



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS STATEMENT

ESA welcomes Chief Scientific Adviser's report "From Waste to Resource Productivity"

LONDON, 14 December 2017: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today welcomed publication of the report "*From Waste to Resource Productivity*", written by the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser Sir Mark Walport and Professor Ian Boyd, Defra's Chief Scientist.

While not itself a statement of government policy, the ESA welcomes this long-awaited report as an important ingredient in the formulation of Defra's resources and waste strategy due out in 2018.

ESA's Chairman Dr Stewart Davies said:

"This report is timely, following on from publication of the Government's Industrial Strategy at the end of last month, and sends a consistent message about the need to improve UK resource productivity. It provides another important building block as we move towards development of Defra's resources and waste strategy next year."

"The Chief Scientific Advisers have rightly identified that leadership and direction from government is an essential ingredient in improving resource productivity at all levels – through a new strategy, better data, promoting innovation, and facilitating a more equitable distribution of responsibilities along supply chains. Equally, the report identifies important actions for businesses, including some key sectors, as well as for citizens, cities and local government."

“As I have said previously, industry-government collaboration will be key in making progress on this agenda. We need now to convene business sectors across supply-chains, along with relevant government departments, in a resource productivity forum, to ensure the insights in this report are thoroughly discussed to inform the approach to the Government’s resources and waste strategy.”

The report can be downloaded from the .Gov.uk website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/from-waste-to-resource-productivity>

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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 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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