in principle, all of the Swedish citizens, and the reason was that the producer responsibility had developed in a direction that was not intended. Despite the producer responsibility being more than 15 years old, it still has considerable shortcomings and problems. Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management therefore thinks it is about time to look over the rules to develop the environmental objectives and make it easier for households and companies to source-separate. The principle about the polluter’s liability for payment should serve as guidance and a new and clear distribution of liability and roles in order to change the shortcomings is necessary.

### **PROLONGED RETURN CONTRACT OF WEEE**

A new agreement regarding the collection of electronic waste enables the successful cooperation between the municipalities and the producers to continue. Discussions between El-Kretsen and a negotiating committee within Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Municipalities (SALAR) resulted in a proposition of a temporary prolongation of the return contract of electronic waste until the end of 2011. Discussions are held about an additional prolongation pending a new WEEE directive. El-Kretsen will replace the municipalities as far as the collection is concerned according to a specific replacement model. Starting in 2011 El-Kretsen will take over the collection of portable batteries from public collection spots. Batteries collected through curbside collection are forwarded to El-Kretsen via the recycling center. Batteries collected at the recycling centers are regulated and replaced through the temporary prolongation of the return contract of WEEE. The municipalities that so requested were allowed to provide the collection service themselves as contractors to El-Kretsen.

### **WASTE MINIMIZATION THE NEXT BIG ISSUE**

There has been a certain reduction in household waste quantities the past few years, as a result of the economic situation. At the same time, the recycling rate has increased and today 98.6 percent of the household waste is recovered as material or energy. But despite this the waste quantities and its content of hazardous materials need to be reduced. It is one of the great challenges of our time. Waste prevention is the first step of the EU waste hierarchy. This is another reason for why it is an important matter to Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management. As a first step Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management has been the national coordinator of the project “European Week for Waste Reduction” for the second year. In 2011 they will organize the event for the third and last time in its current form. Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management requested in an official letter to the Swedish Ministry of the Environment to revise the rules and regulations governing the municipalities’ responsibility and role regarding reuse and the ability to finance this type of work. Several municipalities co-locate already such work with the recycling centers. However, as of today there is still no support in the charge directive of the Environmental Code for funding of this work through waste fees.

# AVFALL SVERIGE – SWEDISH WASTE MANAGEMENT

Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management represents the members' interests in central issues and helps develop their competence. Both of these main tasks are done through

- lobbying and influencing work,
- exchange of experience, knowledge and information provision, and development of Swedish waste management.

## INFLUENCING WORK

Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management represents members in the contacts with authorities and decision-makers, both at the national and European level. Meetings, visits, submissions, official letters and other media channels are examples of how to represent the members.

That the voice of Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management was heard was understood last autumn when different politicians were interviewed by the Swedish daily paper, Dagens Nyheter, about the influencing of the public opinion and lobbying. Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management was mentioned in several of the articles as one of the organizations that had been successful in the work of forming the public opinion.

Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management had during the year many meetings with the Government Offices, with members of the Swedish Riksdag, political civil servants and authorities. Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management has, since 2008, a public relation consultant, located in Stockholm, who works with developing the contacts with decision-makers in the Parliament and various departments.

## EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE

The core of the exchange of experience is the nine working groups, that serve as an important link between the members and the office. The working group for recycling centers is new from 2010. The working groups meet at least twice a year and maintain continuous contact between meetings.

The consultants at Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management's office engage in the working group within their area of specialization.

The working groups are divided into nine subject fields

- public procurement
- biological treatment
- landfill
- Waste-to-Energy
- hazardous waste
- communication

- logistics
- material recycling
- recycling centers

Within each working group there are also sub-groups for specific subject fields. Approximately 200 of the members' representatives are involved in a working group or sub-group. They say that the primary reason to be involved in a working group is the exchange of experience.

Information from the working groups is forwarded within the organization or via regional networks, and by the magazine "Waste and Environment".

