



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS STATEMENT

ESA calls for health and safety improvements across the sector

LONDON, 02 November 2017: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, has stated that today the industry's health and safety record shows little sign of improvement, with data published yesterday by HSE revealing an injury rate of 1800 (per 100,000 employees), which equates to a 3% decrease in injuries on the previous year.

Stephen Freeland, ESA's H&S Policy Advisor said:

“For too long now, the waste management industry has continued to lag behind other sectors and with little indication that the overall safety record for the industry as a whole is showing any sign of meaningful improvement.

For ESA these statistics are rather disappointing and don't seem to reflect progress we've been making in recent years. In fact, our forward thinking approach to health and safety has seen ESA Members reduce injuries by 37% over the two years since 2014.

It is nonetheless clear that the industry as a whole has much to do to reverse the trend identified in HSE's statistics, and for its part ESA will continue to ensure best practice and 'lessons learnt' are disseminated more widely across the industry for the benefit of all. To accompany HSE's press release, ESA has prepared a briefing explaining its approach to health and safety and the progress achieved in recent years.”

The ESA's briefing note can be found here:

http://www.esauk.org/esa_policies/people_health_and_safety/20171101_ESA_focus_on_health_and_safety_performance_in_the_waste_and_resource_management_industry.pdf

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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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