



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS STATEMENT

ESA calls for 25 year Waste and Resources Plan following Gove speech

LONDON, 24 July 2017: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, has today called on Defra to develop a distinct 25 Year Plan for resources and waste, following Michael Gove's recent speech about UK environment policy post Brexit.

ESA Chairman, Dr. Stewart Davies, commented:

"I was most encouraged that the Secretary of State's speech last Thursday (21st July) referred to a "renewed strategy on waste and resources that looks ahead to opportunities outside the EU." ESA looks for this to be taken forward now and for Defra to demonstrate focus and urgency in championing the waste and resource management sector, for which it is the Whitehall sponsor.

The ESA sees an urgent need for a waste and resources strategy from government to address the looming treatment capacity gap: the industry thinks that by 2030 we will end up around 5 million tonnes p.a. short of treatment infrastructure as 80% of landfill capacity is expected to close by then. A waste and resources strategy is also needed so that Defra can align other government initiatives (Industrial Strategy; National Infrastructure Assessment; Clean Growth Plan) involving the sector that are already taking shape.

ESA looks forward to engaging with Defra and would commit the necessary time and expert resource to work with the department to develop a 25 year Waste and Resources Plan in parallel with the 25 year Environment Plan already in preparation."

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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

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