Courses and theme days, development projects and knowledge transfer are results of working group activities.

## NETWORKS

Part of the exchange of experience happens through the networks that various groups within Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management have. One example is the corporate group which consists of representatives for the associated private companies. Another network is Avfall Sverige Yngre for people under 36 years of age working with waste issues. The network for school information officers among the members has meetings once a year. There is also a network for all those who work with information on waste, and during the year a network for purchasers was started too.

The network for export of Swedish environmental engineering supports the cooperation between private and public actors in international projects in order to increase the export of goods and services within the field of waste and recycling. The members of the network are offered exchange of experience, interaction in concrete projects and communication of project ideas, information and inquiries. Private companies, municipalities and municipal undertakings within Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management are members of the network, who interact with the Swedish Trade Council, Swentec and others. The activities are financed by the members included in the network.

A great part of the members meet on regularly in different regional networks throughout the country and keep regular contact with the office.

## COURSES AND CONFERENCES

Avfall Sverige has a wide range of training activities to raise the knowledge and competence level of the industry and all training through Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Manage-



*The annual meeting 2010 was held in Piteå and attended by 418 participants.*

ment is certified since 2009. Forty or so courses, conferences and theme days are arranged annually throughout the country. In 2010, a total of approximately 2000 people attended the various arrangements. The focus of the training is tied to the working groups and meets therefore the needs of both members and the industry.

At the beginning of the year, member days were arranged on six different locations in Sweden, 260 persons attended. During these days some of the topical issues of the industry was discussed, such as the new cooperation agreement for electronic waste/batteries, the agreement on packaging and newspapers, new proposed bills and other means of control. Other topics on the agenda were the joint communication efforts, and how to use Avfall Web locally and regionally to develop the business.

#### **THE WASTE ACADEMY**

The Waste Academy, Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management's new education portal on the web, was launched during the autumn in 2010. The Waste Academy's first

web courses provide an introduction to the waste industry. The benefits with interactive courses are that the training can be accessed from home, whenever is suitable and that it complies with all types of teaching styles. The course was developed by members for members and gives an excellent knowledge base in general matters of the waste sector. The course provide the employees at a company with basic knowledge that enables better effectiveness, a more solid basis for decision-making and better chances to succeed with internal and external communication. The introduction course is also of use to elected representatives who make decisions in matters regarding waste and recycling. In 2010, approximately 350 persons started the courses. The Waste Academy will offer more courses in the future.

#### **GUIDANCE AND DIRECTIONS**

An important task to Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management is to develop guidelines and directions for how the business should relate to and interpret different concepts, definitions and phenomenon in the waste

sector. These guidelines and directions will be published in a series of manuals, of which the first one was finished in 2010. The first manual treats the municipality's role in collection of packaging and waste paper. The manual contains for example legal conditions, financing and conflict-solving rules in public sales business. Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management's manuals aim to create an interpretation standard, to permit a better basis for decision-making. The guidelines published in these manuals are just general advice and should not be seen as legally binding in individual cases. Additional manuals are under production and all of them will be available for download under the heading "Reports" at [www.avfallsverige.se](http://www.avfallsverige.se)

### **AVFALL WEB**

The web-based benchmarking and statistics system called Avfall Web is used by more and more members. It is used for input of statistics and other information to support operational planning and benchmarking. The system also facilitates the collection and use of national waste statistics on information that Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management requests every year and publish in the report "Swedish Waste Management".

### **COMMUNICATION**

The joint communication continued in 2010 with two different campaign themes. During the spring the campaign on hazardous waste, that started in 2009, continued. After the summer it was followed by a new campaign for increased material recycling, which will continue throughout 2011. The most important objectives with the joint communication, which started in 2006, are increased knowledge about Swedish waste management and the role of the municipalities. One way of reaching these objectives is to clearly focus on one of the fields within waste management during a certain time of period. Other ways of increasing the knowledge of the municipalities' actual accomplishments within waste management are through seminars, breakfast meetings, visits, press releases, discussion articles etc. Decisions on the themes and primary objectives of the campaigns are always taken in cooperation with the members.

