



INSTITUTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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# ANNUAL REPORT<sup>2014</sup>

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“SUCH EXPERTS AT THE TOP OF THEIR RESPECTIVE DISCIPLINES GIVE US AN INSIGHT INTO EXCITING NEW SCIENCE, BUT ALSO CHALLENGE US, AS GOOD COMMUNICATORS, TO RE-EVALUATE OUR OWN IDEAS.”



I am pleased to introduce the IES annual report for 2014, although this landmark event is tinged with some personal sadness as it brings me to the close of my three year service as Chair of Council, having previously held roles as Treasurer and Vice Chair.

Dr Heather Barrett-Mold  
Chair of Council, April 2015

## A note from our Chair

I must say it has been a real honour and such a pleasure to work with such a dedicated group of staff and trustees. This commitment is apparent in how much the Institution has moved forward over the last three years. There have been large increases in the number of members and those undertaking Charterships. The additional membership revenue has led to an increase and greater specialisation in the staff team, with an increased focus on policy, analysis, publications, regional events and social media.

Back in 2012 when I began my term as Chair, the UK was engrossed by the London Olympics – which could well be argued to be the most sustainable to date – and in 2013 the IES dedicated one of its journals to this debate. This issue of environmental SCIENTIST proved to be a very good example of the way our journals have become really accessible and attractive to read, without diluting the scientific content. The use of infographics and creative

graphic design has made a real difference to our publications and to the usability of our website.

Over the three years we have had some spectacular Burntwood lectures. In 2012 Paul Ekins, an economist specialising in sustainable development and co-founder of Forum for the Future, joined Michael Depledge, previously Chief Scientific Advisor to the Environment Agency and a member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, to discuss 'Revisiting Rachel: The Legacy of Silent Spring Fifty Years On'. In 2013 Julia Slingo, Met Office Chief Scientist, talked about climate modelling and its impact, and 2014 brought Steve Rayner, Professor of Climate Change, on 'Rethinking environmental problems'. Such experts at the top of their respective disciplines give us an insight into exciting new science, but also challenge us, as good communicators, to re-evaluate our own ideas. It seems that a new type of thinker, or at least 'thinking', is required to tackle environmental challenges.

We have been working on having more regional events and groups. This is an initiative which is taking hold as more of our members get involved. The most recent salary survey indicated that the gap between male and female salaries in the field has become greater and the IES will be researching areas of good practice, the results of which will be shared with employers.

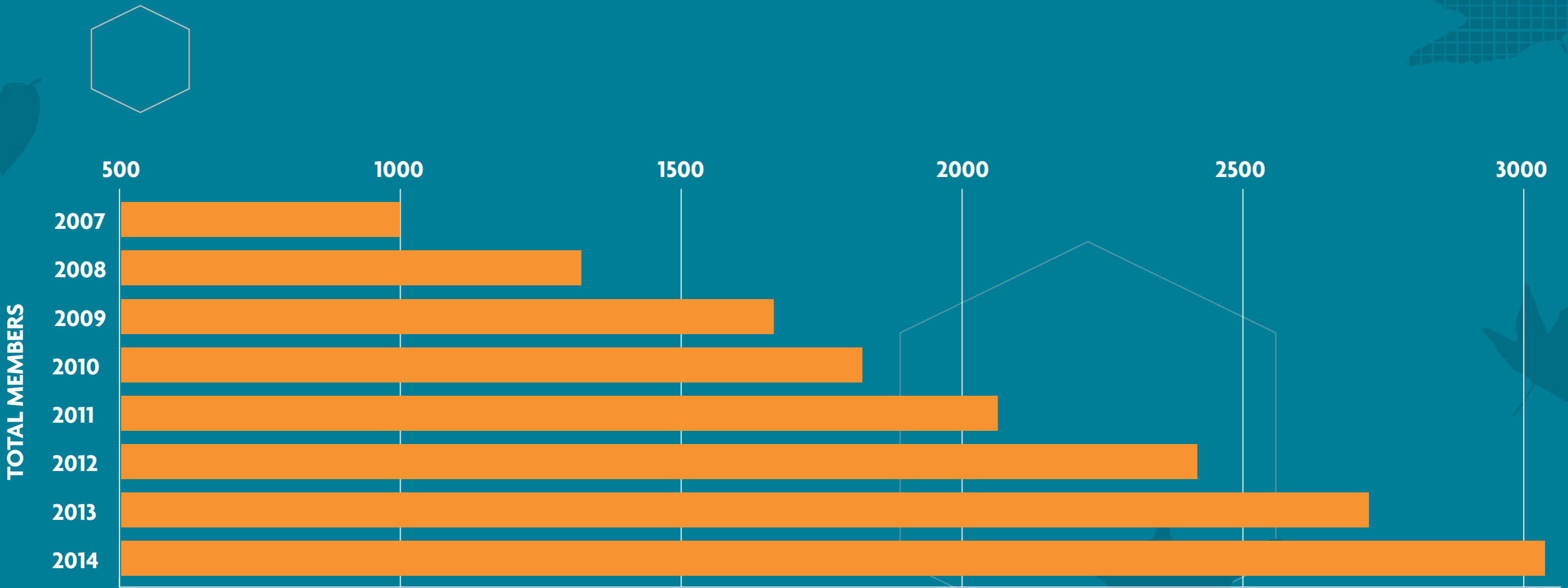
Thanks to the work of the staff and trustees, the IES is well positioned for its next phase of leadership. It is customary for the Vice Chair will step into the role of Chair, so Noel Nelson will be taking the Chair in May. Noel works for the Met Office and has specific expertise in atmospheric dispersion modelling and virus aerosol sampling. Whilst with the Met Office Noel was seconded to the air quality policy team at Defra as a science policy adviser and his close knowledge of government will be useful as the IES continues to develop its policy work.

