



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS STATEMENT

ESA: contrary to Mayor of London's view, London needs more waste facilities

LONDON, 21 May 2019: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, has today responded to the Mayor of London's statement on Energy from Waste (EfW) in London.

ESA's Executive Director, Jacob Hayler said:

"It is a shame that the Mayor of London is so ill-informed about the role and benefits of energy from waste facilities as part of a circular economy. These facilities are vital for preventing non-recyclable wastes from ending up in landfill. Contrary to the Mayor's statement, the emissions from these plants are among the most tightly regulated of any industrial installations in Europe, and therefore the world."

"The proposed development would bring investment and jobs to London and would save over 200kg of CO2 for every tonne of material diverted from landfill. It is a win-win for the environment and the economy."

"We sincerely hope, for the benefit of Londoners, that this investment in much needed new waste treatment capacity is granted."

The Mayor's statement can be found here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/stop-allowing-new-toxic-waste-incinerators>

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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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