2018 in brief

AVFALL SVERIGE

• A new, inspiring waste reduction objective has been set. The ambition is to reduce residual and food waste by 25 percent by 2025.

• After solid work in the board and working groups, Avfall Sverige updated its positions in 2018 to follow developments in waste management.

• The “Miljönär” campaign attracted attention during the year and garnered both a national and an international award – the Columbi Ägg award from Swedish newspaper Dagens Samhälle and the ISWA\(^1\) Communication Award.

• Avfall Sverige’s autumn meeting was well attended, and over 500 people participated to gather knowledge and ideas on the theme of recycling centres and reuse.

• A new managing director for Avfall Sverige was named, Tony Clark. He will be taking over from Weine Wiqvist, managing director of Avfall Sverige for the past 25 years, who will be retiring mid-year 2019.

• Avfall Sverige’s annual meeting was held in Skellefteå. Topics of discussion included digitisation, lifestyle and the importance of goals. Statistics for 2017 were presented and showed that waste quantities are once again on the rise after having declined somewhat in 2016.

\(^1\) International Solid Waste Association

**TOTAL QUANTITY OF TREATED HOUSEHOLD WASTE 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Millions of tonnes</th>
<th>Kg/person</th>
<th>Change %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Material recycling</td>
<td>1,617,640</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological treatment</td>
<td>741,280</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>-2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy recovery</td>
<td>2,400,440</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landfill</td>
<td>23,650</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-23.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total quantity treated</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,783,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>473</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.5</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**SWEDEN**

- In June, the Government decided on a clarified producer responsibility for packaging and newspapers as well as mandatory collection of food waste. The new rules go into effect in 2021.
- The Government appointed a delegation for circular economy. Weine Wiqvist, Managing Director of Avfall Sverige, was appointed as one of the members of the delegation.
- Through a decision in the 2018 spring fiscal policy bill, the Government provided extra support for biogas production in the amount of SEK 270 million.
- In December, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency published the national waste plan “Att göra mer med mindre” [Doing more with less]. The plan runs 2018–2023.
- The Government appointed a biogas committee of inquiry to analyse the competitive conditions for biogas and evaluate the benefits contributed by biogas production. Caroline Steinwig, advisory consultant at Avfall Sverige, is participating in the expert group.
- The Government also appointed a committee of inquiry into non-toxic and circular phosphorus recycling from sewage sludge. Among other things, the inquiry is examining a ban on sludge as an agricultural fertiliser. Avfall Sverige advisory consultant Jenny Westin is participating in the expert group.
- The Government approved the proposal to make it easier for municipalities and county councils to cooperate through agreements. This has made it easier for municipalities and county councils to entrust certain duties to other municipalities and county councils.

**EU**

- The inquiry “Det går om vi vill” – Förslag till en hållbar plastanvändning [It will work if we want it to – Proposal for sustainable plastic use] was presented just before Christmas. The report is divided into the categories smarter use, increased and smarter material recycling, renewable plastic, and no littering.
- In 2018, the report “Brännheta skatter” [Red-hot taxes] was being circulated for commenting. The report was based on the inquiry into the need to introduce tax on the incineration of waste that started in 2016.
- The Government’s waste policy was presented in a 73-point programme that forms the basis for government collaboration between the Social Democrats, the Green Party, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party. Several issues relate to waste management, which was also highlighted in the statement of government policy.

**In June, the Government decided on a clarified producer responsibility for packaging and newspapers**

**The EU adopted the new, revised Waste Framework Directive in May 2018.**
Waste issues are concrete environmental and climate policy

Waste management is continuously developing and at a rapid pace. Many issues that Avfall Sverige has spearheaded for many years have now had an impact, and several important issues were settled in 2018.

Climate has made a comeback as a hot issue on the agenda. One reason behind this is the report from the UN Climate Panel, which has shown that the 1.5 degree target can be achieved – but that it will be difficult. Extensive measures must be implemented, right away.

For Avfall Sverige, it means that even greater focus is on circular solutions. Waste management is circular economy – in practice. One example is textiles, an area with great environmental impact where everyone can make an impact through their behaviour and their choices. This was expressed at the Nobel Banquet, where several people reused gowns.

The waste issue is a concrete environmental and climate policy, something everyone can relate to and understand. Avfall Sverige works with all levels of the waste hierarchy, from prevention and reuse to recycling and landfill. Everything is needed.

WASTE ISSUES ON THE AGENDA
One of our goals is to get waste issues on the agenda. In Sweden, decisions have been made on new ordinances related to packaging, recyclable paper and food waste. A delegation for circular economy has been appointed, producer responsibility for textiles is a topic of discussion, and decisions have been made for expanded responsibility between producers and municipalities.

Several important issues have been settled in both the EU and in Sweden. One example is that the EU Waste Framework Directive has now been adopted. The first draft of the directive was presented back in 2013, and Avfall Sverige has long played an active role and influenced the work. The result was a directive that contains many positive things, like stricter recycling targets, increased collection of food waste, and a new definition of municipal waste. This was done, among other things, by acting jointly though our European collaborative body Municipal Waste Europe.

Another positive was the general right to contractual cooperation that the Riksdag decided on. This means that municipalities have the option of transferring duties to each other, without procurement. This new form of cooperation, which has been possible within the EU for some time, is now also possible in Sweden.

Another important issue decided during the year was the new rules for packaging and recyclable paper. Through these rules, producers have full responsibility, including financial, for establishing and conducting efficient and convenient collection with kerbside service as a general rule. This will lead to more recycling and more economical use of resources. Avfall Sverige believed that the municipalities should have collection responsibility. It has now been decided otherwise, but the work nonetheless resulted in decisions on expanded service and quality in the systems. The change will require developed cooperation between producers and municipalities.

Plasctics have attracted a lot of attention in a short time, both within the EU and in Sweden. The EU has had a surprisingly strong show of force, and drafted a directive related to disposable products. In Sweden, the Government appointment a plastics committee of inquiry that submitted its report at the end of 2018. Plastics have received a lot of media attention, ranging from plastic in our oceans, plastic and littering and plastic in waste to energy recovery and fossil-free waste management. Avfall Sverige and all municipalities are important players in reducing the use of unnecessary plastic products and in contributing to more plastics being reusable and recyclable. Avfall Sverige was early in communicating clear positions regarding plastics.

