



environmental  
services  
association

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR PERMITTING OVERHAUL TO SUPPORT GREEN RECOVERY**

**Wednesday 01 July 2020:** The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today called for an overhaul of permitting to support the green recovery.

**Responding to the Prime Minister's announcement today setting out the Government's post-coronavirus economic recovery plan, Executive Director of the Environmental Services Association (ESA), Jacob Hayler said:**

"The environmental services sector stands ready to help the Government "build, build, build" and to help create a fairer, greener and more resilient economy in the aftermath of the coronavirus crisis. ESA members have invested more than £5 billion in new recycling, waste treatment, sustainable energy and sanitation infrastructure over the past decade, and are poised to deliver millions of pounds of further investment in shovel-ready projects and green jobs around the country, particularly in regions in need of assistance to 'level up' the UK. We have already written to Government setting out our potential role in the Green Recovery and our pipeline of projects for the next 12 months and beyond.

To unlock our investment potential in green infrastructure, our sector needs clarity over the final shape of the Government's Resources & Waste Strategy this year and the removal of significant barriers in the regulatory process caused by a lack of permitting capacity at the Environment Agency, which is currently resulting in vital projects being unnecessarily delayed for months and, in some cases, years. What should be a fifteen-week process can currently take closer to fifteen months and unless permitting capacity is increased, this will constrain our ability to support a near-term green recovery to the fullest extent."

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### Notes to editors:

1. The **Environmental Services Association** (ESA) is the trade association representing the UK's resource and waste management industry, which is leading the transformation of how the UK's waste is managed.
2. We work with all levels of government, regulators and the public to deliver a more sustainable waste and resource management solution for the UK. ESA's recent Circular Economy report '*Going for Growth – A practical route to a circular economy*', which outlines how a Circular rather than a linear economy can help manage resources sustainably, can be downloaded [here](#).
3. ESA's Members manage waste on behalf of the whole of society and we are recovering more than ever before. For example, the industry has helped quintuple the UK's household recycling rates over the last decade.
4. **The sector at a glance**
  - Total turnover: **£11 billion**
  - Direct Employment: **106,000 people** (*including waste collection, treatment and materials recovery*)
  - Municipal waste handled each year: **27 million tonnes**
  - Energy generated (across landfill gas, anaerobic digestion and energy from waste) each year: **approximately 11,867 GWh**, which is 3.5% of the UK's electricity
    - **9,083 GWh of that was renewable electricity** (taking out non-biodegradable portion of EfW) which is **11%** of UK's renewable electricity
  - Greenhouse **gas emissions down by 70% since 1990**.
  - The **top seven companies account for approximately 40% of turnover**. Many hundreds of SMEs provide either localised or more specialised services
  - Waste & recycling is the **most highly rated of all council services** by the public (2016 survey)

For further details please visit [www.esauk.org](http://www.esauk.org)

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