



scottish  
environmental  
services  
association

## **PRESS COMMENT**

# **SESA RESPONDS TO PUBLICATION OF SCOTTISH CIRCULAR ECONOMY BILL MEASURES**

**EDINBURGH, 13 November 2019:** The Scottish Environmental Services Association (SESA), the voice for the resource and waste management industry in Scotland, responds following the release of measures to be introduced in the Scottish Government's Circular Economy Bill, which are now subject to consultation.

**SESA Policy Advisor, Stephen Freeland said:** *"The Scottish Government's consultation for a circular economy bill usefully identifies a number of areas where targeted resource or regulation is needed to help Scotland deliver its circular economy ambitions. The planned review of the existing food waste recycling requirements is long overdue as the current system is arguably failing to deliver its full potential. Targeted effort to improve the quality and consistency of material collected through household recycling is also welcome, though without greater consistency in labelling of products contamination of the household recycling bin will likely remain an issue. While there are plenty of positives to take from other proposals, a more holistic approach to the delivery of circular economy outcomes would be preferable to a piecemeal approach focussed on 'environmental bads'.*

*Key to the success of Scotland's circular economy ambitions is the development of sustainable end markets, which help stimulate demand for recycled material. Changes to the public procurement process are a welcome first step, but much more could be done to help create resilient markets for recyclates, and a strong domestic reprocessing and manufacturing sector. Disappointingly, the proposals are completely silent on options for treating residual waste within the circular economy. To manage Scotland's waste effectively, all levels of the waste hierarchy should be addressed, and that includes prioritising energy from waste for society's non-recyclable, combustible waste which, in turn, provides a source of low carbon energy to help power the re-manufacturing activities further up the hierarchy."*

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## Notes to editors:

1. The **Scottish Environmental Services Association** (SESA) is the voice of the Scotland's waste and resource management sector. We work with our members to transform waste and resource management across Scotland. This work helps enable our members to turn Scottish waste into valuable resources, whilst continually protecting the environment.
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.
3. SESA'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 quadruple the UK's household recycling rates over the last 10 years.
4. For further details please visit [www.esauk.org](http://www.esauk.org)

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