In the new Government platform, referred to as the 73-point programme, there are a number of issues related to waste and recycling. These include biogas, plastics and textiles – issues Avfall Sverige has been spearheading for many years. New deposit/return solutions and other ways of promoting reuse and prevention are being discussed. There is also a proposal for a tax on waste incineration. However, this issue should be put to rest since both the 2017 inquiry and virtually all the consultative parties have criticised the proposal. Avfall Sverige is firm in its assertion that measures higher up in the waste hierarchy are more effective.

MAJOR SOCIETAL CHANGES
Waste management of the future is affected by societal changes all around us. In 2018, Avfall Sverige drew up the roadmap “Kommunernas roll och ansvar i framtidens avfallshantering” [The role and responsibility of municipalities in waste management of the future]. The idea is that everyone within Avfall Sverige should be able to use it in waste planning, both for the future and in response to major societal changes. The roadmap identifies four important trends: digitisation, sustainability, people and politics.

Digitisation is part of a larger development in building society and will affect the industry. From this
aspect, cooperation is also important, both within the municipality and between the public and the private sector. Avfall Sverige can spearhead development that promotes the municipalities’ activities and highlights good examples. Completely new business models are created in digitisation’s wake. New so-called platform players offer services such as the removal of household bulky waste. This challenges the regulations and is an example of how digitisation creates new business models that were not viable previously. It draws attention to the demand of increased service, particularly in large cities.

Circularity and waste prevention become an increasingly important issue. It is not enough for the waste industry and the municipalities to be on the bandwagon. Considering the focus and importance of circular solutions that we see, it is high time to clarify the role and responsibility of the municipalities in relation to prevention and reuse, and to regulate this by law.

Consumers and producers must also practice circular thinking. It is not enough to sort – methods of consumption also need to change. It is here that Avfall Sverige’s “Miljönär” campaign is a clear guide, and we can see that the campaign is on the right track through the two awards garnered by the campaign in 2018.

While we see how much the industry is developing and contributing, we also see how consumption and waste quantities are increasing. Naturally, this is not sustainable and it is something we must continue working with – consumers, producers and those working in waste management.

Avfall Sverige is also a major player in the arena for development, largely thanks to the development initiative, which has now been around for 20 years. It has given the industry the muscle needed to initiative and drive development to the benefit of the members in general.

### AVFALL SVERIGE SETS GOALS AND IS A PIONEER

In 2018, Avfall Sverige adopted an ambition target, which the members are free to join in with or not: by 2025, the amount of food and residual waste shall have decreased by 25 percent. We call this our 25/25 target. Avfall Sverige is not satisfied with the goals found in the national waste plan. We are an ambitious industry and set goals that break new ground. The 25/25 target is another way for our members to get waste issues on the agenda and is a support for setting clear and measurable goals in the municipal waste plan.

We have learned to sort – now we need to think about how we consume.

**Claes Thunblad**  
Chairman of Avfall Sverige

**Weine Wiqvist**  
Managing Director of Avfall Sverige

After 25 years, Avfall Sverige’s Managing Director Weine Wiqvist has announced he is stepping down. During the year, the Board has worked to recruit a new managing director. Tony Clark will step into this role at mid-year 2019.

“I want to take this opportunity to thank Weine for his work on behalf of so many. As a new chairman four years ago, one of the first things I noticed was Avfall Sverige’s power and importance when it comes to lobbying with politicians, authorities and the media. Avfall Sverige plays a crucial role when it comes to waste issues both within Sweden and within the EU. Weine has done an immense job and is leaving behind a very strong organisation,” says Claes Thunblad.
Avfall Sverige's mission, governance and organisation

Avfall Sverige is the municipalities’ trade association in the field of waste management and recycling. Avfall Sverige’s members ensure that waste is collected and recycled in all Swedish municipalities. We perform our work on behalf of society: in an environmentally sound, sustainable and long-term manner. Our vision is “Zero Waste”. We are taking action to minimise waste, promote reuse and ensure that the waste produced is recycled, recovered and managed in the optimal manner. Municipalities and their enterprises are the ambassadors, catalysts and guarantors of this change.

AVFALL SVERIGE’S MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANISATION

Avfall Sverige is a membership organisation. Avfall Sverige’s mission includes strengthening its members’ expertise in waste management and recycling through advisory services, training, projects and partnerships. At the same time, Avfall Sverige shall represent its members in various contexts and champion waste issues in societal debate. The views and needs of the members are ascertained, among other things, via our working groups and development projects, during courses and other training, or through various collaborations such as statistics collection and joint communication campaigns.

There are two categories of members at Avfall Sverige:

- Municipalities, municipal enterprises, municipal associations, etc. whose work is based on public duties and tasks. These members have the right to vote at annual meetings and make decisions on Avfall Sverige’s statutes and policies, etc.
- Associate members are private sector stakeholders, including suppliers of services and equipment and consultants.

Through Avfall Sverige, members have access to the largest waste management network in Sweden with all the opportunities it brings for exchanging experiences and spreading knowledge. Membership also provides advisory services, subscriptions to a magazine and newsletter, access to reports, and discounted fees for courses and conferences. Moreover, members have the exclusive right to participate as exhibitors at the annual meeting. Interested parties may apply for membership via Avfall Sverige’s website.

Avfall Sverige conducts regular surveys of members’ views of its activities. The latest survey, conducted in 2016, showed that Avfall Sverige members are very satisfied. The next membership survey will be conducted in 2019.

Membership development in 2018

Avfall Sverige has a total of 362 (372) members. The number of municipal members declined from 227 to 221 as a result of municipal collaboration but, as before, 289 out of Sweden’s 290 municipalities are represented either directly or through regional enterprises and local government associations. There were 141 (145) associate members.
ANNUAL MEETING AND THE BOARD
Avfall Sverige’s highest decision-making body is the annual meeting, which makes decisions regarding bye-laws, policies, budget framework, the Board and the Nominating Committee. Avfall Sverige’s opinions and standpoints in policy issues are decided by the Board after being prepared by the working groups, in the Development Committee and at the Administrative Office. **Avfall Sverige’s Board** consists of 18 directors, of whom ten are elected representatives and eight are civil servants, and whose term of office is two years.

