



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS STATEMENT

ESA: HM Treasury must help boost recycling investment

LONDON, 26 October 2018: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today has called for the Treasury to help create the right policy environment to boost recycling and attract much-needed investment into the waste and recycling industry.

ESA's Executive Director Jacob Hayler said:

"Recycling rates have plateaued in recent years, and without intervention, they will go into reverse. There are strong signs that HM Treasury is taking notice of the need to act."

ESA would like to see new measures in the Budget to encourage the use of recycled content, and to stop packaging being placed on the market which is simply impossible to recycle. Higher recycling rates will only be achieved if we have end markets for materials and products which can be recycled in the first place.

"We look forward to seeing what the Chancellor proposes on Monday, and continuing to work with HM Treasury to make the UK a world leader in resources and waste management."

ENDS

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

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