



environmental
services
association

PRESS COMMENT

Environmental Services Association (ESA) welcomes inclusion of Environment Bill set out in Queen's Speech 2019

LONDON, 14 October 2019: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, has welcomed the inclusion of the Environment Bill in today's Queen's Speech.

Earlier today, HM The Queen announced that "environmental principles will be enshrined in law" for the first time and that the legislative agenda for the next session of Parliament will include measures to improve air and water quality, tackle plastic pollution, and restore habitats. According to the Queen's Speech, new legislation will be introduced to create legally-binding environmental improvement targets, and a new "world-leading" independent regulator will be established to scrutinise environmental policy and law; investigate complaints; and take enforcement action.

Executive Director of the Environmental Services Association, Jacob Hayler, said:

"We welcome the prominence of environmental protection in the legislative agenda for the next session of Parliament, as set out in the Queen's Speech today. If implemented correctly, a new Environmental Bill could unlock billions in new investment in the UK by the environmental services sector which, in turn, will help Government deliver on its ambitious plans to reduce waste; preserve natural resources; tackle the scourge of litter polluting our natural environment; and tackle waste crime – among wider environmental goals related to air quality, nature and water preservation and CO2 reduction.

Introduced in 1996, the Landfill Tax was a well-designed, effective, instrument which provided long-term legislative and economic clarity, thereby allowing our sector to invest billions over the past decade into new recycling and waste management infrastructure - reducing carbon emissions, moving waste material up the waste hierarchy and improving recycling rates from around 11 per cent in 2000 to nearly 50 per cent today.

Under the resources and waste strategy, major new reforms are coming which will have a profound impact on producers and the way things are made; how we collect materials when they are discarded; how we treat those materials and how waste services are funded. This will require major change and investment from the environmental services sector and the Environment Bill must provide the new legislative framework which will underpin this next phase of investment. ESA members have committed

to investing ten billion in the UK over the next ten years, if given the right policy framework, which will create 50,000 jobs and deliver more than 40 million tonnes of CO2 savings.

The bill, if designed properly, will also help to protect this new investment made by our sector, by levelling the playing field and providing Government with new powers to tackle waste crime, which not only harms the environment, but costs the UK economy £600 million a year; undermines the sector; and threatens investment by legitimate operators.

We look forward to working with Government to ensure that the content of the bill will deliver on the shared environmental ambitions of both the Government and environmental services sector – by helping businesses in our sector plan effectively and invest with confidence.”

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. All of our reports and publications are available to view and download from our website.
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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