Three new members were elected to the Board at the 2018 annual meeting. The managing director of Avfall Sverige is the recording secretary for the board, which met five times in 2018.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
The **Nominating Committee** consists of seven members, of whom four are elected representatives and three are civil servants. The principal auditor and one alternate auditor are elected to serve for a period of one year at the annual meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING AND AUTUMN MEETING 2018
The 2018 annual meeting was held in Skellefteå and 429 (557) people attended. The traditional Avfall Sverige exhibition, where corporate members display their products and services, attracted 28 (38) exhibitors.

The 2018 annual meeting resolved to adjust dues and service fees by 3 (2.2) percent for 2018 due to salary adjustment during the year. The decision was made for the development fee to remain unchanged at SEK 1.3 per capita and year, of which SEK 0.30 per capita is earmarked for internal projects in the same way as in 2017 and SEK 0.2 per capita is earmarked for communication campaigns.

As a whole, the fees increased by 1.8 (0.9) percent since about half of the fees is made up of the dues and service fees and the other half is the development fee. Recycling centres and reuse was the theme of Avfall Sverige’s 2018 autumn meeting. The meeting was held in Stockholm and 504 (390) people attended.

AVFALL SVERIGE’S WORKING GROUPS
The breadth of Avfall Sverige’s activities is reflected in our **working groups**, in which representatives of our members (primarily municipalities) participate. The Administrative Office’s advisory consultants, who are specialists in different fields, participate in the respective groups. Within the working groups, there are 14 different operational groups, where members work with issues related to specific operational areas. No less than 200 member representatives are involved in at least one working group or one of its operational groups. Working groups are an important link between the members and the Administrative Office, as well as member-to-member.

The efforts of the working groups result in courses, theme days, development projects and knowledge management activities. It is also important to establish support for Avfall Sverige’s positions on various issues in the working groups.

The working groups work with current issues and official report consultations, run projects, and are involved in the training programme and development work. Other important issues for the working groups are communication, working environment, statistics and benchmarking through Avfall Web, Avfall Sverige’s web-based system.

Coordination and collaboration between working groups is important in issues that concern multiple areas.

The working groups meet at least twice a year and maintain continuous contact. Avfall Sverige’s advisory consultants take part in working group meetings as the secretary.

Information from the working groups is disseminated via our organisation or via regional networks and articles in the Avfall och Miljö magazine and via Avfall Sverige’s website. Since 2017, all members of Avfall Sverige have the opportunity to follow the activities through **special newsletters from each working group**.
INTERNAL NETWORKS
Experience is also exchanged through the various networks that exist within Avfall Sverige. One example is the corporate group which consists of representatives from associated private companies. Another network is Avfall Sverige Yngre, which is for people under the age of 36 who work with waste issues, and the network for school information experts. There are also networks for waste technicians, waste information specialists, procurement specialists, engineers and operating technicians at biogas plants and corporate lawyers. There is also a network that handles issues concerning the prevention of waste.

A large proportion of Avfall Sverige's members also meet in various regional networks, which are run regionally. There are about 20 regional networks that include a total of about 250 municipalities. The regional networks have established contacts with advisory consultants at the Avfall Sverige Administrative Office.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AND NETWORKS
Avfall Sverige collaborates extensively with other organisations in Sweden and abroad. External collaboration benefits Swedish waste management and the members of the association.

At the national level there is ongoing collaboration with the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR), the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Swedenergy, the Swedish Gas Association, and the Swedish Water and Wastewater Association, among others. Avfall Sverige’s Managing Director is also a board member of the Keep Sweden Tidy Foundation. Avfall Sverige also plays a role in government committees of inquiry and delegations as well as in the standardisation work of SIS, the Swedish Standards Institute.

EU AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION
Swedish waste management is guided by EU legislation, which also sets requirements for how waste management should be developed. Avfall Sverige therefore collaborates at the international level with, among others, the Brussels-based organisation Municipal Waste Europe (MWE). The organisation represents the interests of municipalities and municipal enterprises in the EU. MWE thus represents industry bodies that are responsible for public waste management on behalf of 340 million people in 16 counties. Avfall Sverige is one of the founders of the organisation.

Within the EU, Avfall Sverige also acts through CEWEP (Confederation of European Waste-to-Energy Plants), which represents the interests of stakeholders in the energy recovery sector. Avfall Sverige is also represented in ECN (European Compost Network), which works with issues related to biological treatment at the EU level. Avfall Sverige’s advisory consultants contribute their particular expertise in each organisation.

We collaborate with our Nordic colleagues through the Nordic Waste Group (NWG).

Even outside of the EU, Avfall Sverige champions issues related to better waste management, particularly related to waste prevention, through active participation in ISWA (International Solid Waste Association), where Avfall Sverige’s Managing Director has served as a member of the board since 2016.

Some of Avfall Sverige’s members jointly fund a part-time role called International Coordinator. The role of the coordinator is to be a clear point of contact with the Swedish waste industry for international contacts as well as for Swedish actors who operate, or intend to operate, on the international market.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDUSTRY THROUGH TRAINING INITIATIVES
Avfall Sverige has an extensive training programme designed to increase the level of knowledge and competence in the industry. It consists of courses and seminars, both physical and web-based, theme days and customised courses. The programme is quality certified according to ISO 9001:2008.

In total 2,078 people (1,935) took part in some 40 Avfall Sverige training sessions in 2018. The direction of the training programme is supported by the working groups and therefore caters for the needs of members and the industry alike.

ADVISORY SERVICES
Members can make use of Avfall Sverige’s specialist expertise via Avfall Sverige’s reports or by contacting the Administrative Office directly. The advisory services are highly appreciated, with advice provided by phone and email and through guides and handbooks. Contract templates and standard contracts are also made available.

Avfall Sverige often acts as intermediary between members and others who can contribute more knowledge and experience on various issues.
AVFALL WEB AND ANNUAL STATISTICS FOR THE INDUSTRY

Avfall Sverige’s statistical tool, Avfall Web, is the basis for the national waste statistics on household waste that Avfall Sverige compiles every year and publishes in the report “Swedish Waste Management”. 92 percent of the municipalities reported their data on quantities of food and residual waste in the tool in 2018. A report containing statistics at the regional and municipal level, with information retrieved from Avfall Web, is also published once a year. A growing number of municipalities are discovering the tools and functions in the system and the comparison and benchmarking possibilities it offers. The goal is for Swedish municipalities and waste facilities to draw benefit from Avfall Web.

