



environmental
services
association

PRESS STATEMENT

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ESA comments on EEF report on waste policy

The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice of the UK's waste management industry, today commented on the EEF's report *Defra's Waste Policy Review – Six months on*. ESA's Director of Policy, Matthew Farrow, said:

"It is good to see the EEF highlighting the importance of resource efficiency to the UK's industrial future, and we welcome the support for ESA initiatives such as the Defra-ESA Responsibility Deal and the MRF Code of Practice. Some of the recommendations however need more thought:

- *Access to local authority waste management facilities by manufacturers: This implies that Council tax payers would be subsidising waste producers, which is not something that ESA could support.*
- *Simplification of waste legislation: we support simplification of legislation where this can be done without risking human health and the environment. But most waste legislation comes from the EU, and the report underestimates how difficult this is to change. It should be remembered that the current crisis over scrap metal theft is partly caused by lack of regulation.*
- *ESA-Defra Responsibility Deal: The report criticises the Deal for focusing on SME waste producers. But in fact the Deal makes clear ESA members have a role working with all their customers to encourage 'waste prevention and resource efficiency'."*

ENDS

Notes to editors:

The three main recommendations of the EEF report *Defra's Waste Policy Review – Six months on* are as follows:

1. The creation of a resource strategy that stimulates and rewards resource efficiency and removes the barriers to valuing waste as a resource;
2. Simplified and more targeted legislation;
3. Provision of infrastructure, services and advice

The points of the report ESA are responding to relate specifically to the following:

"Manufacturers should be able to access local authority waste infrastructure" (p2);

“Waste legislation and guidance must be simplified to allow businesses to fully contribute to sustainable waste and resource management” (p4);

“The Responsibility Deal between government and the waste and resource management sector could lead to a better range of waste management infrastructure, services and expert advice... However, much of this improved service is to be targeted at SMEs. We had hoped that the Deal would have benefited all companies.” (p6).

The EEF’s report is available at: <http://www.eef.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/6E8A184C-4FAE-430F-8A19-1F1A34D43E94/20142/DefrasWastePolicyReviewSixmonthson.pdf>

The Environmental Services Association (ESA) is the trade association representing the UK’s waste management and secondary resources industry. ESA’s Members provide essential waste and secondary resources management services to the public and private sectors.

ESA works with all levels of government and regulators to deliver more sustainable waste management for the UK.

ESA’s Members manage waste on behalf of the whole of society and we are recovering more of the materials and energy from waste than ever before: for example, quadrupling the UK’s household recycling rates over the last 10 years. For further details please visit www.esauk.org