Thanks to the work of the staff and trustees, the IES is well positioned for its next phase of leadership.

Whatever stage you are at in your career, the IES has membership services that will help you gain recognition and progress to the next level. Members come from all areas of the environment sector, wherever jobs are underpinned by science.

Growth in total IES membership in 2014: **12%**

Growth in IAQM membership in 2014: **7%**



## Aiding professional development

### Selected events from 2014

#### National Events

**July**

##### Air Quality and Road Transport

A joint event between the IAQM and Highways Agency on refinements to DMRB, mitigation measures, and the role of Euro VI/6.

**November**

##### Burntwood

Professor Steve Rayner explored why and how we should change the way we think about contemporary environmental challenges.

**December**

##### DMUG

This ever-popular one-day conference of the Dispersion Modellers User Group covered a broad range of air quality issues.

#### Regional Events

**September**

##### Midlands: Waste Management in the Oil & Gas Sector

Steve Filkin reviewed the environmental management challenges presented by the principal operations undertaken in the upstream sector.

**September**

##### North East: Personal Exposure Monitoring

Dr Anil Namdeo talked about cyclists' exposure to air pollution and his experience of monitoring in Mumbai, Jakarta, Tanzania and Newcastle.

**October**

##### South West: Fracking Seminar

Dr Mark Broomfield, Jenna Brown and Dr Enda Hayes attempted to explain what we do and don't know about fracking.

## environmental SCIENTIST

### The Energy Trilemma



This journal took a detailed look at the challenge of providing affordable energy, with security of supply and the minimum possible damage to the environment. It examines the energy mix in the UK and how legal reform and international policies will affect energy production in the future. It includes a range of case studies on renewable energy generation initiatives from across the UK.

### The Contentious Issue



Environmental scientists have probably been exposed to more than their fair share of controversy. Perhaps this should be expected: we are the canaries in the scientific coalmine, playing the part of an early warning system on behalf of the planet. This journal looked at some of the more contentious topical environmental issues, and how systems thinking can help scientists understand and solve these problems.

### Water Security



The articles in this issue provided insights into the many complex challenges that need to be addressed if we are to achieve global water security – from the impacts of waste disposal and abstraction on water quality and quantity, to the inherent difficulties and limitations of measuring water security and predicting future development paths and problems.

### The UK National Ecosystem Assessment: What Now?



This issue summarises the scope and outcomes of the UK National Ecosystem Assessment and the subsequent Follow-on report. This important work requires effective communication if we are to halt the decline of the natural environment. The overall UK NEA programme has made a promising start, one that is incumbent on the environment profession to advance to secure future wellbeing.

Average length (pages) of the environmental SCIENTIST

2008: 28 | 2010: 39 | 2012: 50 | 2014: 64

LOOKING THROUGH  
THIS LONG ROLL CALL OF  
MEMBERSHIP SERVICES I'M  
REMINDING OF THE PART  
WE PLAY IN CHAMPIONING  
OUR SECTOR, QUESTIONING  
PERCEIVED WISDOM,  
CHALLENGING  
ESTABLISHED NORMS AND  
IMAGINING A BETTER FUTURE



Each year I have the privilege to reflect back on the achievements of the IES, somehow trying to fit a long list of successes into 500 words.