Avfall Sverige supplies statistical data to the Swedish Energy Agency, the Swedish EPA, SCB, the Environmental Objectives Portal (county administrative boards' follow-up of environmental objectives at county level) and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR) report Kommunens Kvalitet i Korthet [Municipal Quality in Brief]. Avfall Sverige works to improve coordination, increase usability and create better understanding of Swedish waste statistics. The aim is for reporting in Avfall Web to increase, which in turn would increase the benefit it provides.

COMMUNICATION TO DISSEMINATE KNOWLEDGE

Communication and statistics are important tools for championing waste issues in society. The aim is for Avfall Sverige to be the media’s natural contact point in various waste issues. Today, many media items are based on the fact finding of Avfall Sverige. The media is also contacted proactively, for example through personal visits and a targeted newsletter highlighting current waste issues.

In 2018, Avfall Sverige issued 39 (35) press releases. Several of them resulted in news reports in various media. Some of the hottest issues in 2018 were plastic waste, conditions for biogas, waste prevention, and a waste incineration tax. Other issues that received great attention are waste statistics via the Waste Trend tool, and the “Household waste in figures” report – particularly in local media.

Avfall Sverige also takes part in debate on an ongoing basis. 10 (7) opinion pieces (in several cases together with other actors) and 2 (2) replies to other opinion pieces were published in 2018.

JOINT COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

The joint campaign “Miljönär-vänlig” continued in 2018, with a focus on prevention and reuse. The campaign, which was launched in 2015 on the initiative of Avfall Sverige’s members, is built around the “Miljönär-vänlig” eco-label, which recognises enterprises that promote sustainable consumption through repairing, sharing and reusing. By the end of 2018, approximately 1,000 enterprises had been granted this sustainability label. The campaign garnered both a national and an international award in 2018 – the Columbi Ågg award from Swedish newspaper Dagens Samhälle and the ISWA Communication Award. The campaign will continue in 2019.

In 2018, Avfall Sverige launched the invisible waste concept with the aim of drawing attention to waste that occurs during the production stage.

One of the overall objectives of Avfall Sverige’s joint communication, which has been running since 2006, is to help increase the knowledge about Swedish waste management and the role of the municipalities. Avfall Sverige is nationally responsible in the EU project “European Week for Waste Reduction” (EWWR), which was held for the tenth time in 2018. In the project, all participating countries address the question of how to minimise waste production in different ways, all in one and the same week.
Avfall och Miljö [Waste and Environment] is a trade magazine for waste management and recycling professionals. The magazine publishes five issues a year, with 2,500 (2,300) copies per issue. It is also available in a digital version on our website.

During the year, Avfall Sverige issued 25 (24) newsletters. The newsletters, which are issued as needed, are available in both digital and printed versions.

Both the magazine and the newsletter is open to subscription by non-members.

News and other materials are also available for download from Avfall Sverige's website. Some of the material is for members only and is password protected. Guides and reports are two examples of member-only material. It is also possible to register for courses, conferences and theme days via the website. In January 2018, Avfall Sverige launched a brand new website, almost exactly 20 years after the very first one – which at that time was rvf.se.

**SOPOR.NU**

Avfall Sverige is now also responsible for maintaining the national waste portal [www.sopor.nu](http://www.sopor.nu). Sopor.nu is intended for consumers and its target groups are households, schools and the media. The portal was established in 2002 and is a joint initiative of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, El-Kretsen, Recipo, Förpacknings- och Tidningsinsamlingen and Avfall Sverige.

**CERTIFIED RECYCLING AND RECOVERY AND VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT**

Avfall Sverige's certification systems for digestate and compost – SPCR 120 and SPCR 152 – have existed for 19 years, and 25 plants were certified in 2018 (22 biogas, 3 compost). Certification is optional and is based on meticulous quality documentation and transparency in terms of 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 was developed in consultation with the agriculture and food industry, compost and digestate producers, soil producers, government agencies and scientists.

Avfall Sverige has also introduced a voluntary commitment to perform emission inspections at biogas and refining plants. With this commitment, the plants agree to regular inspections and, if necessary, correction of emissions. To increase knowledge about digestate, Avfall Sverige has developed a website with in-depth information, [www.biogodsel.se](http://www.biogodsel.se).

**Quality certification**

All operations within Avfall Sverige have been quality certified according to ISO 9001:2015 since 2018. Certification is an effective tool for steering and managing operations.
The industry’s representative in waste issues

Avfall Sverige represents its members in contacts with government agencies and decision makers at both the national and European levels.

Avfall Sverige bases its standpoints on the general positions adopted by the association, and its members’ interests in the issues at hand. The standpoints serve as guidance for what positions and actions Avfall Sverige takes to develop waste management and the role of the municipalities. These were updated in 2018.

NATIONAL LOBBYING EFFORTS AND DIALOGUE WITH DECISION MAKERS

Avfall Sverige actively participates in government inquiries and work to draft new bills. At meetings with the Government Offices of Sweden, MPs, government officials and government agencies, Avfall Sverige is often represented by the Managing Director and various consultants. Board representatives and members are also welcome to participate. Examples of government inquiries and new ordinances in which Avfall Sverige actively participated in 2018 include the new ordinance for producer responsibility, the plastics inquiry, the biogas inquiry, the inquiry into non-toxic and circular phosphorus recycling from sewage sludge, and the “red-hot taxes” inquiry. National lobbying efforts can also be done through report consultations, correspondence and meetings with politicians. Avfall Sverige also partners with organisations such as the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR), the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Swedenergy, the Swedish Gas Association, and the Swedish Water and Wastewater Association in its lobbying efforts.

REPORT CONSULTATIONS

As a representative of the municipalities and their waste management, Avfall Sverige plays an important role as consultative body and actively contributes opinions ahead of political decisions through its official consultative responses. The organisation therefore has ongoing contact with the Riksdag and Government, as well as with a number of authorities in issues related to waste management. In addition to consultative responses, Avfall Sverige provides opinions on issues affecting the industry.

In 2018, Avfall Sverige submitted 26 consultative responses and 12 pieces of correspondence.

