



environmental
services
association

PRESS COMMENT

ESA CALLS FOR FLY-TIPPING TO BE TACKLED “HEAD-ON”, FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF ANNUAL STATISTICS

LONDON, 8 November 2019: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK’s resource and waste management industry, has responded to today’s publication of national fly-tipping incident data by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), which shows a stark rise in the number of reported incidents in England.

Executive Director of the Environmental Services Association, Jacob Hayler, said:

“The dramatic year-on-year increase revealed by Defra’s statistics provide a stark indication that fly-tipping in England is out of control, at over a million incidents a year.

The annual financial cost of this crime to society, at over £200 million a year, is simply unacceptable, and that’s before the hidden, less easily quantified, costs to the environment and local communities are considered.

These worrying figures are further evidence, if any was required, of the urgent need for more robust enforcement, as well as progress on new policy to reform the waste-carriers regime and introduce greater producer-responsibility. Such measures could not only help provide funding to clear up fly-tipped waste, but also help to keep criminals out of our sector.

These measures should be supported by well-funded communications campaigns to raise awareness of the issue and to ensure that householders in particular take greater responsibility for the waste they produce. Until this is tackled head on, I fear we will continue to see these depressing statistics.”

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. All of our reports and publications are available to view and download from our website.
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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