Phil Holmes  
Honorary Secretary, April 2015

## Honorary Secretary's Report

Each year we build on our success with more activities and wider engagement. 2014 was no exception. Looking through this long roll call of events, journals, guidance and analysis I'm reminded of the part we play in championing our sector, questioning perceived wisdom, challenging established norms and imagining a better future. Not unlike those inhabitants of this island 800 years ago, establishing a rule of law, through Magna Carta, which placed justice at the heart of freedoms.

Sound justice is about critical debate and judgement of peers, and in various analysis pieces this year we examined just that - the debate around fracking was tackled as we delved into the positions on both sides and we examined the role of environmental science in the local community. We also 'set out the case' by creating fact sheets on nuclear energy and put on trial the Autumn Statement, asking what it meant for environmental scientists.

A central tenet of Magna Carta is the bringing together of peers. 2014 saw the IES excel at

this, holding events all over the country, with topics as diverse as waste, dust, fracking and odour. In November, in front of hundreds of our peers, as the keynote speaker at the Burntwood Lecture, Professor Steve Rayner challenged us to rethink environmental problems, to question the rules we follow to unpick the damage we are causing.

The environmental SCIENTIST, the IES's flagship journal, continued to ask the difficult questions, interrogating the science which underpins some of the key topics currently occupying the minds of our members. Water security, The Energy 'Trilemma' and even a provocatively titled "Contentious Issue" picked apart the positions for and against often complex cases of environmental decision making. As well as an exciting set of journals, we also published reports into the sector, in our own way helping to promote fairness and perhaps justice in our field. Information on sector salaries and finding employment after 50 was issued; invaluable when ensuring equality and progression in our careers.

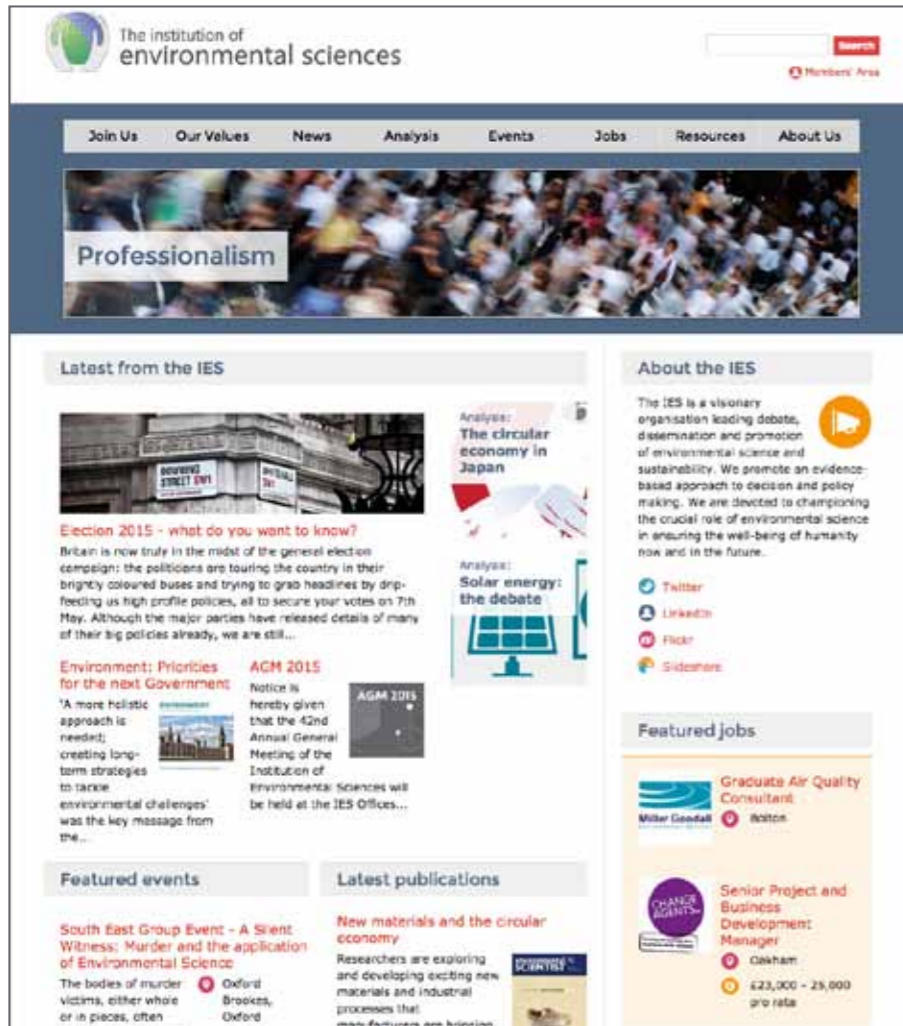
Great charters were also on the minds of our members, as the number of CEnv and CSci applications increased yet again, aided perhaps by the ever increasing resources on the IES website. This year our online presence gained a new jobs page, members area, regional groups and even a new domain [www.the-ies.org](http://www.the-ies.org).