AVFALL SVERIGE AS EXPERTS

Avfall Sverige is often part of various expert and reference groups linked to government inquiries. For example, two of Avfall Sverige’s advisory consultants are part of committees of inquiry concerning biogas and sludge, respectively. Another example is the delegation for circular economy, where Avfall Sverige’s Managing Director is a member. Avfall Sverige has also been represented in the collaborative programmes Circular and Biobased Economy and Fossil-free Sweden for some time now.

COORDINATED MEETINGS WITH POLITICIANS

On several occasions during the year, Avfall Sverige – along with its allied organisations Swedenergy, the Swedish Gas Association, and the Swedish Water and Wastewater Association – organises meetings with MPs and attends municipal days and congresses arranged by the parties represented in the Riksdag.

In Almedalen 2018, Avfall Sweden organised lunch meetings with specially invited guests. Avfall Sverige also co-organised one seminar with the allied organisations indicated and another with Swedenergy.

INTERNATIONAL LOBBYING EFFORTS

Swedish waste management is guided by EU legislation, which also sets requirements for how waste management should be developed. Avfall Sverige’s lobbying efforts within the EU are therefore important for both its members and Swedish waste management. Lobbying efforts within the EU are channelled through the Swedish ministries and authorities, and often carried out through different cooperative bodies. One such body is the Brussels-based organisation Municipal Waste Europe (MWE). The organisation represents the interests of municipalities and municipal enterprises in the EU. MWE represents industry bodies that are responsible for public waste management on behalf of 340 million people in 16 counties. Avfall Sverige is one of the founders of the organisation.
Within the EU, Avfall Sverige also acts through CEWEP (Confederation of European Waste-to-Energy Plants), which represents the interests of stakeholders in the energy recovery sector. Together with MWE and CEWEP, Avfall Sverige has continued to be active in the BREF process and much more. A BREF (Best available techniques REFerence document) is the official EU document describing the best available techniques for an industry. Avfall Sverige is a member of the Swedish EPA’s collaboration forum for BREF and also participates in the process in other ways.

ECN (European Compost Network) works with issues related to biological treatment at the EU level.

Avfall Sverige’s advisory consultants and members contribute their particular expertise in each organisation.

Even outside of the EU, Avfall Sverige champions issues related to better waste management, particularly related to the minimisation of waste, through active participation in ISWA (International Solid Waste Association), where Avfall Sverige’s Managing Director has served as a member of the board since 2016.

DEBATES
Avfall Sverige also takes part in debate in the media on an ongoing basis. 10 (7) opinion pieces (in several cases together with other actors) and 2 (2) replies to other opinion pieces were published in 2018.

COMMUNICATION
In 2018, Avfall Sverige launched the invisible waste concept with the aim of drawing attention to waste that occurs during the production stage. The campaign is a more focused off-shoot of the “Miljönär” campaign and is aimed primarily at decision makers. Avfall Sverige’s positions on various issues are communicated in its newsletter and on its website.

#invisiblewaste
it’s not always what you see that weighs you down the most
In our dream world of the future, zero waste is created and our shared resources are utilised optimally. Avfall Sverige champions issues and runs projects in accordance with the waste hierarchy and with the aim of achieving better waste management in society. The organisation invests significant resources in projects intended to move the industry forward.

Avfall Sverige’s development initiative began in 1998. Since then, more than 480 development projects with a total cost of approximately SEK 110 million have been approved. Together with its members, Avfall Sverige has successfully developed the waste industry since that time through relevant, accessible and useful projects.

The projects are based on member involvement, including through issues raised in the working groups, which gives them a firm footing within the association. The projects must also be relevant to the majority of Avfall Sverige’s members.

In addition to these, development projects are carried out in all of Avfall Sverige’s operational areas. Concrete projects focused on technology, finances, law, social and behavioural issues, and communication issues are conducted on an ongoing basis.

The knowledge, experience and results gained from the projects are made available to our members and are of practical use in their work. The results of the development initiatives also fill an important function in Avfall Sverige’s work of representing the members across a variety of contexts.

The initiative had three focus areas in 2018:
- Prevention and reuse
- Consumer behaviour
- Raw materials and disposal

**DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**
Avfall Sverige’s Board appoints the Development Committee, which consists of the chairmen of the eight working groups, one other representative of the municipalities, and the Managing Director of Avfall Sverige. Based on the advice of the working groups, the Committee decides which products should be granted funding and how the funds should be allocated. The Development Committee meets four times a year.

The joint development initiative of Avfall Sverige is based on the annual development fee which is paid by all municipal members. The fee for 2018 was SEK 1.3 (1.3) per capita, of which SEK 0.3 per capita was allocated to internal projects closely related to operations within Avfall Sverige. In 2018, the development programme received almost SEK 10 million.

**OTHER DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES**
Three of the working groups have their own development initiatives, which they fund and decide on themselves. These working groups are energy recovery, biological treatment and waste treatment plants.

The working group for energy recovery decided to establish a joint development initiative as early as 1990. This has a strong connection to technical operations issues. Since the start, 228 projects have been launched for almost SEK 50 million. The initiative is funded by all Swedish waste incineration plants in the working group, totalling SEK 3.9 (3.9) million in 2018.

In 2006, a specific development initiative was established in the field of biological treatment. In 2018, 23 members invested SEK 495,000 (505,000) in joint development projects. A total of 7 projects were approved within the initiative in 2018. As of 31 December 2018, a total of 89 projects have been launched by the working committee for the initiative. Sweden has approximately 80 waste treatment plants, of which 29 made a joint investment of SEK 710,000 (710,000) in development projects in 2018. Here as well, the projects are more or less operational in nature. Since the start in 1997, 115 projects have been launched for around SEK 16.8 million.
**RESEARCH**

The results of Avfall Sverige’s development initiatives are presented first and foremost in the form of reports on Avfall Sverige’s website. See also the “Knowledge bank” section. Since 2008, the reports are distributed in electronic form only. Isolated reports and handbooks are also published in printed format. A total of 37 (38) reports were published in 2018. Other ways to communicate results and expertise from the reports are also used, such as theme days and courses, press releases, articles in the Avfall och Miljö magazine and on the website. Each report is summarised in English, and a small number of the reports are also published in English in their entirety. Beginning in 2019, the reports will also be summarised in simpler presentations and made available to all members.

