



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS STATEMENT

ESA welcomes the new Defra Secretary of State

LONDON, 16 July 2019: The UK's waste and recycling sector has today welcomed the Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP as Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The Environmental Services Association (ESA), which represents the resources and waste industry, has today written to the new Secretary of State to congratulate her on her role at Defra, and offer help in developing ambitious policy to deliver the resource efficient, zero carbon economy of the future.

The letter from ESA's Executive Director, Jacob Hayler, expressed support for the Resources and Waste Strategy, stating:

"The Government's recent consultations on producer responsibility for packaging, consistent collections, a plastics packaging tax, and a deposit return scheme all present a bold and exciting direction of travel for our industry. One which our members – as the key businesses working to deliver your vision – want to help Government grasp."

The letter went on to highlight the importance of collaborating with industry to create investable conditions to make the ambitions a reality:

"In order to unlock investment, long-term policy and regulatory clarity is required. It is therefore vital that the industry, with its track record for delivering investment in UK recycling and recovery, has the opportunity to work with you on the development of detailed proposals under the Resources and Waste Strategy."

The letter concluded:

"Together we can achieve the much more resource efficient, viable, and zero carbon economy to make post-Brexit Britain a success."

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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 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

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