

Chairman's Introduction

Ladies and Gentlemen. The panel discussion format is a new venture for this series of meetings. The subject is also new to us.

We have on the platform a number of people who are expert in this field of recycling. Each has prepared a substantial contribution, which has been preprinted and which will be presented in the usual way. The panelists cover a wide range of experience between them and the subjects of their more formal contributions were chosen in some cases, rather to obtain a good coverage of the subject, than because they were the first choices of their authors. Today's session is very much a team effort.

We have worked out a programme which has the following simple constraints:

1. The principal contributions are presented.
2. Some key points are properly discussed.
3. We finish on time.

The general idea is that the panelists will provide the nucleus of the discussion, but anyone from the floor is free to contribute.

The whole session is an experiment. If, afterwards, you have useful criticism; please let me know so that we can learn from experience.

The morning will be concerned with the more scientific aspects, the hour after lunch with the more technological points.

We will start now with a rapid review of the state of knowledge presented by Mr Howarth.