My thanks this year go as usual to the IES Council who have helped shape this exciting period. In particular however I'd like to thank new members of the team, Robert Ashcroft (policy and publications), Emma Fell (events and marketing), as well as Ruth Bower and Darren Walker. Our CEO Adam Donnan should also get a mention, winning this year's Young Leader of the Year at the Associations Awards, well done!

800 years have passed since the signing of Magna Carta, which set in motion many of the freedoms and protections we, in this country, enjoy today. Although only being one 800th of that time, we believe in 2014 the IES has contributed to extending that protection to the environment and helped our members to find greatness too.

“Sound justice is about critical debate and judgement of peers, and in various analysis pieces this year we examined just that.”

## Website developments



### New website features in 2014

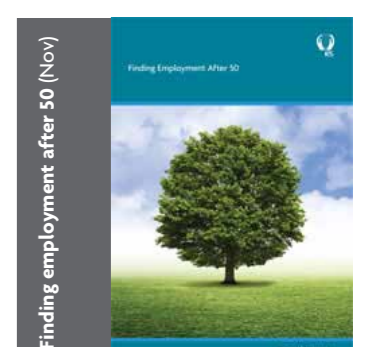
- Members' Area
- Online payments
- Move to a new website domain

### Analysis pieces in 2014

- Fracking: the debate
- Bringing environmental science to local community work
- Nature worth a lot more than nothing!
- Nuclear: the debate
- Biodiversity offsetting — help or hype?
- uHPHT oil and gas exploitation: the debate
- The end of a green Europe? The Juncker Commission
- Carbon capture and storage: the debate
- The end of a green Europe? The term of Janez Potocnik
- Wind energy: the debate
- What the Autumn Statement means for environmental scientists
- Science & Law Webinar

➤ 19% increase in the number of unique visitors a month in 2014 compared to the previous year

## Selected Reports



## Recognising excellent research



This year's winner of the IES's John Rose Award was Brett Sylvester Matulis from the University of Edinburgh. Brett's research takes a critical look at Payment for Ecosystem Service (PES) regimes, an approach to environmental management and conservation which has seen significant recent growth in popularity. Brett will be working closely with the IES team to produce a video of his work.

➤ 44% increase in the number of twitter followers (@ies\_uk) in 2014

## 14

## Past &amp; Present

2014 2015

## Over to You

We added the ability for members to log in to manage renewals online, as well as update personal details and access exclusive resources. We also moved to a new website domain.

## Younger and Older

We launched a new social media networking group to give a stream of useful resources to graduates, and focused on an often-neglected group: older members looking for work.

## Come Together

Our regional groups offered you the opportunity to meet local members, engage with local businesses and universities and network.

## Online Experience

We have now launched an online tool for members to record their CPD. In addition we will be fully integrating student access into the Members' Area so they can enjoy all our exclusive resources.

## Recognising Experience

We will be launching two new designations to ensure our members are recognised for their professional experience: the IES Lead Energy Assessor and Registered Environmental Technician.

## Better Together

We have launched a new special interest group on Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Conservation to coordinate our work in this area. We will be running events in every one of our regions in 2015.

## Unfolding Issues

The environmental SCIENTIST covered issues around Energy, Contentious Issues, Water Security and The National Ecosystem Assessment.

## Forging Lines

We are leading the review of government guidance in four key environmental areas, ensuring guidance is clear, concise and useful to business, professionals and the public.

## Member Events

Additional staff time will be spent engaging with members, finding out their needs and developing targeted resources.

## New Faces

We examined all our job roles and employed new staff in a number of areas to expand our membership offering.

## New Ventures

Following on from an initial publication on the circular economy, this year we are planning editions on future cities, the impact of environmental science research and environmental science beyond planet Earth.

## UK Election Time

As the UK prepares for one of its closest-run elections, the IES will be there to provide coverage and analysis of how the environment fares in the manifestos and any coalition agreement.