Through its development activities, Avfall Sverige has become an important player for driving the industry forward and takes part in a number of initiatives in research and development at universities and institutes that are funded by other parties, mainly the Government.

**INTERNAL PROJECTS**

The 2013 annual meeting approved a revised allocation of fees, which permits the Avfall Sverige Administrative Office to carry out internal projects. This has made it possible to take rapid action to implement measures that will result in better service to our members. These projects may, for instance, be linked to activities arising from current policy issues or to targets or activities included in the business plan.

Templates, handbooks and guides published on Avfall Sverige’s website are examples of such initiatives. 123 projects have been carried out since the start in 2013.

**AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIPS**

Avfall Sverige has been awarding scholarships within the waste management field every year since 2005. The scholarships are awarded for the most deserving papers and degree projects at the undergraduate level at Swedish universities.

Decisions regarding scholarship recipients are made by the Development Committee, and 34 scholarships were awarded between 2005 and 2018. In 2018, three scholarships of SEK 15,000 each were awarded. The papers of the recipients dealt with reuse, practical measures for achieving a circular economy, and the recovery of metallic nickel from used nickel-metal hybrid batteries.

**RE:SOURCE**

The strategic innovation programme RE:Source was launched in 2016. The programme is backed by the Government through the Swedish Energy Agency, the Swedish Research Council Formas, and Vinnova. Avfall Sverige has been actively involved in the work of RE:Source. The first stage ran 2016–2018, and the entire programme is expected to run a total of twelve years. 29 projects were launched in 2018.

RE:Source is led by RISE in collaboration with Chalmers IndustriTeknik, IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute, and Swerea. Avfall Sverige is represented on the programme board of RE:Source through its Managing Director, who serves as vice chairman, as well as through member representatives. Many Avfall Sverige members also participate in various projects.

The priorities of the development initiative must reflect Avfall Sverige’s vision and long-term objectives. Updated focus areas for 2019:

- **Climate**
- **Resource-efficient recycling**
- **Changes in behaviour**
- **Digitisation**
Avfall Sverige publishes approximately 40 reports annually. Some 20 guides have also been published since 2010. Templates and handbooks are also important working materials for the employees of Avfall Sverige members, so they are updated continuously. The knowledge bank is a section of the website where Avfall Sverige members can download the materials.

A total of 37 reports covering the entire waste hierarchy, finances, organisation, etc. were published in 2018. A new guide was produced, and six guides were updated. In addition, one of Avfall Sverige’s most popular publications was updated – Handbook for waste disposal areas. A number of templates were also revised during the year to ensure compliance with new laws and ordinances.

Here is a selection of the reports from 2018:

MUNICIPALITIES’ ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN WASTE MANAGEMENT OF THE FUTURE
The report Kommunernas roll och ansvar i framtidens avfallshantering (2018:20) [Municipalities’ role and responsibility in waste management of the future] was drafted in collaboration with a large number of members through measures such as workshops at the annual meeting, working group activities and work in the Development Committee. The report presents general trends that affect the arena for future waste management, waste conditions and a summary of what we call “certain development” 2030. These general trends are described under four main sections. Many of the trends cannot be isolated to an individual area, but rather are intertwined with changes within other areas. However, the trends are described under four main headings for the sake of clarity:

- Digitisation
- Politics
- Sustainability
- People

The material is intended to serve as a basis for strategic dialogue on society’s future development and as a basis for further discussion on the role and responsibility that municipal waste organisations can take.

The report has been drafted in a format that enables it to be read like a traditional report while also serving as a basis for decision making in internal workshops and decision-making processes. As a supplement to the report, there is also a presentation that can be used in the municipalities’ internal work with their own future analysis.
HOW DO WE ACHIEVE FOSSIL-FREE WASTE INCINERATION? A SCENARIO ANALYSIS

The Riksdag has decided that Sweden shall not have any net emissions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere by 2045. To achieve this, waste incineration needs to be fossil-free. How can Sweden get to this point? Today, there is a myriad of products that are wholly or partly made of fossil plastics and that currently undergo energy recovery in Sweden’s waste incineration plants. Changing this requires strong measures with consequences for, e.g., the national economy, law and regulations for the trade and recycling of plastics.

Report 2018:28 explores various paths towards achieving fossil-free waste incineration. The study shows four alternative paths: phasing out fossil plastics through a ban, material recycling of all fossil plastics, a climate compensation fee on the sale of fossil plastics, or the unsorted export of all residual waste. The report’s conclusion is that a climate tax on the sale of fossil plastics is the most effective and reasonable measure. Those who make fossil plastic products available on the market in Sweden shall pay a climate compensation fee that compensates for their climate impact. The idea of a climate compensation fee was well received by the plastics committee of inquiry and has been included as one of the proposals to the Government.

SEVERAL REPORTS ON RECYCLING CENTRES

In 2018, a number of reports about recycling centres were published, including a manual for recycling centre design which is intended to provide support to those building a new or redesigning an existing recycling centre. The report is called “2018:32 Bygg en återvinningscentral! Uppdaterad manual för utformning av återvinningscentraler” [Build a recycling centre! Updated manual for recycling centre design]. The manual contains information on the normal structure of the design process and highlights what should be taken into account in order to create recycling centres that are fit for purpose. Focus is on planning and issues specific to recycling centres.

Another report about recycling centres, “2018:29 Potential för ökad återanvändning – fallstudie återvinningscentraler” [Potential for increased reuse – case study of recycling centres], investigated the bulky waste disposed of at Swedish recycling centres. The purpose was to investigate whether reuse would have been possible, and to investigate the incidence of hazardous substances in these products. The picking analyses showed that one out of every five products can be reused.

Further reports on recycling centres deal with barrier systems (report 2018:10), increased sorting of construction and demolition waste (report 2018:36), and good examples of mobile recycling centres (report 2018:37).
Knowledge building, competence and exchange of experiences

An important element of Avfall Sverige's mission is to increase knowledge and develop skills and competence within the industry. For this reason, it runs an extensive training programme through courses, theme days and conferences. In 2018, Avfall Sverige arranged 41 (30) training sessions in the form of courses, theme days and conferences to further enhance competence and increase the exchange of experiences in the industry.

