



environmental  
services  
association

## ESA PRESS STATEMENT

# ESA welcomes Budget proposals to boost plastics recycling

**LONDON, 29 October 2018:** The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today welcomed announcements in the Budget to tax plastic packaging that contains less than 30% recycled content.

ESA's Executive Director, Jacob Hayler said:

*"The industry has long been calling for measures to support end markets for recycling. Today the Chancellor has listened, and we welcome proposals to introduce a new tax on plastic packaging that contains less than 30% recycled content. Without stimulating the demand for recycled material, higher recycling rates will be unachievable.*

*"We are pleased that the Treasury has recognised that this is the most effective way to ensure the right incentives are in place for recycling, rather than to penalise Energy from Waste. An incineration tax would only burden local authorities and industry without doing anything to support greater recycling, and we are glad that the Treasury recognises the importance of Energy from Waste in sustainable waste management.*

*"This Budget has provided positive signs that the Government is taking seriously the need to manage our resources and waste carefully. We look forward to working with the Treasury on implementing a new plastics packaging tax to deliver a more circular economy."*

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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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