

## **ESA PRESS STATEMENT**

# ***Waste Placement Scheme supports knowledge sharing between industry and regulator***

**LONDON, 12 May 2016:** The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, and the Environment Agency, have launched its annual Waste Placement Scheme, as part of celebrating 20 years of the Agency.

The placement scheme has been running for the last 16 years, and has developed into an important channel for knowledge sharing between ESA Member companies and new Environment Agency Officers. The Scheme allows Environment Agency staff to participate in two weeks practical experience of operating a waste management facility, and to find out what the industry is really like.

ESA's Executive Director, Jacob Hayler, said:

***“Regulating a modern and complex industry requires a diverse set of skills, combining a thorough grounding in theory as well as a good practical understanding of operational issues.***

***The Waste Placement Scheme provides a unique opportunity to help develop the core skills that Environment Agency Officers will need to regulate with greater understanding, credibility and confidence. The Scheme also presents a vital opportunity for both regulator and regulated industry to develop a shared understanding of waste regulation.***

He added:

***“Due to the changing nature of the industry, the need for effective regulation, whereby decisions are understood and applied consistently is of paramount importance. We know this scheme helps develop that understanding, and with the continued support of ESA members,***

***we hope to continue working on this scheme, and other projects, with the EA for the next 20 years.”***

Barry Sheppard, Land and Contamination Manager, who leads and organises the Waste Placement Scheme for the Environment Agency said:

***“This waste placement scheme is a great example of the regulator and regulated industry working together to gain a better understanding of each others issues.***

***In the 16 years that this scheme has been running, it has benefitted over 450 EA staff in a variety of roles, and feedback from both industry and EA staff has always been positive.***

***We look forward to working with the ESA and industry to further develop this placement scheme in the years to come.”***

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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)

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