In total, 2,078 people (1,833) took part in these events during the year. In addition, 435 (290) licences to its various web courses were sold in 2018.

Avfall Sverige members can also order customised courses. Three such courses were ordered in 2018.

The aim is for the training to maintain high quality and be useful in daily work. Evaluations show that ninety-eight percent of course participants recommend Avfall Sverige's courses and theme days to others.

CONFERENCES
- Member days, six occasions
- Report consultation conferences (packaging and newspaper collection), four occasions
- Annual meeting
- Autumn meeting

WEB COURSES
- Swedish waste management – an introduction
- Waste knowledge for politicians – an introduction
- Certified refuse collector
- The recycling centre driving licence

COURSES
- Exceptions to regulations and waste charges, two occasions
- Basic course in waste legislation
- Waste legislation, advanced course
- Basic course in waste planning
- Optimising of biogas processes
- Certification of digestate
- Landfill constructions
- Water management at waste treatment plants, advanced course
- Avfall Web
- Construction of tariffs
- Basic course in energy recovery, two occasions
- Explosives supervisor
- Handling hazardous household waste at recycling centres, two occasions
- Waste prevention – a course in coaching
- Personnel at recycling centres, two occasions

THEME DAYS
- Private sewers – draining techniques and functions for small sewers
- Grease separators and combination system for grease and food waste
- Waste planning – revised regulations and handbook
- Biogas sustainability criteria
- Methane and other emissions from biogas plants
- Current issues in waste treatment plants – contaminated soil and water
- Waste economics – accounting issues within the municipal waste industry, with a focus on accounting in relation to investments
- Agreement follow-up – what is the best way to follow up?
- Current issues in energy recovery
- Collaboration and communication

WEB SEMINAR
- Animal bioproducts – the regulations and biological treatment
Avfall Sverige's finances

REVENUE
Avfall Sverige’s activities are mainly budget-based and they follow the mission statement that is approved through the general budget at the annual meeting and through the detailed budget by Avfall Sverige’s Board. Revenues are made up, in basically equal proportions, of membership dues and fees on the one hand and income from commercial activities such as courses, conferences, consulting assignments, publications, etc., on the other. Income in 2018 amounted to SEK 47.8 million (51.5 million in 2017).

All members pay membership dues and a service fee. These fees for 2018 were increased by 2.2 percent compared with the previous year. Membership dues account for 10 percent of the total fee, while the service fee to the service company accounts for 90 percent. Dues and fees are established at the annual meeting.

Dues and service fees for municipal members (municipalities, municipal enterprises and similar) are based on the size of the population. The fee is degressive; that is, it decreases in proportion to the increase in the population. Municipal members’ dues and service fees correspond to SEK 1.0 per capita, on average. Municipal members also pay a development fee, which was SEK 1.0 (1.0) per capita in 2018 and SEK 0.3 per capita earmarked for internal development projects.

Within the biological treatment, energy recovery and waste treatment facility working groups, special development investments are also made by approximately 100 members. The investments are earmarked for projects within each of the fields. The funds, totalling SEK 5.1 million in 2018, are invested by the members of each working group and are not subject to a decision by the annual meeting.

For associate members (consultants, suppliers, contractors, recycling firms, etc.), the fee is a fixed charge at two levels, depending on the size of the company.

EXPENDITURE
Avfall Sverige’s costs consist mainly of operating expenses for projects and commercial activities. There are also the customary costs for premises, personnel, etc.

PROFIT AND LOSS
Turnover in 2018 amounted to around SEK 47.8 (51.1) million. The association Avfall Sverige and the service company Avfall Sverige AB are reporting a combined loss of SEK 0.2 million (profit SEK 0.02 million). Equity in the association and the company amounts to approximately SEK 12.8 million.

INCOME STATEMENT, (SEK million) (consolidated)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net sales</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership and service fees</td>
<td>15,467</td>
<td>17,194</td>
<td>16,662</td>
<td>17,157</td>
<td>16,971</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development &amp; information fee/project</td>
<td>8,263</td>
<td>9,770</td>
<td>9,297</td>
<td>10,803</td>
<td>8,786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste treatment plant, energy recovery, and biological treatment initiative</td>
<td>5,525</td>
<td>5,378</td>
<td>5,252</td>
<td>5,961</td>
<td>5,114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>18,518</td>
<td>18,753</td>
<td>17,368</td>
<td>17,597</td>
<td>16,946</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total net sales</strong></td>
<td>47,773</td>
<td>51,094</td>
<td>48,579</td>
<td>51,518</td>
<td>47,817</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Operating expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development &amp; information fee/project</td>
<td>-8,500</td>
<td>-10,061</td>
<td>-9,316</td>
<td>-10,774</td>
<td>-8,748</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waste treatment plant, energy recovery, and biological treatment initiative</td>
<td>-5,525</td>
<td>-5,375</td>
<td>-5,252</td>
<td>-5,812</td>
<td>-4,946</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other operating expenses</td>
<td>-13,784</td>
<td>-14,841</td>
<td>-13,461</td>
<td>-13,649</td>
<td>-12,295</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total operating expenses</td>
<td>-27,809</td>
<td>-30,277</td>
<td>-28,029</td>
<td>-30,235</td>
<td>-25,989</td>
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<td>Other external expenses</td>
<td>-3,309</td>
<td>-4,120</td>
<td>-4,083</td>
<td>-4,108</td>
<td>-4,523</td>
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<td>Personnel expenses</td>
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<td>-15,912</td>
<td>-16,817</td>
<td>-16,903</td>
<td>-17,498</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating profit/loss</td>
<td>-606</td>
<td>785</td>
<td>-350</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>-194</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial revenue/ expenses, net</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>-3.6</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Profit/loss after financial items</td>
<td>-145</td>
<td>899</td>
<td>-333</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>-194</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current tax</td>
<td>-92</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-89</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tax, previous year</td>
<td>-206</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred tax</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>-39</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROFIT/LOSS FOR THE YEAR</strong></td>
<td>-41</td>
<td>777</td>
<td>-262</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>-194</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equity</td>
<td>12,542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt/equity ratio</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. Initiatives are recognised as income in relation to marginal expenses from 2012. No Information fee 2013–2015. The overview is adjusted in accordance with consolidated accounting rules.
Organisation

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of Avfall Sverige is composed of 18 directors, ten of whom are elected representatives and eight of whom are civil servants. All have a mandate period of two years. The directors are active in municipalities, local government associations, or municipal enterprises and shall reflect the association’s members. The Board meets at least four times each financial year. Meetings are convened by the Chairman.

