



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS STATEMENT

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Resource management industry achievements and ambitions celebrated with new ESA report

LONDON, 10 May 2016: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today launched its new report '*Delivering Sustainable Growth: How the Resource and Waste Management Industry Benefits People, the Environment and the Economy*' with a Parliamentary Reception in the Palace of Westminster.

This latest report from the ESA sets out the industry's achievements and ambitions of helping the UK move towards a Circular Economy, highlighting the social, environmental and economic benefits of the sector.

ESA's Executive Director Jacob Hayler said:

"The Resource and Waste Management Industry has a lot to celebrate. The industry has increased the UK's recycling rate from near zero in the early 1990s to almost 45% today. It recovers energy from waste which cannot be economically recycled, supplying the UK with 12% of its renewable electricity. It has also worked to reduce its own emissions by 70% since 1990. In doing all this, the sector is helping to deliver growth for the Exchequer and thousands of jobs for the nation.

"However, rising costs and depressed commodity markets are putting immense pressure on the sector, and urgent Government intervention is required to ensure the UK can continue to manage its resources in both an environmentally and economically sustainable way."

The report makes four recommendations that would improve incentives along the supply chain, drive efficiency, lower costs—particularly to the local government sector—and deliver private investment, much-needed to ensure our recycling and landfill diversion rates do not go backwards.

1. *Develop more resilient recovery markets for waste-derived products*

Stimulating the demand for recycled content in products would help pull more recyclable materials out of landfill in a way that ensures recycling remains economic as we reach higher recycling rates.

2. *Introduce a new framework for producer responsibility which transfers resource ownership from local authorities to product supply chains*

This would help produce secondary materials of consistent quality which would drive resource efficiency, strengthen competitiveness, stimulate long-term investment and would make the system resilient to changing market pressures and drivers.

3. *Improve the efficiency of waste collection systems and infrastructure*

A more joined-up approach to waste management between local authorities would increase economies of scale and yield an overall reduction in system costs.

4. *Drive waste crime out of the sector*

By rooting out unscrupulous operators, compliant businesses will be able to thrive.

ESA believes that by addressing these areas, the Government will enable the industry to create a system which is resilient, builds UK competitiveness and makes the UK a world leader in environmentally and economically sustainable resource and waste management.

Peter Aldous MP, Member of Parliament for Waveney, who chaired the Parliamentary launch of the report, said:

“The UK’s resource and waste management industry has embraced the concept of the Circular Economy and led the way in promoting sustainable management of resources. This report rightly celebrates its successes of driving up recycling rates, generating renewable energy and diverting waste from landfill, whilst providing jobs and growth for the nation.”

ESA’s new report can be downloaded from the ESA website:

http://www.esauk.org/reports_press_releases/esa_reports/20160510_Delivering_Sustainable_Growth.pdf

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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**
 - Industry supports **106,000 jobs** across the country
 - Municipal waste handled each year: **over 26 million tonnes**
 - 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

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