



environmental  
services  
association

## **ESA PRESS COMMENT**

# ***Litter strategy misses opportunity to ramp up role of EPR schemes says ESA***

**LONDON, 10 April 2017:** The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today commented on the governments new anti-littering strategy, launched today.

ESA's Executive Director, Jacob Hayler said:

*“The Litter Strategy outlines a number of proposals which will we hope will have a positive impact by reducing the amount of litter discarded in the UK. However, there is some uncertainty as to how the proposals outlined in the strategy will be funded and we think the Strategy has missed an opportunity to highlight in more detail the important role that extended producer responsibility schemes could play.*

*ESA's Policy Paper published last year 'The Role of Extended Producer Responsibility in Tackling Litter in the UK' highlighted that transferring the cost of preventing and clearing up the some of the most littered items in the UK such as cigarettes and chewing gum alone could save Local Authorities in the region of £300 million each year in clean up costs.*

*Introducing producer responsibility levies on the manufacturers of some of these most frequently littered items would free up resources for to cover both enforcement and litter clean up costs as well as to fund anti litter campaigns.”*

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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 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](http://www.esauk.org)

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