The communication initiative is financed by a fee of SEK 0.30 per citizen, which the annual meeting sets. In addition, there are the economic and human resources of the office and each member, as well as complementing

economical support through the development initiative.

Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management's primary target groups at the national level of the communication initiative are public interested parties at EU and national level. The members' primary target group is households and public interested parties at municipal and regional level, often with the support of the office. By communicating the same message through various channels, and on different levels, the joint communication has stronger impact. A combination of national and local efforts is therefore important to achieve successful communication.

The project "European Week for Waste Reduction, EWWR" was arranged for the second time in 2010. It is a 3-year project subsidized by the EU commission program LIFE+. The idea is that all EU member states shall raise the question of different ways to limit waste production, all during one and the same week. In 2010, 18 European countries participated. Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management is the national coordinator supported by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. Sixty something arrangers planned approximately 200 activities during the week, and participating were companies, shops, schools, hospitals and municipalities among others.

Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management is more and more often seen in various media – papers, radio and TV – during 2010, at about 350 occasions. The articles and features treated issues like statistics, waste import, biogas, the food waste objective and food wastage, waste taxes etc. 28 press releases were issued from Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management's office during 2010. Several of these were published in various media but also served as basis for other articles on issues relevant to the industry. Three own debate articles and two replies to other's articles were published. Media has also been contacted through personal visits and with a special newsletter where important issues are emphasized.

The specialist magazine, Waste and Environment, is intended for all those working with waste management and recycling. The magazine covers experiences in the field, political decisions, research and new technology. It also follows the ongoing debate in the waste and recycling field. The magazine publishes five issues per year according to a fixed publication schedule. The TS-checked circulation figure is 1,800 copies.

19 newsletters were published during the year. The newsletter has no fixed publication dates but is published when needed, which is, on average, every other week. The

newsletter is also published on the website. As from 2011, the newsletter will be published electronically, parallel with the printed one.

During the year a new electronic newsletter was introduced, to inform about projects and reports.

Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management is now also in charge of maintaining and developing the national waste portal [www.sopor.nu](http://www.sopor.nu). The organizations behind it are the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Förpacknings- och Tidningsinsamlingen, El-kretsen and Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management. The partners are together in charge of the funding and management of the portal. The operational activities are carried out by Avfall Sverige–Swedish Waste Management.

Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management launched, during the year, a completely new website. Here you find publications, reports, press releases and all campaign material available for download. At the website it is also possible to register for courses and conferences.

The Battery Collection has, during the year, had an informant employed at Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management's office. The contract was terminated on February 1st when El-Kretsen took charge of all information concerning battery collection.

### **CERTIFIED RECYCLING**

The certification system for compost and digestate started in 1999. Since then 13 plants have been certified. The certification is voluntary and builds on openness towards the client through careful quality documentation and transparency

as regards the environment and quality. The entire chain from raw material to final product is regulated by uniform criteria based on environmental protection and user needs.

The system has been elaborated in consultation with the farming and food industry, compost and digestate producers, soil producers, authorities and experts.

Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management has also introduced a voluntary undertaking to perform emission inspections at biogas and upgrading plants. The undertaking means that the plants undertake to allow regular emission inspections and to take corrective measures.



### **NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Interactions with national and international organizations are beneficial to Swedish waste management and the members of the association. At the national level there is ongoing cooperation with the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR), the Swedish Water and Wastewater Association, the Swedish District Heating Association, and the Swedish Gas Association, among others.

The Sustainable Cities and Towns campaign is an example of a new form of cooperation with other organizations. It was started by Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management, the Swedish Gas Association, the Swedish District Heating Association and the Swedish Water and Wastewater Association in 2009. These four associations have since then arranged an annual joint seminar in Almedalen (in Gotland, Sweden). They have also called on the Swedish Parliament in joint concerns. The cooperation has also resulted in a joint report to highlight the infrastructure, which is fundamental to build sustainable cities and towns. The Sustainable Cities and Towns cooperation will continue during 2011.