## Fit for Purpose?

We will be undertaking an in-depth strategic review to ensure that the IES is set up to meet member's needs and to tackle contemporary environmental challenges.

## New Starts

At the beginning of the year we moved to a new office with bigger meeting spaces to help with the expansion of our training programmes. We will be expanding our project office team later this year.



“IT FEELS LIKE THE IES IS IN RELATIVELY GOOD SHAPE WITH A MODERN GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE, AN AGILE MANAGEMENT, STRONG PROCESSES AND GOOD UTILISATION OF TECHNOLOGY. HOWEVER, THIS DOES NOT MEAN WE CANNOT IMPROVE.”



2015 has already seen a number of changes at the IES. Our CEO explains these changes and outlines what the year has in store for IES members.

Adam Donnan,  
CEO April 2015

## Redesigning the IES to face emerging challenges

There are numerous changes afoot at the IES in the early part of 2015. We have moved to a new office location near the Barbican in London. In a few weeks time we will be electing a new Chair and Vice Chair (the most important election taking place in May 2015!), appointing a new President, and we are in the process of launching two new designations, Registered Environmental Technician and IES Lead Energy Assessors. The modernisation of our website continues with the launch of our new CPD tool and we have big plans to keep the site as one of the leaders in the field.

I spent the second half of 2014 on part-time secondment as interim Chief Executive at the Society for the Environment. This gave me a valuable insight into how other professional bodies operate. There is a great deal of variability across the sector in how professional bodies are structured and how they approach the challenges facing their sector. Some have modernised and adapted, while others are still

locked in structures more suited for the siloed-thinking of the century in which they were founded.

It feels like the IES is in relatively good shape with a modern governance structure, an agile management, strong processes and good utilisation of technology. However, this does not mean we cannot improve. Environmental challenges are complex, multi-faceted and cross-professional. Our institutions need to mirror this if we are to fulfil our aim of creating a professional and empowered environmental sector. This is why in 2015 we will be undertaking a full strategic review to ensure that we are focusing on the right activity and spending our resources wisely to maximise impact. The review will draw on a wide range of opinions from stakeholders involved in the IES, including a membership engagement process, focus groups and dialogue with organisations we work with, such as NERC, the Environment Agency and Natural England.

My central concern is how we can improve our delivery of resources and services that are professionally and geographically relevant to members. We have made some important strides in these areas with the launch of our special interest groups and a greater focus on running events across the UK. Our thematic journals continue to draw wide praise and provide in-depth reviews of a wide variety of environmental topics. However, there is still much more that we can do. Available resources – both financial and human – are the critical factor in our ability to deliver this, and there is much that Members can do to help their institution in this regard. Getting involved in the running of our sector groups, recommending the IES to friends and colleagues, and by volunteering your time to help us with publications, blogs, webinars and guidance can enrich your experience of being part of a professional association. Together we can push the sector forward and ensure the IES and the environmental profession can continue going from strength to strength.

“My central concern is how we can improve our delivery of resources and services that are professionally and geographically relevant to members.”



21%

Increase in funding  
for publications and  
services for members

## For the year ended 30 June 2014

### Statement of financial activities July 2013 - June 2014

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2014 £	Total 2013 £
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i>				
Voluntary income	4,250	-	<b>4,250</b>	8,126
Investment income	120	-	<b>120</b>	133
Incoming resources from charitable activities	200,805	-	<b>200,805</b>	176,654
Other incoming resources	-	-	-	10,170
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>205,175</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>205,175</b>	<b>195,083</b>
<i>Resources expended</i>				
Funded projects	-	-	-	23,460
Publications & services for members	190,578	3,854	<b>194,432</b>	149,485
Conferences & consultancy	24,607	-	<b>24,607</b>	18,323
Governance costs	4,134	-	<b>4,134</b>	3,637
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>219,319</b>	<b>3,854</b>	<b>223,173</b>	<b>194,905</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(14,144)</b>	<b>(3,854)</b>	<b>(17,998)</b>	<b>178</b>
Fund balances at 1 July 2013	108,114	3,854	<b>111,968</b>	111,790
<b>Fund balances at 30 July 2014</b>	<b>93,970</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>93,970</b>	<b>111,968</b>

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

## Sister organisations

### IAQM

Air quality remained high on the agenda in 2014 with a number of high profile air pollution episodes. National and local governments continue to struggle with air quality challenges. The IAQM aims to maintain, enhance and promote the highest standards of working practices in the field and to keep our members informed and engaged so the voices of professionals remain paramount in this debate.

