



environmental  
services  
association

## ESA PRESS STATEMENT

# ESA welcomes the Secretary of State's leadership on the environment

**LONDON, 16 July 2019:** The UK's waste and recycling sector has today responded to Michael Gove's speech at Kew Gardens setting out the UK Government's ambition for the environment.

The Environmental Services Association (ESA), which represents the resources and waste industry, has welcomed the ambition and commitment to tackle climate change and improve our natural environment. In particular, greater producer responsibility and a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) have the potential to accelerate our transition to a circular economy, but the reforms must work together.

ESA's Executive Director, Jacob Hayler said:

*"The Secretary of State has today made a bold and important commitment to making producers pay the full cost of managing the packaging they place on the market of its end of life. This is something that ESA members have long called for, and we are delighted that the Government has listened. As ever, the detail will be crucial to making the new packaging producer responsibility system work in practice, and we look forward to our continued collaboration with Government on this."*

*"A DRS has the potential to work as part of a package of measures within the Resources & Waste Strategy to capture those materials that are commonly littered or not recycled. However, we are surprised that the Secretary of State has made such a decisive conclusion on its scope when much of the detail of the new producer responsibility scheme has yet to be developed and agreed. It is important that interactions between a DRS and a new producer responsibility scheme are fully analysed to ensure that all parts of the system work together to achieve the best environmental outcomes."*

*"And of course all this must be underpinned by a strong Environment Bill that that sets a clear long-term direction of travel and the governance structures to hold everyone to account. We look forward to reading the full Environment Bill to ensure it does just that."*

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## 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](http://www.esauk.org)

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