Other cooperation forms comply with the statutory organization of Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management. The producer responsibility for electronic waste has led to a natural cooperation with El-Kretsen, and the cooperative, Elreturrådet, enable representatives for local authorities and producers to meet. The cooperation with El-Kretsen increased as the producer responsibility for batteries became effective in 2009.

That was also the year when the cooperation with producers of newspaper and packaging through the Recycling Forum started. A joint organization where the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR), Förpacknings- och Tidningsinsamlingen (FTI), Svensk GlasÅtervinning (SGÅ) and Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management are part, and where the parties are working to develop information plans, research projects and evaluate the service of all waste management. The cooperation continued in 2010.

Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management increased the coverage of the EU work through the European waste organizations CEWEP (Confederation of European Waste-to-Energy Plants) and ECN (European Compost Network), but above all through Municipal Waste Europe. CEWEP look after the interests related to waste incineration and ECN work with issues on biological treatment. Municipal

Waste Europe, the organization for national municipal waste organizations and related associations, inducted new members last year and now represents twelve countries. Municipal Waste Europe operates in Brussels. Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management was one of the founders of the association whose purpose is to represent the municipalities and the municipal corporations' interests within the EU.

Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management is also an active member of the international waste organization ISWA (International Solid Waste Association). The collaboration with the colleagues in the Scandinavian waste association NAP is also very important. Traditionally, the collaboration has been about exchanging practical experiences with waste management.

Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management are also active in the standardization work within SIS, Swedish Standards Institute.

#### **ANNUAL MEETING AND THE BOARD**

Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management's highest decision-making body is the annual meeting where decisions regarding regulations and policies are taken, the overall budget is fixed, and the board and election committee are appointed. Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management's opinions and standpoints in specific matters are settled by the board after having been dealt with in working groups and in the development committee. As for bigger issues that has to do with responsibility matters, Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management always work together with the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, SALAR.

The board consists of 18 members, of which ten are elected representatives and eight are civil servants, and whose term of office lasts for two years. One position in the board has been vacant during the year. The board meets four times a year. The nominating committee has seven members. The nominating committee's briefing states that one should "strive to ensure that the structure of the board reflects the association's members in terms of their organizational structure, size and geographical distribution, and strive to achieve as even gender distribution as possible". The auditors, two permanent and two deputies, are elected at the annual meeting.

The annual meeting 2010 was held in Piteå and attended by 418 participants. That was also the starting-point of a new foresight exercise where the members worked out

various possible and desirable scenarios regarding the municipalities' waste management role in 2020. The work with the foresight study continued during the autumn meeting, which was held in Stockholm, and will be accounted for at the annual meeting in Lund, in May 2011.

#### **MEMBERS**

The members of Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management have extremely varied activities and structure. There are two categories:

- Municipalities, municipal companies, municipal associations etc. whose work is based on public service obligations. These members have the right to vote at the annual meetings and decide on statutes, policies etc.
- Associated members, such as suppliers of services and equipment or consultants.

#### **MEMBERSHIP TREND**

In 2010 Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management has 380 members. The number of municipal members decreased from 254 to 247 due to recent formations of, for example, joint enterprises where several municipalities are included. There were 133 associated members. In 2010, Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management represented 286 of Sweden's 290 municipalities, directly or through regional companies and municipal associations. This figure stands for 99.6 percent of the population.

#### **TO BECOME A MEMBER**

Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management is an organization which, first and foremost, represents municipalities and municipal companies. Private companies can obtain limited membership, but private persons cannot become members of the association. The members can make use of the expertise through reports and other information channels, or by contacting the office directly. They can also turn to the association for advice on legal matters or for information. A major benefit is also the network to which members and certain others get access. Members are charged a lower price for courses, conferences and subscriptions. Those interested can apply for membership using the form at the webpage. The application is then being considered by the board.

