



environmental  
services  
association

## **ESA PRESS STATEMENT**

# ***Lack of reference to recycling sector in Defra departmental plan is harmful says ESA***

**LONDON, 25 February 2016:** The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today commented on the lack of references to the waste and recycling sector in the new Defra departmental plan..

ESA's Executive Director, Jacob Hayler said:

*"It is disappointing that Defra's departmental plan contains so few references to the waste and recycling sector. As ESA has pointed out numerous times before, the absence of a proper strategy for our industry is really harming investment and the UK's ability to achieve higher recycling levels.*

*Our industry offers great potential for much needed investment in the UK plc to deliver growth and jobs, but this requires political engagement and long term vision from the Government.*

*ESA will continue to work constructively with Defra and set out our case for future improvements but, if taken at face value, the departmental plan certainly sends out a negative message about the next five years for our sector."*

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## **ENDS**

### **Notes to editors:**

1. The **Environmental Services Association** (ESA) is the trade association for the UK's resource and waste management sector. We work with our members to transform waste and resource

management across the country. This work helps enable our members to turn Britain's 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. 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 quadruple the UK's household recycling rates over the last 10 years.

#### 4. The sector at a glance

- Total turnover: **£11 billion**
- Direct Employment: **95,000 people**
- Municipal waste handled each year: **over 26 million tonnes**
- Energy generated (from waste combustion and landfill gas) each year: **approximately 6,700 GWh**, 1.5% of the UK's total electricity supply and around 20% of our 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

For further details please visit [www.esauk.org](http://www.esauk.org)

### **Press Contact**

**Toni Waters – Communications and Membership Officer**

ESA Press Office - (0207) 591 3219 (DD - (0207) 591 3206)

Mobile - (07841) 572 834

Email - [t-waters@esauk.org](mailto:t-waters@esauk.org) / [press@esauk.org](mailto:press@esauk.org)