



environmental  
services  
association

## Media release

For immediate release – Friday 27 November 2020

### Veolia's Gavin Graveson named new ESA chairman

The Environmental Services Association (ESA) Annual General Meeting on Friday 27 November 2020 marked the transfer of the ESA's chairmanship to Gavin Graveson, Executive Vice President of UK and Ireland for Veolia, who will take on the role for the next two years – taking over from outgoing chairman, Phil Piddington (Viridor).

As the new chairman, Gavin Graveson will continue and extend the important activities of the association, including working with Defra and other stakeholders on the detail behind the Resources and Waste Strategy, with the next round of consultations due in spring 2021. The introduction of the Plastic Packaging Tax in April 2022 will also see consultation with the Treasury to help boost recycling rates and drive investment in UK recycling infrastructure.

Other key areas of business will include:

- Managing the industry challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and Brexit on 1 January 2021
- A new strategy driving higher standards with common, consistent reporting for Health and Safety
- Working more closely with the Environment Agency on regulation to overcome challenges around permitting delays and inconsistent enforcement
- Addressing the practical issues regarding contamination levels and changes to the Basel Convention that will affect exports
- Ensuring that ESA Members set the gold standard for energy from waste operations and support connections to district heating

**Commenting on his new role Gavin Graveson said:** *"I would like to thank Phil for his commitment and achievements as well as the resilience shown by ESA members as key workers during the pandemic.*

*The industry stands poised to play a vital role in decarbonising the UK, ahead of COP26 next year. The public are really engaged on the topic of carbon and climate change, and we should be proud of what we've done to cut emissions. But we can also do more, and I'm excited by the work the recently created ESA Climate Change Working Group are doing, and will look to drive this agenda forward to build a better, more circular and sustainable future."*

**Phil Piddington, said:** *"It's been a fascinating period to be Chair of the ESA and I think the organisation has been very successful at talking to Government, and other stakeholders like the EA and HSE, to share*

*our collective experience and make sure the sector's voice has been heard – which we can see largely reflected in the direction of travel for the Resources and Waste Strategy.*

*I would like to thank the other board members, the ESA officer team and all the other members involved in the ESA's working groups and to welcome Gavin as the organisation's new chair. I wish him well and know he'll tirelessly drive delivery of the ESA's strategic priorities on behalf of all of us."*

**ESA Executive Director, Jacob Hayler, said:** *"I would like to thank Phil for his time as ESA chairman over the past two years, and for helping the organisation to deliver much of the important work outlined in our first Annual Report. We look forward to working closely with Gavin to deliver our new organisational strategy as ESA members continue to gear up for the biggest policy shake-up in a generation, while also leading our sector's pursuit of net-zero carbon emissions."*

**ENDS**

#### **Notes to editors:**

The **Environmental Services Association** (ESA) elects a chairman from within its board membership every two years. Phil Piddington has been Chairman since 2018. **You can access a short film [here](#)** of new ESA Chairman, Gavin Graveson, thanking Phil and setting out the agenda for the ESA for 2021. Please feel free to embed or include a link to this in any coverage.

The ESA is the trade association representing the UK's resource and waste management industry, which is leading the country's transition to a more circular economy.

ESA members have invested billion over the past decade to drive more and more waste material further up the waste hierarchy – helping to dramatically increase the national recycling rate and minimise waste sent to landfill.

Collectively, as of 2020, our members employ 43,000 people in the UK (more than a third of the entire sector) and have an annual turnover in excess of £7.5 billion – serving more than 300,000 public and private sector customers.

For further details please visit [www.esauk.org](http://www.esauk.org)

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