# ECONOMY

Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management’s business is mainly budget-based and follows the business description that is approved through the overall budget at the annual meeting and through the detailed budget by the board.

The income is provided, basically in equal shares, by membership fees and by income from commercial activities such as courses, conferences, consulting assignments, publications etc. The income in 2010 amounted to SEK 60.2 (62.3) millions.

All members pay a member and service fee. The fees for 2010 remained unchanged compared to the year before. As will they do in 2011. The membership fee makes 10 percent of the total fees, and the fee to the service company, 90 percent. The fees are set at the annual meeting.

The membership and service fees for municipal members (municipals, municipal companies and so on) are based on the catchment area.

The fee is degressive, meaning that the fee will decrease as the population increases. The municipal members’ membership and service fees correspond to 1 SEK per Swedish citizen, on average. In addition, the municipal members pay a development fee, which in 2010 was SEK 1 (1) per citizen. In 2006, a special information fee was introduced, and in 2010 this fee was SEK 0.30 (30 öre) per citizen. These fees are used for development projects and projects in communication initiatives.

Special development investments are also made by approximately 100 members within the landfill, incineration and biological treatment working groups, which are, in a similar way, earmarked for projects within each of the fields. The financial means are furnished by the members of each working group, and are not brought up for decision at the annual meetings.

As for other members, consultants, suppliers, contractors, recyclers etc., the fee is fixed in two groups: one for smaller companies and one for big companies.

## COSTS

The costs are mainly activity costs coming from projects and commercial activities. Then there are also the conventional costs for premises, personnel etc.

## RESULTS

The turnover in 2010 amounted to ca. SEK 60 (62) million. The annual profit of the “corporate group” amounted to approximately SEK 0.9 (0.3) million. The equity capital of the association amounts to around SEK 7.3 million.

### SUMMARY OF THE PAST FIVE YEARS AVFALL SVERIGE AB - SWEDISH WASTE MANAGEMENT LTD.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT (SEK thousands)	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Net sales					
Member’s and service fees	11,786	11,742	12,002	11,885	11,994
Development information fee/project	18,768	21,492	24,035	23,604	23,771
Specific investments*	6,122	6,594	6,705	7,621	7,498
Other	13,269	14,342	17,191	19,159	16,911
<b>Net sales total</b>	<b>49,945</b>	<b>54,170</b>	<b>59,933</b>	<b>62,268</b>	<b>60,174</b>
Operating costs					
Development information fee/project	-18,073	-20,964	-23,560	-22,538	-22,731
Specific investments*	-6,015	-6,517	-6,642	-7,723	-7,336
Other operating costs	-8,934	-11,322	-12,573	-13,445	-12,976
Operating costs total	-33,021	-38,802	-42,775	-43,707	-43,044
Personnel expense	-13,121	-11,661	-14,542	-16,111	-13,027
Other external costs	-2,609	-2,706	-2,834	-3,019	-2,910
Operating results	1,194	1,001	-218	-569	1,193
Investment income	404	951	1,506	287	335
Balance sheet appropriation, taxes	-490	-576	-412	559	-647
<b>ECONOMIC OUTTURN OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>1,108</b>	<b>1,377</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>881</b>

\*In the working group biological treatment, Waste-to-Energy and landfills.

Note that economical means for started but not yet terminated projects will be included in the account for next year.

# DEVELOPMENT

Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management’s development initiative was started in 1998. Since then 306 development projects have been appropriated, to a total cost of SEK 63.0 million. Special development initiatives are being pursued concurrently within the fields of waste incineration, biological treatment and landfill. In 2010, a total of 23 reports were published.