Elected representatives
- Claes Thunblad (Social Democratic Party), Chairman, Järfälla
- Robin Holmberg (Moderate Party), Vice Chairman, Ångelholm
- Johan Algernon (Moderate Party), Täby
- Robert Forsman (Green Party), Eskilstuna Energi & Miljö
- Per-Erik Johansson (Social Democratic Party), Vakin, Umeå
- Åsa Johansson (Social Democratic Party), Hagfors
- Pär Jönsson (Moderate Party), Östersund
- Steve Sjögren (Social Democratic Party), KSRR, Kalmar
- Anna Tenje (Moderate Party), Växjö
- Wendla Thorstensson (Centre Party), Sydönkarnes kommunalförbund

Civil servants
- Gunilla Carlsson, SYSAV, Malmö
- Mile Elez, Tekniska verken i Linköping
- Carina Färm, VafabMiljö, Västerås
- Agneta Lantto Forsgren, Skellefteå
- Lisbeth Martinsson Skinnar, Dala Vatten och Avfall, Leksand
- Lars Persson, Avfallshantering Östra Skaraborg, Skövde
- Vacant. Krister Schultz, Stockholm Vatten och Avfall, left the Board in December 2018
- Anders Åström, Renova, Gothenburg

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee has seven members. The Nominating Committee’s brief states that it should “strive to ensure that the structure of the board reflects the association’s membership in terms of its organisational structure, size and geographical distribution, and strive to achieve the most equal gender distribution possible.” The annual general meeting decides which members shall make up the Nominating Committee.

Members
- Mikael Gäfvert (Moderate Party), REKO Sundsvall, Convenor
- Christer Akej (Moderate Party), Österlens kommunala renhållning, Simrishamn
- Gun Eriksson (Social Democratic Party), Sigtuna
- Petra Rönnholm (Social Democratic Party), Ecocycle and Water, City of Gothenburg
- Elisabeth Johansson, Vakin, Umeå
- Pär Larsson, Karlstad Energi
- Kim Olsson, NSR, Helsingborg

AUDITORS

Avfall Sverige Audit Committee consists of an elected auditor, an authorised public accountant, and an alternate for these. The Managing Director and the Administrative Supervisor are co-opted to Audit Committee meetings. The Audit Committee meets twice a year, one of which is the final audit meeting.

Members
- Maria Antonsson (Green Party), Stockholm Vatten och Avfall
- Erik Mauritzson, Authorised Public Accountant, EY

Alternates
- Bo Jonsson (Centre Party), Västervik Miljö & Energi
- Thomas Hallberg, Authorised Public Accountant, EY
Tony Clark named Avfall Sverige's next managing director

On 30 June 2019, Weine Wiqvist will step down after 25 years as Managing Director of Avfall Sverige. His successor is Tony Clark, Senior Adviser at the Ministry of the Environment and Energy.

Tony Clark is a trained lawyer, but has great interest in environmental technology.

“Waste is an area where a lot of things are happening right now. Waste management as a whole is moving in a more sustainable direction. In terms of policy, there are many issues that are hot topics, and Avfall Sverige is one of the leading consulting partners for Swedish decision makers. So, I hope that my legal background will be put to good use,” says Tony Clark.

The EU waste package, which the Government Offices of Sweden is working to implement as we speak, will naturally make its mark on 2019. According to Tony Clark, this package can make Europe a global role model for circular economy.

“I believe that the waste industry will have a clearer educational role in showing the way we need to go through close dialogue with not only households and consumers but also producers.”
In 2018, Avfall Sverige's Administrative Office had 19 employees, of which two worked at the satellite office in Stockholm. The Administrative Office shares its office space with SABO.

**Weine Wiqvist**, Managing Director  
Direct line: +46 (0)40 35 66 05  
Mobile: +46 (0)708 93 15 99  
weine.wiqvist@avfallsverige.se

**Jessica Christiansen**  
Director of Training and Operational Development  
Direct line: +46 (0)40 35 66 18  
Mobile: +46 (0)706-69 36 18  
jessica.christiansen@avfallsverige.se

**Anna-Carin Gripwall**  
Director of Communication  
Direct line: +46 (0)40 35 66 08  
Mobile: +46 (0)706 62 61 28  
anna-carin.gripwall@avfallsverige.se

**Tony Clark**, Managing Director beginning 1 July  
Direct line: +46 (0)40 35 66 05  
tony.clark@avfallsverige.se

**Johan Fagerqvist**  
Advisory Consultant for Waste Treatment Plants  
Direct line: +46 (0)40 35 66 24  
Mobile: +46 (0)706-35 69 09  
johan.fagerqvist@avfallsverige.se

**Åsa Hagelin**  
Advisory Consultant for Waste Prevention and Reuse  
Mobile: +46 (0)705 53 15 45  
asa.hagelin@avfallsverige.se

**Josefin Berglund**  
Public Relations Officer, Editor of sopor.nu  
Direct line: +46 (0)40 35 66 07  
Mobile: +46 (0)705 35 66 37  
josefin.berglund@avfallsverige.se

**Aylin Farid**  
Advisory Consultant for Procurement Issues and Social Policy Advisor  
Mobile: +46 (0)720-62 40 40  
aylin.farid@avfallsverige.se

**Karin Jönsson**  
Editor of Avfall och Miljö, newsletter  
Direct line: +46 (0)40 35 66 17  
Mobile: +46 (0)706-26 40 99  
karin.jonsson@avfallsverige.se
Avfall Sverige is the municipalities’ trade association in the field of waste management and recycling. Avfall Sverige’s members ensure that waste is collected and recycled in all Swedish municipalities. We perform our work on behalf of society: in an environmentally sound, sustainable and long-term manner. Our vision is “Zero Waste”.

We are taking action to minimise waste, promote reuse and ensure that the waste produced is recycled, recovered and managed in the optimal manner. Municipalities and their enterprises are the ambassadors, catalysts and guarantors of this change.