



environmental  
services  
association

## Media statement

Under embargo until 00.01 on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

# ESA welcomes Policy Connect EfW report

**LONDON**, 16 July 2020, The Environmental Services Association (ESA) has today welcomed a new report entitled *No Time to Waste – Resources, Recovery & the Road to Net-Zero*, published by independent policy think-tank, Policy Connect. The report presents important recommendations for the future role of Energy-from-Waste infrastructure in the United Kingdom.

**Executive Director of the Environmental Services Association (ESA), Jacob Hayler, said:** *“As Policy Connect’s timely report concludes, energy recovery has an important role to play in the transition to a stronger, more sustainable, low-carbon economy and can help Britain Build Back Better in the aftermath of the Coronavirus Crisis.*

*The report shows that Energy-from-Waste (EfW) infrastructure provides the most cost-effective and lowest carbon solution for household and municipal waste as the UK transitions to decarbonised heat and power by 2050. Our sector will continue in our efforts to drive up recycling and to remove as much plastic from the residual waste stream as possible, but we must stop sending non-recyclable waste abroad and instead make better domestic use of this source of heat and power domestically.*

*ESA members have already invested billions to build Britain’s current EfW infrastructure, but there is still a capacity-gap, which is why millions of tonnes of rubbish is still sent to landfill or exported as Refuse Derived Fuel. To support the industry in making this further investment, we agree with the report’s recommendations that Government should publish a clear policy position outlining the future role of EfW as the best available treatment technology for residual waste, as well as a clear roadmap showing a pragmatic and carefully-managed transition to a net-zero circular economy.*

*Making the most of EfW heat is also critical to maximising the benefit of this technology and we support Policy Connect’s recommendations for government to join the sector in our efforts to remove the current barriers to successful heat offtake.*

**ENDS**

## Notes to editors:

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. 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 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.

### 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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