

## **PRESS COMMENT**

# **ESA Dismisses UKWIN Particulates Report as “Scaremongering”**

**LONDON, 9 December 2019** The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK’s resource and waste management industry, has today responded to a report published by the UK Without Incineration Network (UKWIN), concerning the content of responses to Parliamentary Questions about Energy-from-Waste emissions.

**Executive Director of the Environmental Services Association, Jacob Hayler said:** “UK energy-from-waste (EfW) plants provide an essential, reliable, public service and are among the most heavily regulated and scrutinised industrial installations in the EU. Their contribution to air pollution is very low as a result.

They have very strict emissions limits imposed upon them, including for particulates, and performance against these limits is closely monitored by the Environment Agency. In practice, they emit very low levels of particulates and these are often around just 15 per cent of allowable limits, which should also be considered in the context of emissions dispersion and background air quality.

Furthermore, Public Health England, and every other robust scientific study into EfW emissions, has found that risks to health from these plants are incredibly low and that modern EfW facilities make only a minor contribution to local concentrations of air pollutants.

This latest so-called report from UKWIN is deeply disappointing in its scaremongering tactics and adds little, if anything, to a well-debated topic.

Energy-from-Waste plays a vital role in driving the UK towards a more circular economy, in accordance with the waste hierarchy, and every tonne of waste diverted from landfill to EfW saves 200kg of CO<sub>2</sub>, while generating low carbon energy and heat.”

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

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