The joint focus on development projects makes it possible to make a good return in useful projects also from more modest member contributions. The aim with the development initiatives is to promote the members’ business development in the direction of long-term sustainable social development through concerted efforts. This should also be done in a healthy and environmentally sound way through rational and source efficient waste management.

The development initiative has a broad focus on concrete projects which includes for example:

- economical and legal matters,
- information and communication,
- quality aspects,
- international comparisons,
- technical and environmental issues.

Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management’s board appoints the development committee, consisting of the association’s nine working group chairmen, as well as two other representatives from members. The committee decides on projects and allocates the funds for their implementation. The development committee meets four times a year.

The working groups decide on their respective initiatives: the incineration initiative, the landfill initiative and the biological treatment initiative. Each working group has appointed a special steering committee that decides how the funds of the special development initiative are distributed.

The joint efforts within Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management are based on a strong commitment from the members, for example through the working groups within the various fields. This vouches for that the projects gain a strong user-profile.

The joint development initiative is based on the annual development fee which is to be paid by all municipal

members – municipalities, municipal corporations and municipal associations. The fee for 2010 was SEK 1 per citizen. In 2009, the development initiative got SEK 8.9 million, and in 2010, SEK 9.0 million. Funds to cover the administrative costs are allocated in first hand, thereafter the development committee decides on the distribution of funds for different development projects.

Once a project has been approved, an amount corresponding to Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management’s part of the project cost is put aside. The payout of the funds is then made gradually over a shorter or a longer period of time, in some cases over several years. Payout from the other three initiatives is, just the same, often made over longer periods of time than the current calendar year.

## REPORTS

The results from the development initiative are presented as reports, in first hand. Starting in 2008, the reports will be distributed only in electronic form at the website. However, a printed summary sheet will be distributed to inform about the contents of the reports. Also other ways to communicate results and information are being used, such as theme days and courses, press releases, articles in the magazine "Waste and Environment" and through the website. Starting in spring 2010, information from Avfall Sverige Development will be presented in a entirely new newsletter. It will only be distributed digitally and contain information about development projects and reports. Previously published reports, which up until now only have been accessible in printed form, are successively being converted into electronic files. All of the reports - issued in 1998 and after – will, therefore, eventually be available for download at the website.

The results and information from the projects shall be available and of practical use in the work of the members. The particular initiatives within waste incineration, biological treatment and landfill will communicate their results also through own, internal reports. The results from the different development initiatives fill an important function also to represent the members in a variety of contexts.

*Sigrid von Seth, Linda-Mari Fridström, Catrine Nylén, and Christine Repond.*



#### **THE INITIATIVE IN BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT**

In 2006, a specific development initiative was established in the field of biological treatment. In 2010, 23 plants invested, all together, SEK 305 000 in joint development projects. A committee has been appointed by the funding plants to take decisions regarding the financial means and to distribute them between the projects. So far, 29 projects have been initiated.

#### **THE INITIATIVE IN WASTE-TO-ENERGY**

The working group for Waste-to-Energy decided as early as in 1990 to establish a joint development initiative. It has strong connection to operation technical issues with experience and compilation. Since the start, 110 projects have been initiated for close to SEK 24.1 million. The initiative is funded by all the Swedish waste incineration plants within the working group for waste incineration, with close to SEK 2.1 million for 2010. The working group has appointed a separate project committee which makes decisions on the projects.

#### **THE INITIATIVE IN LANDFILL**

Among the country's 80 or so landfill facilities, 29 facilities have decided to make a joint investment in development projects in 2010. Here, it is also the matter of projects of more or less operational character. The investments

amounted to SEK 660,000 for 2010. Since the start in 1998, 81 projects have been launched for almost SEK 9.1 million.

#### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management has been handing out scholarships within the waste management and recycling fields, every year since 2005. 16 scholarships were awarded between 2005 and 2010. The scholarships are awarded to the most meritorious essays and Master's theses at elementary level at Swedish universities and colleges, and the decision is made by the development committee. In 2010, two scholarships at SEK 15,000 each were handed out. They were awarded to the following scholarship holders:

- Linda-Mari Fridström and Sigrid von Seth, the Department of Technology and Society, Faculty of Engineering at Lund University, for the dissertation "Certification of sewage sludge as plant nutrient on fields".
- Christine Repond and Catrine Nylén, Department of Law, School of Business, Economics and Law at Gothenburg University for the dissertation "Declassification of Waste – End of Waste: An applied study of theoretical preconditions and practical expectations on the declassification regulation of the 2008 frame directive on waste".

# ORGANISATION

## THE BOARD OF AVFALL SVERIGE – SWEDISH WASTE MANAGEMENT

### Elected representatives

Kjell-Arne Landgren (s), City of Malmö, Chairman (2012)  
Ann-Christin Andersson (s), City of Göteborg (2012)  
Eva Hellstrand (c), Municipality of Åre (2012)  
Birgitta Mörk (s), SRV Recycling, Huddinge (2012)  
Elwe Nilsson (m), SÖRAB, Vallentuna, vice-chairman (2011)  
Anders Ohlsson (s), Municipality of Karlskoga (2011)  
Jörgen Rundgren (m), Municipality of Norrköping (2011)  
Peter Wretlund (s), Municipality of Oskarshamn (2011)  
Åsa Ögren (s), UMEVA, Umeå (2011)  
One vacant position

### Civil servants

Christian Baarlid, Renova, Göteborg (2012)  
Magdalena Bosson, the Traffic Office, City of Stockholm (2011)  
Stellan Jacobsson, Tekniska Verken, Linköping (2012)  
Lisbeth Martinsson, Dala Vatten och Avfall, Leksand (2012)  
Eva Myrin, Vafab Miljö, Västerås (2012)  
Lars Persson, Avfallshantering Östra Skaraborg, Skövde (2011)  
Gunnar Peters, Borås Energi och Miljö (2011)  
Håkan Rylander, SYSAV, Malmö (2011)

(The year given in brackets states when the current period of mandate expires.)

## ELECTION COMMITTEE

Mikael Gäfvert (m), REKO Sundsvall, convenor  
Håkan Bengtsson (s), Gästrike Återvinnare, Gävle  
Eva Johansson (s), Eskilstuna Energi & Miljö  
Elin Lagerqvist (s), Municipality of Jönköping  
Agneta Lantto Forsgren, Municipality of Skellefteå  
Pär Larsson, Karlstad Energy  
Kim Olsson, NSR, Helsingborg

## AUDITORS

### Permanent:

Franziska Larsson (s), NSR, Helsingborg  
Bo Widerstrand, certified auditor KPMG, Malmö

### Substitutes:

Gunnar Andersson (m), Örebro kommun  
Olof Andersson, certified auditor KPMG, Malmö

## CHAIRMEN IN THE WORKING GROUPS

Questions on orders, Marita Söderqvist, the Traffic Office, City of Stockholm

Biological treatment Per-Erik Persson, Vafab Environment, Västerås

Landfill Carl Odelberg, Vetlanda Energy and Technology  
Waste-to-Energy, Håkan Rylander, SYSAV, Malmö

Hazardous waste, Åsa Winkler, NSR, Helsingborg  
Communication, Ingrid Olsson, SÖRAB, Vallentuna

Logistics, Hans Zackrisson, Renova, Göteborg

Material recovery, Helena Karlsson, Telge Recycling, Södertälje

Recycling centers, Carina Eklund, SYSAV, Malmö

## THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The development committee has eleven members. They are the chairmen in the working groups, plus Maria Sigroth from the local authority of Stenungsund, and Thomas Blomqvist from Umeva, the local authority of Umeå. The chairman of Avfall Sverige is co-opted to the committee. Håkan Rylander, SYSAV, is the chairman and Ingrid Olsson, SÖRAB, is the vice-chairman in the committee.

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