In 2014 the IAQM published two pieces of guidance to aid our members in discharging their professional duties. The first was *Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction* in February and *Guidance on the Assessment of Odour for Planning* in May. We also began consultation on an update to the EPUK & IAQM guidance document on Land-Use Planning and Development Control and Dust from Mineral and Waste Sites, both of which will be published this year.

### GROWTH OF IAQM MEMBERSHIP IN 2014: 7%

These guidance documents both had well attended launch events and throughout the year we also ran DMUG 2014, an event in conjunction with the Highways Agency on air quality and road transport and a regional meeting on personal exposure monitoring. Our AGM was a highlight of the year, with Joan Walley MP (Environmental Audit Committee), Councillor Stephen Knight (London Assembly Environment Committee Chair), and Ruth Calderwood (City of London) debating 'what should be done to improve air quality?'.  
  
IAQM argued for the positive role that regulation can have when underpinned by a strong input from the air quality profession. An important output from this work was our provision of evidence to the Environmental Audit Committee for their report, *Action on Air Quality*, and we were pleased that our evidence was mentioned in the report.

### CHES

2014 was a busy year for our accreditation programme. CHES accredited or reaccredited five Bachelor-level and six Masters-level programmes. The CHES/IES accreditation scheme continues to be the accreditation programme of choice for environmental science and related programmes.

### 75 PROGRAMMES ACCREDITED ACROSS 25 UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

CHES played a leading role in the QAA Earth Science, Environmental Science and Environmental Study (E3) benchmarking review. The review group was chaired by the CHES Chair, Professor Phil Wheeler, who was joined on the panel by CHES executive member, Dr Diane Purchase. We were also pleased to reintroduce a valued membership service: the CHES external examiners database.

In November we held our AGM in Manchester on the topic of 'Shaping our environmental future'. The event explored the role CHES has in influencing curriculum, campus sustainability, and determined what research we should be undertaking.

This year we will be launching a new website and looking to replicate some of the useful services that were previously supplied by the HEA through the GEES subject discipline lead. We would like to thank Phil Wheeler for his skilful leadership of the committee, Diana Purchase for writing our newsletters, and all the CHES committee for their valuable voluntary input.

## Council Officers & Staff Members

**Senior Vice President:** John Baines MBE

**Vice Presidents:** Jenny Blumhof, Mark Everard, Jim Longhurst, William Pope, Carolyn Roberts

**The Honorary Officers of Council, who are also Council Members, from the 2014 AGM were:**

**Chair:** Heather Barrett-Mold FIEnvSc CEnv CSci

**Vice Chair:** Noel Nelson MIEnvSc MIAQM

**Honorary Secretary:** Phil Holmes MIEnvSc

**Honorary Treasurer:** David Muir MIEnvSc FIAQM CEnv CSci

**Company Secretary:** Jim Longhurst FIEnvSc CEnv CSci

**The Members of Council from the 2014 AGM were:**

Dr Heather Barrett-Mold FIEnvSc CEnv CSci  
Mrs Jennifer Blumhof FIEnvSc CEnv CSci  
Mr Roger Barrowcliffe MIEnvSc MIAQM CSci  
Dr John Burns MIEnvSc CEnv CSci  
Dr Mark Everard FIEnvSc CEnv CSci

Mr Phil Holmes MIEnvSc

Professor James Irwin FIEnvSc MIAQM

Professor James Longhurst FIEnvSc CEnv CSci

Dr David Muir MIEnvSc FIAQM CEnv CSci

Professor Noel Nelson MIEnvSc MIAQM

Professor William Pope FIEnvSc CEnv

Dr Laurie Richards MIEnvSc CEnv

Professor Carolyn Roberts FIEnvSc CEnv CSci

Dr Pete Shaw FIEnvSc CSci

Professor Phil Wheeler FIEnvSc CSci

Dr Jim Whelan MIEnvSc CEnv CSci

**Staff members and contractors on 31st December 2014 consisted of:**

**Chief Executive Officer:** Adam Donnan

**Policy & Publications Officer:** Robert Ashcroft

**Project & Membership Officer:** Ruth Bowyer

**Marketing & Events Manager:** Emma Fell

**Graphic Designer:** Darren Walker

**Journal Sub Editor:** Caroline Beattie

[www.the-ies.org](http://www.the-ies.org)

IES is a member of the following organisations:

