



environmental  
services  
association

## **ESA PRESS STATEMENT**

# **ESA WELCOMES LONDON ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON PUTTING LONDON'S RESOURCES TO BEST USE**

**LONDON, 22 March 2018:** The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today welcomed many of the recommendations in the London Assembly Environment Committee's report on how London should make better use of its resources.

ESA's Executive Director Jacob Hayler said:

*"The report makes some important recommendations that should be taken seriously by the Mayor, particularly on waste prevention and recycling. We are pleased to see the Committee has joined us in lobbying for increased producer responsibility for packaging in order to reduce plastic waste. This will put the right incentives in place to encourage waste minimisation and high quality recycling.*

*"The report also rightly recognises that the Mayor will need to support the construction and use of waste facilities if London is to be self-sufficient in managing its own resources. However, the Committee is still sending mixed messages on the role of Energy from Waste (EfW). On the one hand it states it has benefits, but it with the other it points to the environmental and financial costs. These costs however are significantly less than those associated with landfill, which is the alternative for non-recyclable waste. Moreover, the report fails to put EfW emissions into context, and in the case of NOx makes a false comparison with articulated lorries which are of course restricted in many areas in London. Road traffic in general across the UK emits 45 times more NOx than the UK's EfW plants. The Committee would do well to*

***contextualise its information better to avoid undermining its own calls for investment in much-needed waste infrastructure.”***

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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 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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